

AMRONE Tales

VOLUME 2, No.2

SUMMER 2002

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This is AMRONE

Uniting great dogs with great people



Some cool tips help avoid a hot dog

By Julie Breame

One of the most frequently asked questions when you have Malamutes is, "How do they cope in hot weather?" The answer is: surprisingly well. Their double coat proves to be an excellent insulator, not only against cold, but warmth as well. That being said, it is vitally important to guard against heat stroke.

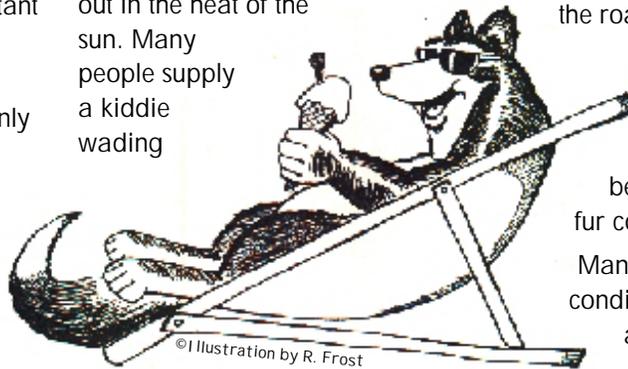
When people overheat they perspire, but dogs can perspire only around their paws, which is not enough to cool them. To rid themselves of excess heat, they pant. Air moves through the nasal passages, picking up excess heat from the body as it goes.

Overweight dogs are more prone to overheating because their extra layers of fat trap heat and restricts their breathing. Age also can be a factor in an animal's tendency to overheat — very young animals might not have a fully developed temperature-regulating system, and older pets' organs might not be functioning at 100 percent, leaving them prone to heat-related damage.

Heat-stroke can be fatal. The best cure is prevention.

Obviously, dogs should not be exercised in the heat of the day; their

walks should be confined to early morning or late evening. Some malamutes relish going swimming while others hate the idea of getting wet. When at home, they should be provided with plenty of shade if outside. Be aware of this when placing kennels and runs, and of course do not stake your dogs out in the heat of the sun. Many people supply a kiddie wading



pool, which is relished both as a "wallow" and a large drinking bowl.

Another treat is for them to be given large chunks of ice to play with. Try freezing a couple of pieces of meat in water in an old ice cream container, or on a smaller scale try ice cubes with small pieces of liver or kibble in the center. These keep them entertained and cool for ages.

Many malamutes prefer to be inside when it's warm, spread out on tile or concrete floors, or under the air conditioning units or fans. There

they sleep all day and come to life when the sun goes down. Once again, lots of clean, fresh water is a must.

However, there comes a time when we have to travel. Try to leave as early as possible to avoid the real heat of the day. Plan your route — think about getting stuck in a jam on the road miles from the nearest turn-off, with the sun beating down on your car. Bad enough for you — imagine what it would be like if you were wearing a fur coat.

Many of us have cars with air conditioning, but if you don't there are little fans available that run on solar power, or from the cigarette lighter. Always carry a Thermos half filled with water, and then topped up with ice cubes. Another tip is to freeze water-filled plastic pop bottles and put them in the travelling compartment with your dog. Not only do they keep them cool but, if they don't chew them, when melted provide drinking water for the day. Wet towels are also useful for cooling down a hot dog. Many people swear by cool pads. These are immersed in cold water before a journey and provide [Continued on Page 15]

Look! Over there!
Something at Camp N Pack draws the interest of these pups owned by Moses Martin.



Weigh your mal

You can get a pretty good approximation of a dog's weight by using a regular bathroom scale to weigh the front end.

Make sure the dog is standing with front feet square on the scale, not posting backwards. Weigh several times and average them. Then multiply your averaged weight by 1.61. You generally will be within 3 pounds of the dog's true weight.

Cathy Oldham, an AMRONE team star

By Anneliese Behrman

When her summer job forced her to travel at one point, Cathy Oldham picked up one of Susan Conant's books during a train ride. She was hooked on malamutes almost instantly.

Later, one of her dogs escaped from her kennel and was hit by a car. To find a new friend, she turned to the local newspaper and found an ad for rescue malamutes. She dialed the number, and to her surprise, spoke to the very person who had interested her in malamutes in the first place: Susan. That's how her first malamute, Ted, came to be adopted in 1995. Cathy was his fourth owner, not counting his foster homes.

"He was not house-trained, he was terrified of men, he had no obedience training, weighed over 100 pounds and we found out a half-year later that he was hypothyroid. In 1998 Ted D. Bear had become enough of a gentleman to get his CGC [Canine Good Citizenship certificate] and be shown in the rescue showcase at the National in Carlisle, PA. He came a long way in three years."

Cathy really became involved with AMRONE in 1997. After seeing an ad for a mal in a shelter, she called Susan, with whom she had remained friends, and asked if she could call the shelter and inquire about the dog. Tommie, who had been labeled as a male but actually was a female, went home with Cathy for a temporary



Cathy Oldham at work for AMRONE, this time selling raffle tickets at Bark in the Park.

stay. Tommie was her first foster dog.

Along with fostering malamutes, Cathy has been a great help with organizing and running successful events such as Camp N Pack and most recently, Bark In The Park. She also interviews prospective owners, writes descriptions and takes photos of dogs for the AMRONE Web site.

Cathy devotes an average of 24 hours a week to AMRONE. This includes her devoted work in helping to find homes for needy malamutes and the care, feeding and kennel maintenance of the 12 or more dogs — some of them fosters — living with her at any given time.

In addition to volunteering with AMRONE, she works full-time at the Deerfield Valley Veterinary Hospital in West Dover, VT, and has her own

kennel of obedience and conformation Australian Shepherds. With her dogs, all of them registered under her own kennel name, Maple Sugar Kennels, she participates in AKC and Australian Shepherd Club of New England events.

Cathy has a lot of positive things to say about other AMRONE volunteers. "The reason that AMRONE works so well is that you are a part of a team. Without ever saying so in so many words, all of the members of AMRONE rely on one another. I know that if I put a question out on that (e-mail) list, it will get answered.

"You know that you are being supported. I'm not even going to start naming names, because there are so many; it's just that they are there when you need them. And every member of the team in her/his own way is one tough dude!"

Iditarod fever claims local couple

By Roger Davies

The streetlights glare off the snow being swirled in the street by a stiff breeze. Small groups of people huddle on the sidewalks in the zero-degree weather while a front-end loader beep-beep-beeps as it levels a pile of snow with its bucket. A crew of workmen walk the street checking the snow fences erected on both sides. Red, white and blue signs hang from the lampposts proclaiming this the "Iditarod Trail." This is Iditarod XXX and certainly the activities are not unusual on 4th Street, downtown Anchorage, AK.

The work crew finishes up and the heavy equipment leaves, after trucking in and spreading snow the length of 4th Street. The small groups of people start to break up. They don red and white armbands, identifying them as "ITC Security 2002", and head to pre-assigned locations and duties. The morning sky is just starting to brighten. The street is calm and mostly deserted. Bonnie and I wait patiently for "our" team to show up.

A half-hour later a beat-up old truck with a dog box on the back and a couple of sleds tied to the top cranks its way down the street searching for its assigned spot. There are 65 assigned spots, lining both sides of 4th Street and down the side streets. In an hour most of the spots are occupied, dogs — dropped and chained — ring the trucks and a friendly banter starts between the occupants of the vehicles: drivers, handlers, mushers and family members.

Some of the trucks look to be on their last legs. Others are shiny new, with custom-made boxes sporting colorful logos of kennel names and sponsors: Cool Dreams Racing Team,

Cabela's, Eddie Bauer, National Dog Food, Eukanuba. The equipment and sponsors reflect the experience and successes on the trail: Dee Dee Jonroe, Rick Swenson, Jeff King, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley.

I am at slot 46. I have a green armband, "Musher Handler." I am handling for the Anadyr Team, the

Norris Team, Alaskan/Anadyr Siberians. A team of AKC registered Siberian Huskies. Natalie Norris (and her late husband, Earl) has been breeding and raising Siberians for more than 50 years. No big-name sponsors. No fancy truck or dog boxes. Yet many of those running today have the Norris blood in their

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Photo courtesy of www.AlaskaOne.com

The scene at the start of a recent Iditarod race.

Tracking down a pioneer

By Roger Davies

We are headed up Parks Highway to mile 66.4, to "Howling Dog Farm," Alaskan's Anadyr, sponsor of an Iditarod musher for 11 years. The dogs never win the race but they always finish.

The dogs from the "farm" are all over the world. Norris dogs — hallmark breeders of Siberian huskies. Earl and Natalie. Earl crossed the bridge in August 2001 after a long struggle following a stroke. Natalie continues her life-long passion: dogs, especially northern breeds, and Siberians in particular.

We park and walk to the back of the house. The dog yard starts about 50 feet from the back door and goes up and over a small rise. Spruce logs nose up from the ground, used to chain the dogs. Small green plank houses dot the yard, along with a 50-year accumulation of dog and sledding paraphernalia. An odd collection of crates is stacked by the back entrance to the house waiting to be sent to Nome for the return of the Iditarod dogs. Dogs howl out in the yard at these intruders.

We enter the house a little hesitantly. Spread about the place are

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My life as a dog: beautiful

[Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, Tales presents stories of successful adoptions through AMRONE.]

By Belle Chadys

[Translated by Carol Peck]

Hello. My name is Belle. It's a perfect name, since I'm a beautiful wooly malamute. I'd like to tell you how I came into rescue and how I adopted my new family.

Early in 2001, I was found wandering in Jamaica Plain, limping because of a paw injury. The ASPCA picked me up, and I was taken to Angell Memorial Hospital. They contacted AMRONE, and I was soon in a wonderful foster home in central Massachusetts. My foster parents, Matt and Jill, took excellent care of me while my paw healed.

Then one day it happened! Jon and Lisa Chadys, a couple from Connecticut, came to see me. They said they had seen my photo on the Internet and I reminded them so much of their first malamute that they just had to meet me. Well, it was love at first sight. I kissed Lisa and won her over in a nanosecond. I leaned on them and rolled over for belly rubs, and they loved it! Wow! New parents who were already trained! They were also impressed that I knew some commands and had good manners.

They didn't take me home that day, though. They said they had to think it over and be sure that they were ready to make such an important commitment. Well, they decided that they were ready, and so I went to live with them in May 2001.



Jon and Lisa
Chadys give Belle
lots of attention.



Our family is just my parents and me so I get lots of attention. They even bought a new truck so it would be easier to take me places. We go everywhere together. I love to go to the beach and swim. Sometimes I even go to work with one of my parents. We went to AMRONE's Bark in the Park, too. I got to see my former foster parents, and I told everyone, "I'm here! Do you want me to kiss you?" We all had a great time.

According to my mom, I'm a busybody. I love to make friends with everyone we meet. I know all our neighbors – canine and human, and I always greet them cheerfully. Well, mom calls it a "bloodcurdling scream," but I prefer to consider it an enthusiastic greeting.

My mom has a collection of stuffed animals, and I like to steal them. My favorite is a little one that looks like a tiger. I take it to my rug and sleep with it. I also like to listen to music and dance. I can stand on my hind legs for long periods of time and dance around and make my "enthusiastic greeting" scream. My mom is a

ballerina so she really appreciates my coordination and artistry.

I don't want you to think that this is just about me being spoiled. I have responsibilities. I take really good care of my parents. They have a lot going on in their lives so I stay busy checking everything out. When my mom gets back from work, she says, "Mommy's home," and I run to her, and she forgets any worries she might have had. When my parents are too preoccupied with trivial things, I invite them to play, which is good for them. I make sure that they get plenty of exercise as we walk through the neighborhood and play at the beach. I talk a lot, and they like that, too. I even enhance their social lives by taking them to events like Bark in the Park where they meet other rescue dogs and their families.

I'd say that I have a great life, and I know it. I enjoy every moment, and I appreciate what my parents and foster parents have done for me. I love making my parents happy. It's a great way to tell them thank you for my beautiful life.

'Not Wanted' — How can this be?

By Susan Conant

In some regions of the United States, a standard feature of animal shelters is a "drop box," an enclosure where pet owners drop off unwanted dogs and cats, no questions asked. In Alabama and Mississippi, for example, the unwanted malamute may find himself driven to a shelter and dumped in the drop box. In New England, shelters try to interview the owner about the health, temperament and behavior of the pet being surrendered. The owner is also asked why the animal is being given up. The surrender form used by MSPCA shelters, among others, includes a checklist of possible reasons for getting rid of a pet. Although I have seen many such forms for Alaskan malamutes, I am always jolted anew by the reason that seems invariably to be checked off: Not wanted. When applied to a malamute, the stark phrase never loses its power to make me ask myself, if only for a moment, How can this be?

Not wanted: At the age of 8, Tootsie was left at the MSPCA shelter in Jamaica Plain. When I picked her up, she trotted happily along with me and startled me by leaping joyously into the back of my Blazer. With her clear eyes, her beautiful coat, and her exuberant attitude, she seemed like a young dog. How on earth could Tootsie have been "not wanted"? At the age of 8 weeks, Wicca was turned in to the Methuen MSPCA. Even for a malamute puppy, she was incredibly adorable. Incredibly, she, too, was "not wanted."

Once in a while, financial hardship forces an owner to give up a beloved dog. In some instances, malamutes



AMRONE President Susan Conant and Rowdy.

come to AMRONE's care from situations of horrendous neglect and abuse. Most malamutes, however, are surrendered by owners who simply do not want the dogs. These people offer a variety of explanations. Every rescue volunteer hears, over and over, that the malamute is an inconvenience: "We don't have time for the dog" and "With three kids and both of us working, the dog is more than we can manage."

Like every other volunteer, I am sometimes tempted to respond in a fashion that would discourage the owner from working with AMRONE and would thus jeopardize the dog's welfare: Are you aware that if you lost all your money and all four limbs, your malamute would love you just as much? And

when your fourth child arrives and becomes too much for you, are you going to dump him on Human Being Rescue of New England? Some owners express regret. Others apparently feel less attachment to their malamutes than I feel toward junk that I leave for trash collection. The details vary, but again and again, the underlying theme is that the owner has never really bonded with the dog.

AMRONE exists because in the hearts of our volunteers, our supporters, and our adopters, every single Alaskan malamute is wanted and loved by virtue of being who and what he is: a malamute. We cannot and should not save every dog, but we can give every dog a fair hearing and, in most cases, a decent chance at a new life. I have sounded the death knell on dangerous malamutes. In every instance, even when the dog has repeatedly committed acts of intolerable aggression, I have felt deep regret about what might have been. What if this dog

[Continued on Page 11]

These are Web links of likely interest to malamute owners. Listing here does not imply endorsement by AMRONE. Descriptions are from the sites.

www.iditarod.com

The official site of the last great race.

www.alaskadogsledding.com

Alaska Dog Sledding specializes in small-group wilderness adven-



tures and dog mushing trips into some of Alaska's most beautiful and remote locations with lodge and deluxe safari-style accommodations.

www.kongcompany.com

Some simple ways Kong toys can

be used to promote good behavior in your dog.

www.merckvetmanual.com

The most comprehensive electronic reference for animal care information.

www.blackicedogsledding.com

Full line of equipment for your malamutes, whether sledding, carting, backpacking, skijoring or scootering.

What is foster care?

[Part II. See previous issue for Part I.]

What are the responsibilities of a foster home?

Foster homes are responsible for keeping their rescue dog safe, healthy, exercised, and clean. They are also responsible for keeping up with vet care including spay/neutering, vaccinations and any other necessary medical treatment. Foster homes provide photos and descriptions for the web site, conduct an interview of any adoption applicants, show the dog to possible adopters, and send in all the paperwork after an adoption takes place.

Foster volunteers do not work alone. We have volunteers that are happy to come walk a dog, brush a dog or drive a dog to the vet if you need them to. Help and advice are always a phone call away. We always have to keep in mind that the foster dog is a dog staying with you temporarily and may not receive all the love and attention and time that you give your own dog(s) and that this is OK. The foster's main job is to give the dog a safe place to stay while it waits for adoption.

AMRONE pays for all veterinary bills, medications, grooming and can provide food.

Where would I keep a foster dog?

Every foster home must be equipped with at least one crate and/or a kennel run (which rescue will supply). This allows the foster dog to be kept separate and safe when not supervised. We don't always know the behaviors of rescue dogs. We can help select the best match for which dog you foster, for example, if you can take only males or females, if you can't take a dog that barks or digs, if you can only take housebroken older dogs, we can find a dog

that you can foster.

How will the dogs find a home?

Once a potential adopter has filled out an application on the AMRONE website they are called by an AMRONE volunteer and screened. If the applicant has owned animals previously, their vet is called to verify the care of their current/past animals. If everything seems to be in order they are matched with dogs that fit their needs and provided with the foster home's phone number. The foster home screens the applicant and arranges for the potential adopter to come meet the dog. The foster provider has the final say in any adoption. If the foster volunteer and the applicant agree it is a good match the adopters can return at a later date and adopt the dog.

How long will I have the foster dog?

Most of our dogs are adopted within two weeks to six months. We have some older and special-needs dogs that are "long-term" fosters, meaning AMRONE is committed to them for their lifetime or until they find a home. Taking in a long-term foster is a choice of the foster home. We have some foster homes that prefer this type of foster because it is like having a second dog that you get to know and have a long-term relationship with. Other homes prefer to take in only easily placeable dogs.

When would I have to take a foster dog?

AMRONE can always use foster care providers. We need foster care for long-term foster dogs, short-term foster dogs, emergency foster care and sometimes only overnight or week-long foster care. We can use whatever people can provide, whether this means taking one dog a year, offering kennel space in an

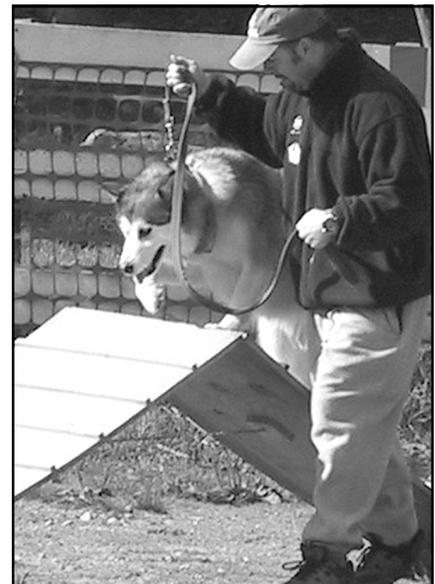
emergency or keeping dogs for us on a regular basis. Occasionally we have to pay to board a rescue dog. So if you are unable to keep a foster dog at your house, in some instances keeping one at a boarding kennel near you is an option so that you can care for it, walk it and manage its vet care.

What happens if my foster dog doesn't work out in my situation?

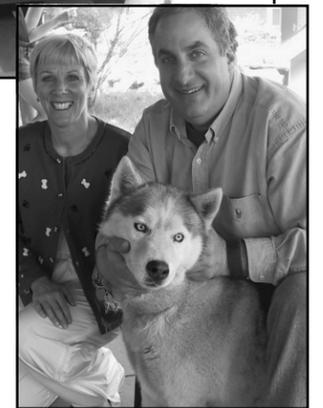
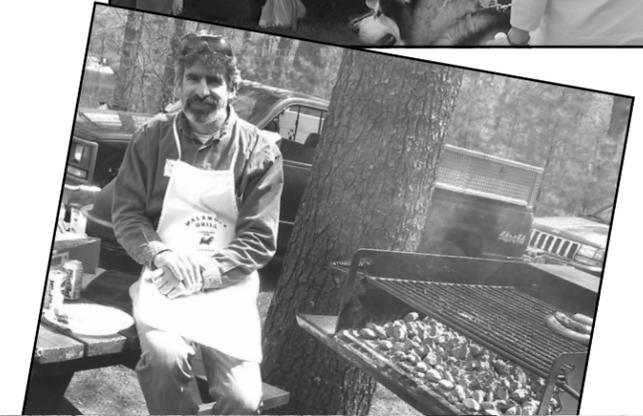
Any time a foster dog is not working out in a foster placement it can be moved. Sometimes personalities or behaviors just don't work out in certain situations and the dogs do better elsewhere. For instance, we recently moved a dog because she learned to jump her foster home's 5-foot fence. In the new foster situation she can now be contained.

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 week-long care for a foster dog please contact Joanne Duval at 413-258-4089 or email HCmalamute@amrone.org



Up and over on the agility course at Camp N Pack.



AMRONE'S 1st springtime romp: Bark in the Park

By Kathy Ferragamo

It couldn't have been a nicer day for AMRONE'S inaugural Bark in the Park. Clockwise from top center: one of many "photo ops;" signing in; David Ferragamo takes a break from cooking; stoking up on the chow line; event sponsors Paul and Lucille Ferragamo; sale and auction goodies line tables; Lenora Mattson and Storm spend a quiet moment; a couple of ever-hopeful dogs await treats; a watchful pair on the sidelines.

The sun was shining and the barbecue grills were set up as people and dogs started arriving May 5 for AMRONE's new springtime event, Bark in the Park.

The day began shortly after 10 a.m. at Berry Pond in Harold Parker State Forest, North Andover, MA., with a two-mile walk through the trails led by Roger Davies. Roger was accompanied by about 30 people and 20 dogs. Other people decided to just relax, hang out by the pond and socialize with other dog lovers. It was nice to see so many familiar faces – both human and canine, along with many new ones.

As the hikers wound through the parking lot and back to Berry Pond, the cooks (Jerry Ferragamo, Jerry Feldeisen and David Ferragamo) were busy getting lunch ready for the noon barbecue. The cooks looked great wearing their official "Malamute Grill" aprons (compliments of Stephanie Bayliss). There was lots of delicious food for everyone to enjoy.

Afternoon events started with a rescue parade coordinated by Stephanie. One by one the rescued dogs (malamutes and other breeds) were walked

around proudly by their new owners as the crowd cheered them on. After the parade, there was an obedience demonstration. Marcia Flynn from the Danvers, MA., PetsMart joined us and put on a demonstration with her sheltie. She then worked with Blizzard, recently adopted by Stephanie Bayliss and Jerry Feldeisen. Blizzard did very well going through the basic commands with Marcia and made his parents very proud of him.

The day ended with a raffle, which thanks to Catherine Oldham's hard work selling tickets was a success. First prize was a 3- x 4-foot doghouse (custom built by Jerry Ferragamo) that caught the attention of everyone, including Delta (adopted by Diane Jones). Delta made herself quite comfortable resting in the doghouse. She finally had to give up her spot when the doghouse went home with the 1st prize winners – Stephanie and Jerry.

About 80 people attended, and they brought not only malamutes, but also many other breeds including sibes, labs, goldens, terriers, boxers, rotties, various mixed breeds and even a leonberger. Thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers involved in the planning of our first springtime AMRONE event, Bark in the Park

was a success. The money raised will be used to help with vet bills, food, boarding and any other expenses involved with caring for our rescue malamutes and finding them loving, permanent homes.

Hopefully the second Bark in the Park will be held at the same location next May, depending on the availability of a permit from the Park Department.

A very special thank you goes to our sponsor, Paul Ferragamo, owner of Building Supplies Outlet, Inc., in Peabody, MA.



Wanted: a good home for an Angel to soar

By Catherine Oldham

On June 18, 2001, Angel lived up to her name by saving a life.

She had been in foster care at that time for six months. Her foster care time had been somewhat hectic.

Angel came into foster care from the Brockton, MA, SPCA because she was an owner turn-in. Not much was known about her, except that she was about 6 years old, and she at one time had had a litter of puppies. When Kathy and Jerry Ferragamo transported Angel to our meeting in Greenfield, MA, their major complaint was that Angel had a very strange smell.

They were so right! The next day I took Angel to the vet practice where I work for a bath. The vet who owns the practice knew right away what that smell was. He went to vet school in Colorado; the smell was sheep. Angel wasn't talking about her past, but her scent was saying sheep.

Into the tub she went; she came out smelling like a clean malamute.

A short two days later Angel was spayed and had a much needed dental cleaning. All of her vaccinations were updated, as well. She was ready to go to her new home.

And she did. On March 11, 2001, Angel was adopted by a very nice family who were looking for a calm companion for their older dog. Unfortunately, the adoption lasted only one day, because Angel and the resident dog did not get along. Back she came to foster care in Vermont where she awaited a second chance.

Then I noticed a small growth over Angel's left eye. Steve, her vet and my boss, said that the growth must



come off. Angel went in for her second surgery, which just happened to be the same day that a very difficult orthopedic surgery was scheduled at the veterinary hospital.

"I need a blood donor," said Steve.

"Well, Angel is going to be sleeping anyway", I said.

Angel gave 500 ml of blood that day and saved a life. She is very much what her name says.

Angel needs a home of her own where she can give more of the unconditional love that made her a good blood donor. Her vet says she is vibrant, healthy and in good spirits. Her teeth are certainly clean. All of her vaccinations are up to date, and she is in great shape. She has many more active years ahead of her. She does not, however, want to share her home with other animals.

If you know of someone who might be interested in being an angel for Angel by giving her that much needed new home, please contact me at vtaussie@surfglobal.net.



Pull for Camp N Pack

Pulling a weighted wagon is all in a malamute's day, as this entrant in a Camp N Pack weight pull shows. Remember to mark your calendars for Camp N Pack 2002. It will be held Oct. 4-6 at Camp Timber Trails, Tolland, MA. For more information and a registration form, e-mail CampNpack2002@aol.com or go to www.amrone.org

Treatment for Lyme Disease is controversial

Lyme disease is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, arthritis, and in severe conditions can involve the kidneys, heart and central nervous system. Although transmitted mainly through the bite of the deer tick, the organism has been found in other types of ticks as well.

Treatment requires antibiotic use for as much as two to four weeks, sometimes longer. Even with treatment the bacteria might not be completely removed from the body but be suppressed to the point where the immune system can keep it in check. An accurate diagnosis of Lyme disease requires use of clinical symptoms of the disease in addition to laboratory testing.

Historically, laboratory testing has been limited to antibody analysis that is unable to distinguish between exposure to the disease and vaccination. There is a new test available that



is very sensitive and specific for detecting antibodies formed only by the presence of the Lyme disease organism. Even so, the presence of these antibodies may not indicate active disease.

The company that manufactures the test recommends treating all positive tests. However, many in the veterinary community do not advocate treating for Lyme based on a positive test alone without the presence of clinical symptoms. This is still a hot topic of debate.

The best way to treat Lyme Disease is by prevention, which should revolve around tick control. There are very good products available to help keep ticks off your pet including

collars, sprays and pour-ons.

Vaccinating your dog for Lyme Disease is also possible and is also a hot topic of debate. There is growing concern that vaccinating animals already exposed to the disease is of little benefit to them and in fact may lead to problems. Some veterinarians that live in endemic areas of Lyme do not advocate vaccination just for that reason. They feel that these animals already have been exposed and already are carrying some immunity.

Testing for the presence of the bacteria before vaccination is always an option but again is a topic for much debate. If your pet has not been exposed and you don't want it to be, then tick control and vaccination together should help provide you with the security you need to prevent Lyme Disease.

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

Because of AMRONE, mals are with their own kind

[From Page 6]

had been raised lovingly, attentively, and intelligently? What if he had been socialized and trained? What if it were not too late to offer the dog something more than my sorrow?

Happily, most of the dogs that come to AMRONE's attention are more than ready to become the safe, affectionate, adored companions they deserve to be. Far from being "not wanted," they are welcomed as long-lost members of the extended human-canine family that is AMRONE. When I arrived at our most recent family reunion, Bark in the Park, the thought crossed my mind that each of the dozens of adopted malamutes I saw had been dependent on the kindness of strangers. I immediately

realized that I was wrong. The unknown malamute is, in fact, known to everyone in AMRONE.

When I picked up the 8-year-old and "not wanted" Tootsie at the MSPCA, everything about her was intimately familiar to me: the soft expression in her eyes, the feel of her coat under my hands, the strength and self-confidence that powered her leap into my car. Tootsie was a bit like a phone friend or an e-mail friend I was meeting for the first time. When the 8-week-old Wicca stayed at my house, she depended on the kindness of someone who was anything but a stranger to her. Now grown to great size, little Wicca, renamed Storm, was at Bark in the Park, as were Belle, Star, Keni, Granite, Blizzard, and dozens of

other rescue malamutes. I'd met some before. Others, I'd only heard about. Each one was a member of our extended family, as was every AMRONE volunteer, adopter, and supporter. Without AMRONE, these amazing dogs would have depended on true strangers, perhaps including strangers whose tender mercies were cruelties.

As it is, every AMRONE malamute depends on the kindness, the generosity and the gentle mercy of people who immediately recognize and respect every member of our amazing breed of breeds. Here, malamutes are deeply understood, often for the first time in their lives. At last, these dogs are with their own people. You are those people. My pride in you knows no bounds.

Couple's meeting in Alaska was no fluke

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pictures, etchings, ribbons, plaques, trophies and various awards that are accumulated from over 50 years in dogs. Malamute, Canadian Eskimo, Siberian Husky. Breeding, showing and racing. If the truth be known, I was afraid to open my mouth and say anything (I know, hard to believe for a lot of you) on the chance of putting my foot in my mouth. But within five minutes we were all sitting relaxed and laughing.

A little history on the Norrises. Earl actually established his "Alaskan" kennel name in Idaho in 1936. With the entrance of the U.S. into World War II in 1942, Earl managed to get a position in Alaska with the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which was constructing airfields and navigation facilities around Alaska.

Earl homesteaded just outside Anchorage and built up a small kennel of Alaskan malamutes. Today the homestead has been swallowed up by the city. By 1950 Earl was director of logistics for the Port of Anchorage and working downtown. He remembered that in the years after World War II, he often drove the dog team to work, Anchorage being much smaller than it is now.

Natalie Jubin was born in Lake Placid, NY, in 1924 and by age 12 had her own team of sled dogs of mixed heritage. Lake Placid had a history of sled dog use dating back to World War I when the practice of hauling tourists by dog team originated. The first annual Lake Placid sled dog race was held in 1928 and many New England mushers attended, including Leonard Seppala.

When World War II ended, Natalie worked for Short Seeley at Chinook Kennels, Wonalancet, NH. She had the opportunity to run in harness such dogs as Champion

Wonalancet's Baldy of Alyeska, Champion Wonalancet's Disco of Alyeska and Waska. In the fall of 1945, Natalie decided that Alaska was the place she wanted to be. Short selected two Siberians from Chinook Kennel for Natalie to take with her and her other dogs.

In early 1946 Natalie set out with her dogs and very little money. Fortunately, however, Earl Norris knew she was coming after seeing an article about Natalie and how she planned to emigrate to Alaska. He had written to her before she left New Hampshire, advising her that he would be available to help her get settled in Alaska. So Natalie's wayward troop settled in with Earl's dogs at his homestead just outside Anchorage.

So here we were. Ted Norris greeted us as we came in and soon Natalie was down along with Svetlana, Nikolai's wife. Ted and mom went back and forth on this year's race strategy and some of the feeding schedule, with Natalie saying "Well, you know J.P and Swingley talk, and Swingley never feeds his dogs the first day." JP is Natalie's older son. And so it went, stopping every now and again to give some explanation to the interlopers. So I, at least, sat in awe in the presence of Natalie Norris, a really nice lady whose door seems to be open to all who venture up this way. There is always space to sit down and chairs waiting to be pulled up and put in

use if too crowded.

So I ask how many dogs she has now. Well they're down to 86 or 87. Of course that includes 22 puppies, eight malamutes and three Canadian Eskimo dogs and one Australian Shepherd (the housedog). I later find out that of the 22 pups she is offering only three for sale; the rest are staying as sled and/or show dogs, probably both. It is time to feed the puppies so we venture out to the puppy pens. One can see the joy on Natalie's face as she talks to each



Natalie Norris walks by the pens of nearly 90 dogs.

one as they patiently wait for their dish, then bang — the food is gone. "Have you every seen such appetites?" she asks with a smile and a little laugh. I am starting to relax a little more.

When I just have to see the mals we go down the path a ways and there they are. I hear one scream and all I can think of is Champ, my first rescue mal, who crossed the bridge on the same day as Earl. At least he has good company. They are all going a little nuts now, whirling and singing. The one still roars at me and I say to myself, "Well, you're either going to take my arm off or you're

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Excitement peaks as thousands jam street

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lines of Alaskan Huskies, with Siberian bred back in to help improve coat and feet. They have name recognition as they were in the forefront of getting mushing to where it is today in Alaska and the "Outside." Right up there with Joe Redington Jr. and Dorothy Page.

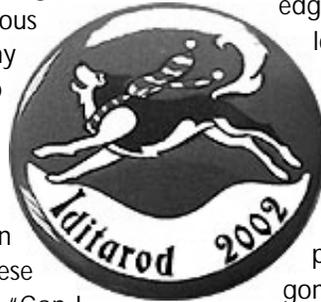
So I get to be behind the lines. Drop the dogs, water the dogs, snack the dogs, back in the box and out again.

Keep the girls in season away from the amorous fellows. I am also the bag man, and with my shovel make dutiful rounds of the truck to keep this a spectator-friendly area.

The crowds on the other side of the snow fence have grown to a massed milling throng, two to three deep by the Anadyr truck. I often hear, "Now these are the real Huskies" or "These are real sled dogs." "Can I pet your dogs." "Can I take a picture." "Can I get your autograph." I did defer the autographs to the real musher.

He is Nikolai Ettyne, from Lavrintya, Chukotka, Russia. He and his family are staying at the Norris farm. An experienced musher, he has run the Norris team in two other Iditarods, has won the Hope International, and has done well in shorter races. He is a native Siberian running a team of Siberian Huskies but he has not had the time he would have liked to work this team. He had to drop some of his first choice dogs as pre-race vet exams and blood tests revealed potential problems.

Time ticks by. First out the chute is Charlie Bolding, at 10 a.m. Natalie has bib # 1, in honor of her late husband. Her son, Ted, and Nikolai think it is a good idea to



hook up a couple of dogs and have her sled to the start just before Charlie goes out. So we hook up Jack (one of her favorites) and another dog and head for the start, much to the consternation of ITC Security and some of the other mushers hooking up. But what do you say to Bib #1? There were mostly open-mouthed, speechless expressions. Natalie gets to the starting line just fine and takes her seat in the official starting booth, a big red Dodge pickup truck that will go to the winner of the race.

The excitement level has grown. There are thousands of spectators, 65 mushers and accompanying entourages and a little over 1000 dogs, which for the most part are edgy, excited and howling. The howling is so loud I cannot hear the announcer letting the throng know it is now Charlie's turn in the chute, now the countdown, and off. And so it continues down to the last musher. Our time in the chute is short, and anticlimactic. Nikolai has tried to keep the dogs as calm as possible. Up to the gate, the countdown and gone.

We go back to the truck and pack up and they are off to the first checkpoint, Eagle River, about 22 miles down the road. There the dogs, sleds and mushers are packed up to do the whole start over again tomorrow in Wasilla, the official start.

I wander 4th Street looking for my better half. Bonnie has been loaded down with the camera gear. I find her near the start, cold-footed and shivering. She tells me that the shutter on the video camera decided to freeze shut at some point. She also has found time to do a little shopping under the guise of warming up. We collect our gear and her packages from the store and head out to find some hot refreshments. It is now a little after 1 p.m. and we can do this all over again in tomorrow in Wasilla.

History and knowledge live within these walls

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going to be good." I walk up and he is in my face, licking and holding my arm in his paws like he would never let go. I go to each in turn, several flopping over for belly rubs but all friendly. The Eskimo dogs are just like the mals, friendly and looking for some time. Heading back to the house with the big boy roaring at me gave me shivers.

Natalie starts talking mals and

Canadian Eskimo dogs now. She starts going into pedigree and this dog and that dog and some of the names I recognize and some are lost to me. There is just so much knowledge wrapped up in these walls; she is no nonsense about the dogs. Other people drift in — no knocking here, just walk in and announce yourself. Rescue is now the topic with the newcomers and Natalie is telling them they are not being tough enough with whomever they are

dealing with. "Well, she had better learn how to handle the dog or your going to have to get it back." Period.

Finally it's time to head out and I feel like I have just seen an iceberg — So much seen but much more not, so much history and knowledge. Rumor has it that Natalie will be at the AMCA Specialty in Sturbridge, MA, in 2003. It would be worth the visit to just say 'Hi' to her and listen if you get the chance.

How AMRONE gets its money

By Stephanie Bayliss, Treasurer

I'd like to provide more detail about the financial report by defining the categories. This edition will cover income sources, and the next newsletter will cover expenses.

Adoptions: Income from adoptions is self explanatory; our adoption fee is \$150 per dog.

Owner Turn-In: Some owners who are turning in dogs to AMRONE make a donation to help pay for the expenses of the dog and to help support AMRONE.

General Donations: Cash donations come in from many sources: adopters, volunteers, malamute breeders in New England, Yankee Alaskan Malamute Club, veterinarians, and a whole range of pet lovers, dog lovers and malamute lovers.

Matching Donations: Matching donations come in from companies that offer to match the donations

made by their employees. Generally, the donor/employee mails a "matching form" to AMRONE with their donation. AMRONE then sends the matching form to the company with required documentation, and the company mails a check to AMRONE. Often, employees are not even aware that their company offers this benefit. And it's a painless way of increasing, often doubling, a contribution to AMRONE.

United Way Donations: Occasionally, AMRONE receives donations through United Way. Some companies offer United Way payroll deductions, allowing the employee to designate the non-profit organization of their choice to receive monthly or one-time donations. United Way consolidates the donations and mails a check to AMRONE.

Camp N Pack income: Camp N Pack is priced to cover all the costs incurred in the weekend, but not to make a profit for AMRONE. Camp N Pack was created as a social,

educational and recreational weekend for malamute and dog owners of all breeds. The part of the event that generates revenue is the auction, the raffles and the sale of sweatshirts, T-shirts and other items.

Clothing sales: AMRONE has sweatshirts and T-shirts printed with the AMRONE logo, and sells them at AMRONE functions, as well as pet shows and expos that AMRONE attends. AMRONE makes a profit on each item sold.

Promotions: Promotions include donations made at pet expos and shows in which AMRONE participates, and donations made by shoppers at pet stores where AMRONE has display tables. PetsMart is very generous, and allows rescue groups to have display tables in their stores. We currently have tables in Andover and Bellingham, MA., and Nashua, NH. Especially for Pets, located in Acton, Newton, Sudbury and Wayland, MA., is very generous, and invites AMRONE to have a display table with staff on any Saturday.

Go national: Join AMAL

AMRONE is an affiliate of the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League, our national organization, which supports malamute rescue groups throughout the country and provides emergency funding for needy dogs. The AMAL membership year runs from July through June. Please join!

To join and receive the AMAL newsletter, send dues of \$20 (plus \$5 for each additional family member) to Karen Sorrell, AMAL Membership Chair, 400 Lake View Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

Remember to include your name, address, e-mail address and phone number. Additional donations are, of course, welcome.

\$ \$ \$		EXPENSES	
On the money trail with AMRONE (January - June 2002)		Apparel	\$943
INCOME		Bark in the Park	\$211
Adopter	\$900	Boarding	\$778
Apparel Sold	\$167	Camp	\$50
Bark in the Park	\$1189	Grooming	\$47
Camp	-\$200	Insurance	\$346
Donor - Books	\$25	Kenneling	\$294
Donor - General	\$985	Licenses and Permits	\$35
Owner Turn-in	\$150	Microchips	\$49
Total Promotion	\$102	Office Supplies	\$281
Total Income	\$3318	Pet Supplies	\$414
		Postage/Delivery	\$144
		Printing/Reproduction	\$263
		Telephone	\$250
		Veterinary	\$3828
		Total Expense	\$7933
		Net Income	-\$4615

Floyd is 'a totally different dog now'

By Carol Peck

When Connie and Rick Knapp of northern Massachusetts visited AMRONE's website, they were looking for a dog to keep Simba, their 12-year-old husky/shepherd cross, company. Floyd's AMRONE photo reminded Rick of a malamute who had been Rick's best pal for 10 years, and he said, "I want this dog!" Once seen in person, Floyd proved to be lovable and good-natured, although he had a coat problem that affected his appearance.

Connie and Rick brought Floyd home on a Saturday in March 2001 so they would have all weekend to help him settle in. During the initial adjustment period, they used a child's gate to separate Floyd and Simba, and they fed them separately. Soon they noticed that Floyd and Simba had become good friends, and now Floyd watches out for Simba and protects her. He is even better with Simba than they could have hoped.

At first, Floyd would not go up and down stairs. Now he runs up and down them.

Floyd exhibited no such hesitation about food. He not only knows when it's dinnertime, but he also howls and dances to announce and celebrate that it's time to eat. He loves all types of food; and now, topping 100 pounds, he's on a diet. In fact, Connie and Rick make a special diet food list for Floyd when they go shopping. Fortunately, he really loves carrots and string beans, two key items on his current diet. In fact, he waits for cookies or carrots for dessert after his dinner; only then will he go outside.

Floyd is a good dog who is smart and attentive. He



Success
Stories

Like a big teddy bear, Floyd relaxes in front of the fireplace with Patrick, Rick Knapp's son.

has learned quickly to sit, stay, heel, and to walk well on leash. He loves to go for walks, and when he hears his leash, he gets very excited. He has also learned not to jump or grab things.

Connie says that Floyd is like a big teddy bear who loves children and other dogs. He goes for walks with the male German shepherd who lives across the street, and he likes to "talk with" the yellow labs next door and the Corgis and Dalmations who sometimes visit the neighborhood.

In May 2002, Floyd and his family attended AMRONE's Bark in the Park, where he was introduced to some of the other rescued malamutes. Other human attendees were amazed at Floyd's appearance. He looks happy and healthy – and he now has a beautiful coat. As Rick has said, "We fed him, and brushed him, and gave him lots of love. His coat came in, and he looks great! He's a totally different dog now!"

Floyd woo-woos his agreement.

Protect your dog: Car temperatures can climb rapidly

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an excellent base to lie on.

Dogs should not be left in cars in warm weather; they can become distressed and die very quickly. If they must be left, there are points to consider. Car temperatures can climb to 120 degrees, so always park in the shade, but remember: the SUN MOVES! Leave windows open and cover up with a white sheet, or better still, one of those silvered covers that reflect the rays. If you leave the

tailgate open check often to be sure the hydraulic struts don't fail.

In case of heat stroke call a vet immediately. In the meantime, try to lower the animal's body temperature by any means possible. Best is to apply towels soaked in cool water to the hairless areas of the body. Be careful though — often a dog will respond after a few minutes of cooling, only to collapse again with his temperature soaring up or falling to below normal; hence the need for

veterinary attention. Veterinary treatment might include intravenous fluids for shock and drugs to prevent the very real threat of brain damage.

[Editor's note: Julie Breame owns Icestorm Alaskan Malamutes in England and is the rescue coordinator for the Alaskan Malamute Club of Great Britain. You can reach her at: Icestorm@btinternet.com or: www.DogsOfTheNorth.com/Icestorm.html]



Cathie Reinhard conducts a three-way conversation, top left, and a mal shows his stuff at an obedience demonstration at Camp N Pack, below.



AMRONE at work

AMRONE had 14 malamutes in foster care as of the end of June 2002, with four more waiting for foster homes. The ages of the dogs range from 9 months to 12 years. We have placed seven malamutes and helped to place two Siberians and more than 30 mixed-breed sled dogs (special thanks to Dr. Steve, Danny Duval and Catherine Oldham).

We have assisted at least seven owners in keeping their malamutes and have helped others with various questions and concerns. All our dogs are spayed or neutered, updated on vaccinations and in most cases given hip X-rays and microchips before placement.

**ALASKAN MALAMUTE
RESCUE**



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