

AMRONE **T**ales

The ideal holiday — with dogs



Someone forgot to tell Muddy that malamutes aren't supposed to be agility dogs. Muddy lives with Ben Palinkas.

Camp N Pack means autumn in Berkshires

By Jane Palinkas

Columbus Day weekend can mean many things, but in New England it often means the autumn leaves are peaking. Camp N Pack, the wonderful weekend that is our major fundraiser, proved to be an excellent way to enjoy one of nature's finest shows in the beautiful Berkshires.

Starting off last year's 3-day holiday on Friday morning, Oct. 5, Mark Andersen led a 10-mile hike through the hills of Barkhamsted, CT. The weather was great and the views were spectacular. On the hike four dogs qualified for their backpacking titles by carrying 30 percent of their body weight in their packs. Brie, a greater Swiss mountain dog owned by Tracy Brant, qualified

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VOLUME 2, No. 1

WINTER 2002

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Active couple finds many ways to help northern dogs

By Anneliese Behrman

You'd probably recognize Roger Davies and his wife, Bonnie, if you've ever been to Camp N Pack — he's the big blustery guy who plays the auctioneer's assistant. Bonnie is nearby, laughing and ribbing him whenever he makes any slip whatsoever. One of the most active couples in AMRONE and other dog aid organizations, they traveled a winding path to the auction table.

Roger was interested in malamutes as a child. His father talked about one owned by a rancher he knew and his stories intrigued Roger. After his Siberian, Sasha, died, he began searching for a malamute. Roger looked at a couple of breeders, but he began to think that it might be better to adopt a homeless malamute, and after calling a few shelters he acquired the number for AMRONE. That's when he learned that "adopting a mal is tougher than

buying a new car. This is what impressed me with the group, as they were interested in finding permanent, loving homes for the dogs," he said.

Bonnie acquired her love of malamutes from Roger. As he puts it, "I love dogs and Bonnie has come along for the ride."

Roger's advice for anyone wanting to rescue a malamute is to "go in with a lot of patience and love, because some of these guys are carrying a lot of baggage, and may take quite a while to lose it. The only time I kenneled my Champ, he got so despondent at being deserted again that he literally lay down to die, ended up at the vet for extended period and never fully recovered. So you have to be careful with what may seem like a normal thing to do."

Champ, the victim of a marital separation, was their first adoption. He lived with them for six wonderful years before passing away in October 2001. Roger and Bonnie, who live in Lawrence, MA, still have two female Siberians, Brittany and Storm, and Zeus, a malamute rescued by AMRONE.

Besides helping with transporting dogs rescued by AMRONE, Roger



Roger and Bonnie share life with Zeus.

and Bonnie are involved in AMAL, the Alaskan Malamute HELP League, the International Sled Dog Veterinary Association, the International Sled Dog Racing Association, the International Siberian Husky Club and the Yankee Siberian Husky Club. One of their biggest contributions to AMRONE is the massive amount of work they put into soliciting items from all over the country for the annual Camp N Pack auction.

Asked if he could say one thing about malamutes, Roger's reply was, "That is tough, because they are so complex at times and so childish at other times, and sometimes they are just tough to read, and having just lost my big guy I really don't know what to say about the breed. Regal, is what comes to mind."

IN MEMORIAM



Champ, on Oct. 30, 2001

Rescued by Roger and Bonnie Davies
Outstanding companion for six years

Region specialty show draws 70 mals

By Joanne Duval

Have you ever been to a dog show? If the Westminster show in New York is too imposing the Alaskan Malamute Club of America offers an ideal introduction by putting on annual specialty shows in regions across the country. Breeders and exhibitors in the area support the club by entering their dogs in the

show. The New England Regional Specialty was held Nov. 24, 2001, in West Springfield, MA, on the Big E fairgrounds. Besides from New England, the show attracted malamutes from New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan. The total entry was 70 malamutes ranging in age from six months to over 11 years.

If you have never been to a dog
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Big hearts, yes, but also deep pockets

By Roger Davies

The bidding was fast and furious. Emotions were running high. There was Laura bidding against Thomas for the coveted stuffed mal. Not just a little guy but a big one. One with brown eyes, not the usual if it is big and husky looking it must have blue eyes, but malamute brown.

Thomas had spent huge sums on the blind raffle, hoping to get the one that was on that table. As the numbers were read off it was apparent to everyone that he did not win. The look of lost hopes spread across his face, but he held back the tears.

Now everyone must have run into Thomas. Polite, well mannered, well spoken. He along with the few other kids (Michael and Riley) at the Camp N Pack were a hit. It is fun to watch kids having fun. No cares, no worries, high expectations, high hopes. We all long for those days gone by. To see that dashed hope spread across his face, that toothless gritty smile, not a real smile, but forced, one of loss, made all ache. Only one mal left, and he really wanted it. A little hope left.



Thomas, far left, waits anxiously for the stuffed mal to go on the block.

The time had come. The long minutes of waiting had passed. The auction for that Mal had begun. The mal with the silly smile and brown eyes, tail curled, ready to jump into a kid's arms. Auntie Jo sat just as breathless as Thomas, maybe more so because she looked a little pale. She told him to bid. Then Laura jumped into the bidding war. Up and up the price went. \$65, \$70, \$75 and up.

The emotions were running amuck. All at Laura's table were urging her to keep bidding. All at Thomas' table were shouting for him (OK, Auntie Jo) to keep the pace and stay the course. So up the price went. Finally Laura stopped, as Thomas shouted out his final winning bid of \$105. His smile brightened the whole room. A round of applause resounded as Thomas hugged his new pal.

Now all was not as it seemed. Is it ever? Yes, the story has a happy ending, happier than it may seem. For you see Laura had seen Thomas'

forlorn look when he had lost the mal on the blind raffle. She was bidding to make sure he got this one. That explains her look of consternation when all were prodding her to keep upping the bid against the one she was really bidding for. It also explains the exuberance at Thomas' table to keep bidding far past Auntie Jo's limit.

The mal was the highest ticket item sold that night. The bidding was for the mal, for the mals if you catch my drift. Thomas won. Laura won. AMRONE won. Auntie Jo found the cash for the dog (at least a good portion of it) at her table. So thank you, Laura, for your kind, gentle heart. Thank you all for your kind, gentle hearts, and your deep pockets. Thank you, Thomas, for your winning smile.

As Auntie Jo and Thomas left Sunday there was that big mal sitting on his lap looking out the window. The only thing bigger was the smile on Thomas' face.

What's a little rain when you're having so much fun?

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on Friday, as did Buzz, owned by Cathie and Walter Reinhard. We also had two 15-month-old pups that did the hike and earned a leg — Nanuk, owned by Vicki and Steve Palinkas, and Shadow, owned by Jane Palinkas and Art Golinsky.

Meanwhile, back at camp the dining hall was set up and the camp

was ready for everyone to show up. As people arrived they registered and made their way to their shelter, parked their trailer or set up their tent. Everyone met back at the dining hall for dinner. After dinner we were treated to a demonstration by search and rescue dog Ranger and his human, Sandy Brophy. The evening was rounded out with a campfire

and s'mores.

Saturday morning found our chefs (Eric Munson and Arnie Benson) in good spirits and ready to make breakfasts to order, which was appreciated as a heavy rain began to fall. Nevertheless, after breakfast the fun began with workshops on backpacking (Susan Conant),

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There's never a dull moment at Camp N Pack

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 sledding (Moses Martin), weight pulling (Steve Palinkas, Regina and Frank Caldwell), grooming (Joy Tetreault), rally obedience and agility (Laurey Weiner), obedience for the pet owner and open obedience (Alicia Campbell), and more. The rain didn't even slow things down; we just moved inside.

After lunch the sun came out in time for picture taking and the games (Kevin and Laura Baigert). The costume contest, mummy making and popcorn catching were again crowd favorites, even though some of the dogs uncharacteristically turned their noses up at the popcorn. The short hike (Margaret Tantiillo and Terrie Campbell) and the novice weight pull (Frank and Regina Caldwell) began after the games. The first four places for the novice weight pull went to: first — Rachel (Caldwell), pulling 515 pounds in 21.12 seconds; second — Nanuk (Palinkas), pulling 515 pounds in 38.18 seconds; third — Muddy (Palinkas), pulling 335 pounds; fourth — Clyde (Caldwell), pulling 290 pounds. All participants and spectators had a good time.

We cleaned up for supper, fed the dogs and went in for the social (Catherine Oldham) and another wonderful meal. Then we started the much-awaited

auction. Roger Davies and Mark Andersen did another great job keeping the laughs going. Danny Duval even got into the act this year, helping out with the raffle. Behind the scenes Bonnie Davies, Bob and Ruth Mellen and Stephanie Bayliss did a wonderful job organizing it all. Thank you to all who donated items to this fundraiser.

On Sunday we had an open weight pull, a qualifier run by Steve Palinkas. Many malamutes turned out for this event. In the 80-pound and under class, first went to Babe (Poitas), a 75-pound bulldog that pulled 900 pounds. In the 81-100-pound class, Takoma (Caldwell), a 92-pound malamute, won with a pull of 1000 pounds. In the 101-120-pound class, only two dogs entered: Buzz (Reinhard) and Baloo (Palinkas). Buzz took the class by pulling 1500 pounds in 41.53 seconds. This also netted Buzz two other prizes: most weight pulled, and highest percentage pulled.

Another 10-mile hike took place Sunday morning but only two brave souls took the challenge. Vicki Palinkas and Brian Wilkenson were able to get



another pack leg for Nanuk and Shadow.

While the pull was taking place there was a game set up in the agility ring and a first aid course taught by Jo-Ann Little. This was followed by a carting workshop offered by Tracy Brant. After lunch it was time for everyone to clean up and say good-byes until next year and then we were off to the real world, made a bit easier by a final drive through the colorful Berkshire hills.

After we finished, the camp looked great and you never would have been able to tell that 92 people attended with 98 dogs, a cat and a bird! With all the hard work and dedication of all involved in this volunteer weekend, Camp N Pack 2001 earned \$5100 for AMRONE. This money will be used to help fund the vet care, spaying and neutering and other associated costs of rescuing our beloved malamutes and finding them new homes.



Clockwise from right: Moses Martin halts during rally obedience; Joanne and Danny Duval with their newest litter; Kori McGrath wraps Cassius, her boxer; a mal gets a taste of carting; Micky Gogan tries out the crate she won in the raffle; Steve Palinkas weighs a weight-pull contestant; Boomer perches in Vickie Palinkas' arms; rescued dogs gather for photos.

Dry, crusty nose can have many causes

By Dr. Steven Teisch, DVM

My dog is 6 years old and has an extremely hard, dry, crusty nose. Parts of it even flake off. What causes this and is it serious?

There are numerous causes for a dry, crusty nose. This is definitely a problem that a veterinarian or veterinary dermatologist should address for you. Some potential causes include endocrine or hormonal disorders, disorders of the immune system, infectious agents, inflammatory diseases, underlying metabolic disorders, and cancer.



Some older dogs just get a dry nose as part of the aging process.

The history of the problem, physical exam findings, and diagnostic tests are all used in diagnosing and treating the problem.

As far as diagnostics, a blood chemistry panel and urinalysis are excellent screening tests to narrow the range of possible

problems. Conducting more specific blood tests can eliminate most of the remaining diagnostic possibilities. Additionally, a skin scraping, impression smear, and skin biopsy are procedures that may be needed to make definitive diagnosis.

Your veterinarian may be able to do all of these procedures or might refer you to one who specializes in dermatologic disorders.

If you have questions about your dog's health, e-mail Dr. Steven Teisch at drmoo@together.net.

Specialty show classes offer many chances to win

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show it is an interesting experience. The owners sign up their dogs for classes a few months before the show by sending in an entry form. Forms can be picked up at a dog show, they can be mailed to you or they can be found on-line. All dogs entered must be registered with the AKC and be intact. The purpose of showing a dog is to help determine its quality as measured against the breed standard. The breed standard is a written description of the perfect malamute. The judge at the show studies each dog and compares him or her to this written standard. The dog closest to the standard wins.

At a specialty show there are many kinds of classes. First come the Sweepstakes classes. These are open to all Alaskan malamutes that are registered and non-champions of record and are between the ages of 6 and 18 months. They must be entered in a regular class at this show. In Sweepstakes the winners receive a ribbon and a small monetary prize. There are also Sweepstakes classes for veteran dogs 8

years and older.

After the sweepstakes are judged the next classes are the regular classes that happen at all dog shows — puppy classes for puppies, American Bred class for all dogs born in the USA, Bred By classes for dogs with their breeders and Open classes for anyone. The winners of all four of these classes are then compared and one male and one female are given winner's ribbons and allowed to move up to the Best of Breed competition. At a specialty two other classes are added and the winners are allowed to move up to the Best of Breed competition; the Working Dog class for dogs with working titles and the Veterans class for dogs over the age of 7.

After all the classes are finished the Best of Breed starts. This class comprises all champion dogs and the winners from the classes. The judge picks a Best of Breed, a Best of Opposite Sex and a Best of the Winners. At the specialty they also pick a best Veteran. The Best of Breed then goes on later in the day

to compete for Best in Group and hopefully Best in Show. After the breed classes are finished there are three non-regular classes — the Stud Dog class, the Brood Bitch class and the Brace class. These classes showcase the dogs and are not part of the Best of Breed judging.

During the judging people could watch, have a snack at the malamute hospitality tent or visit the AMRONE booth. The AMRONE booth was decorated with great pictures of rescue dogs and with storyboards from Camp N Pack 2001 made by Joy Tetreault. Sweatshirts, stain remover and flea collars could be purchased and volunteers talked to the public about owning a malamute.

After the show the fun didn't stop, it just moved outdoors where Jane and Steve Palinkas were running an AMCA weight pull.

The evening ended with a banquet at the Monte Carlo restaurant across from the Big E grounds. The specialty will take place again next fall. If you have a chance to go and see all the dogs it is worth the drive.

What is foster care?

[Part I. See next issue for Part II]

In New England we are very lucky to have quite a few foster homes for our AMRONE dogs that are waiting to be adopted. Unfortunately, there are times where we don't have enough foster homes to comfortably accommodate all the dogs without overburdening our regular foster homes. We are always looking for new foster homes.

What is foster care?

Foster care consists of taking in a dog or dogs that are waiting for adoption. While in foster care the dog will be housed safely, receive appropriate veterinary care and receive love and some training. Fostering, like all of rescue, is hard work and can be both unbelievably fulfilling and sometimes very frustrating, but if you love the breed it is a great way to help individual dogs.

Who can do foster care?

Currently we have all different types of foster homes: boarding kennels, malamute breeders, small kennels and private homes. We like every foster home to be equipped with at least one crate and a kennel run (both of which rescue will supply). We also look for foster homes with no small children and with a basic knowledge of the breed.

What about my own dogs?

Some people worry that fostering will affect their own dogs. In our experience fostering is usually not a problem when foster dogs are handled sensibly and carefully. This includes keeping rescue dogs separate from your own dogs until the foster dog's health can be verified to be free of anything contagious, and until the dogs can be introduced slowly and carefully. Some foster homes always keep foster dogs separate from their own dogs, some foster homes integrate foster dogs into their households. If you do not want to foster a dog until it has had a vet check, vaccinations



A drawing by Anneliese Behrman

and is free of parasites, that can be arranged.

How can I find out more about fostering a dog?

If you want to talk about fostering a dog, can offer to take a dog in an emergency or can provide overnight or weeklong care for a foster dog please contact Joanne Duval (413) 258-4089 or email: HCmalamute@amrone.org



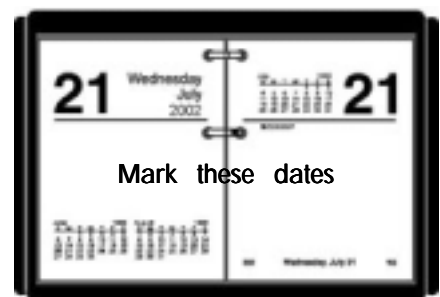
Cicely is loved by the Keppel family.

Friends indeed

Very special thanks are due to some friends of AMRONE.

Attorney Andrew Coppola contributed greatly to our incorporation process, as well as our 501(c)(3) application. We couldn't have done it without his careful, valuable guidance.

Accounting consultant Anna Currin provided expert advice regarding AMRONE's financial records and reporting.



Sunday, May 4

AMRONE booth at the N. Attleboro dog walk, sponsored by N. Attleboro Animal Shelter

Friday, Oct. 4 - Sunday, Oct. 6

Camp N Pack 2002
Tolland, MA

You've read about it; now come



Adopter Wayne Ubrich has provided a wonderful, loving home for one very lucky malamute, Keeska. Wayne also has made frequent donations to AMRONE to help less fortunate mals. He recently donated half of his tax refund check to AMRONE, and the other half went to mal rescue of New York and New Jersey.

Plan to Bark in the Park

An exciting new event is making its appearance on the AMRONE calendar: Bark in the Park.

Hopefully the first in an annual series, this dog walk and barbecue (no, we're not barbecuing dogs) will be a fun afternoon for people to enjoy with their canine friends.

On Sunday, May 5, there will be a short hike through the trails at Harold Parker State Forest in North Andover, MA, followed by a barbecue and other activities. The fundraiser is still in the planning stage so a separate mailing is planned with more detailed information, including the hours, directions and a list of activities.

In the meantime, if you have questions, or perhaps can contribute somehow, e-mail Kathy & Jerry Ferragamo at kathy-mpaws@prodigy.net. Things that still need to be done include confirming exact hours with the park supervisor, doing a mailing, sending e-mail to other rescue groups and coordinating activities.

ALASKAN MALAMUTE RESCUE



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