

Just a dog



From time to time people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "That's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, time spent, or costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed with my only company being "just a dog," and not once have I felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about by "just a dog." In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog," provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," you probably will understand phrases such as "just a friend," "just a sunrise" or "just a promise." Just a dog brings into my life the essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

For me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog." It's an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams for the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday people can understand it's not "just a dog." It's the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man or woman."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," smile, because they "just don't understand."

— Author Unknown

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Where are all the malamutes?

By Joanne Duval, President

This question came into AMRONE awhile ago and after I wrote a reply it occurred to me that everyone might be interested in the answer, as best as I could answer it.

This was the question:

Hi Joanne. I've been noticing over the past few months that there are fewer mals listed as available on the AMRONE website. Are there fewer coming in, or are there fewer foster families and more mals being turned away? We adopted our mal from AMRONE quite a few years ago, and I occasionally browse the website for updates. Just curious.

This was my answer:

Thank you for your question; unfortunately it is not an easy one to answer. We have had fewer dogs listed this year and fewer dogs adopted out. Our website does not always tell the whole story though.

Many times we have dogs in foster care and only some of them are up on the site. We might not put them on the site if we are still evaluating them or if they still need some vet work. We don't ever put puppies on the site since they generate more phone calls than we can handle and we always have open applications that are waiting for young dogs.

Sometime when a dog comes in it never makes the site since we have a waiting application that might be perfect for the dog. So generally the site only has some but not all our dogs.

This year we have had quite a few dogs in shelters that never became AMRONE dogs. We have been able to send adopters directly to the shelters to adopt the dogs before they have to come to us; the same with some that are placed directly from



their owners into new homes.

We also have helped several dogs stay with their current owners by giving advice on vet care or training in the past year. Since these dogs never officially become AMRONE dogs we don't end up listing them on the website either.

That is the upside — the fact that we have seen a decline in the overall number of dogs that we get calls on that we have to physically take custody of. The downside is we have seen a big rise in the dogs advertised online by their owners around New England and also a rise in the numbers of dogs that people contact us about that have major behavioral problems.

Miscellaneous thoughts regarding online sales by owners wanting to place their dogs:

Many of the people looking to find a home for their dogs who would have contacted rescue a few years ago have discovered Craig's list or other ways to advertise their dogs online, so instead of going through rescue they "sell" or "give away" their dogs through online services. The money aspect of this definitely plays into this for many of the owners looking for a home for their dog: Why not make some money? The scary part is that many of these dogs are not spayed/neutered and some have some pretty major issues. Buyer beware.

We have been trying to contact people who list their dogs and educate them about placing dogs properly but most of the time they don't want our help — they want to

do it themselves. Some people choose to place their dogs themselves because it is quicker than waiting for rescue to evaluate their dog and find an appropriate foster home. I just had someone give their dog away to a neighbor's friend because even though we had a foster care spot for the dog we didn't pick the dog up quickly enough (we had transportation for the dog within two days).

Years ago we used to have foster spots that were pretty much a guarantee. I am a good example. I used to take two fosters at a time, all the time, so if I had only one, rescue could send me another without much warning. Things are different now and we don't have many spots like that anymore. Rescuing a dog does take a little time when you do it right. People don't want to wait.

On a side note, many shelters that used to give up purebred dogs to their respective rescues seem to want to place the dogs themselves. They don't mind us advertising them on our site but they want to place them without us taking the dog. In talking to other breed rescues this seems to be happening to many of them. I am not sure why but off the top of my head I think purebreds might be easier for shelters to place than mixed-bred dogs and therefore quick income for them in a hard economy. Import laws across state lines and liability issues are always in the back of every shelter's mind and sometimes they are more comfortable doing the adoptions themselves.

Thoughts about aggressive dogs or dogs with issues:

The message that rescues are out there to help has circulated down to the general population so that "dog rescue" is known and recognized by most people. (Thank you, Animal Planet!) Fifteen years ago if I said I did "malamute rescue" people would

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With care and love, Luna manages a big move

By Joan and Joe Szarek

Luna came into our lives somewhat unexpectedly on the day after Christmas 2008. The previous summer, after many years of malamute ownership, we lost our fourth and last malamute, or so we assumed.

Just before Christmas, Joan called Susan Conant about a malamute in a



New London shelter she had seen and was thinking about fostering her.

We didn't

want another dog yet, or even know if we wanted another mal. However, the dog was nice and the shelter would have no problem finding a good home for her.

But Susan already had the situation under control. She had a family already in mind to look at the dog. Then Susan told Joan about another female mal that was recently flown in from Puerto Rico and had been quarantined at the Worcester Animal Rescue League. She thought we might be interested in seeing her.

The day after Christmas, we made the trip north from the Connecticut shoreline to see Luna, somewhat intrigued by her life history. When we opened the door to the Worcester shelter, we heard a very familiar howl. The staff members told us that "Yes, that's Luna and we hear that all day long!"

When we saw her, what we saw was a somewhat emaciated malamute with sores, lesions and plenty of hair loss all over her torso and legs. But we couldn't resist her angelic face, and decided to make arrangements with AMRONE and the Worcester Animal Rescue League to bring her to our home for fostering



Puerto Rican immigrant Luna relaxes at home in snowy New England.

soon after the New Year's holiday.

Now the question was, "What do you do with a malamute that has no coat to speak of, who flew in from a Caribbean island, into a snowy New England winter?" The answer: Run around outside a lot in 10-minute increments!

Our local veterinarian quickly established that Luna had some teeth that were broken and cracked. We had some information that she didn't like crates and was an escape artist. Those problems seem to be evidence of that information. Unfortunately, Luna also was found to have hip dysplasia in one hip, corneal atrophy in one eye and tapeworms. Our vet immediately fell under Luna's spell, and said that with a little good medicine, some good food and a nurturing environment she would be "OK." But he didn't know about her separation anxiety at that point.

Two months after fostering her, we made the decision to adopt Luna and with all her medical issues and anxieties, Luna is funny, talkative,

and playful – we just love her! Joe says she boxes like a kangaroo, and he should know. He is home with her all day.

She also has a boxful of "babies" that she hoards, and hides her chews in the sofa and chair cushions and shoves the pillows on top of them so that you will NEVER find them until you sit down! If we leave the side door open so she can go in and out, she will take her chews outside and we never see them again.

One pleasant surprise for Joan is being able to take Luna to the dog park; our four other malamutes weren't exactly dog friendly. Luna looks forward to playing with all the dogs, but pays particular attention to hanging out with the smaller ones.

On a recent checkup her vet said to me, "You see Luna every day, but I only see her every few weeks. You don't realize the improvement Luna has made from the condition she was in when I first saw her. She looks wonderful!"

Those were wonderful words to hear.

Beware the backyard breeder

A comparison of:

Traits of Responsible Hobby Breeder	Traits of Backyard Breeder
"Into" Dogs (shows, training, clubs, etc.)	Not "into" dogs (has "pets" around the house)
Belongs to dog clubs and organizations	Is not involved in the "dog world"
Proves quality of dogs and suitability for breeding by competing for titles and certificates in conformation, obedience, agility, field trialing, Schutzhund, herding, tracking, earthdog trials, etc.	Quality of dogs is almost always substandard, however, he does not test his dogs in shows or trials (Dogs are just pets or "breeding machines")
Pups' pedigrees are filled with dogs who have obtained show titles/working certificates; never breeds dogs without "papers"	Pedigrees mostly a list of pets bred by backyard breeders; pups may not even have "papers"; may be mongrels (Cockapoos, etc.)
Supports rescue groups; knows his actions inevitably play some part in pet overpopulation and euthanasia (one of every four dogs in shelters is purebred). Even with all his efforts to stem overpopulation, he knows "cracks" will lead to canine deaths	Honestly believes that because he places/sells all his pups, he does not contribute in any way to the needless slaughter of millions of dogs per year in shelters (Does not see his role in his pups making pups and them making more pups and so on)
Knowledgeable in every facet of breed, including that of health issues/defects; researches genetics when choosing mates	Not particularly educated about breed, often not aware of his own breed's genetic defects; does not consider mate's genetics
Knowledgeable about house breaking, training, socializing, breeding, health; constantly reads dog-related materials	<i>Has own ideas which may not coincide with professionals' opinions; won't bother to read any of the hundreds of dog books available</i>

Use this guide to obtain a quality puppy from a responsible breeder

By Victoria Rose

Be aware that dogs are not "things." They are living creatures who, by no choice of their own, are totally dependent upon us - and are at our mercy - for their very survival, not to mention quality of life.

As pack animals, their mental health is dependent upon being with their pack. That may be other animals, or it may be us. It is very cruel to leave a dog alone all day. Dogs need a lot of attention. They

need regular, systematic aerobic exercise for at least 20-30 minutes, at least 3-4 times a week, just to be healthy.

Few dogs get the exercise they need for good physical and mental health. Lack of exercise is the number one reason, (then lack of training), that dogs become mischievous and burdensome, and are then blamed, then dumped, and too often, killed. ("A tired dog is a good dog.")

Having a yard is not sufficient. Dogs do not exercise themselves

unless chasing something along the fence line, and that, in and of itself, is a problem. To make good pets, they need training.

And most important, to be safe pets they need early socialization. Lack of socialization the first 4-6 months of a dog's life creates shy dogs, which too often become fear-biters, which, along with those who were simply born with poor temperaments, are responsible for the majority of the 4.7 million dog bites annually. (Sixty percent of victims

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Responsible Breeder	Backyard Breeder
<p><i>[From Page 4]</i> Can and will help and educate puppy buyers re these issues</p>	<p>Says "Goodbye" and "Good luck"</p>
<p>Willing to give you his references</p>	<p>Has no references</p>
<p>Knows his puppies' ancestry</p>	<p>Knows nothing about the other dogs on puppies' pedigrees</p>
<p>Follows up on puppies' well-being; collects health information affecting his dogs</p>	<p>Does not concern himself with the puppies' well-being or how puppies' health affects his breeding "plan"</p>
<p>Breeds to improve his own dogs, his bloodlines and the breed</p>	<p>Breeds just to breed or make money or see his "great dog" procreate</p>
<p>Rarely breeds as he does not use dog breeding as a business and strives for quality, not quantity</p>	<p>Breeds regularly if for money or if puppy mill; if for ego, breeds once in awhile, or "just once" before neutering or spaying</p>
<p>Rarely repeats a breeding</p>	<p>Often repeats breedings, mainly those that are cheap and convenient.</p>
<p>Breeds only dogs which meet breed standard</p>	<p>Dogs used for breeding rarely meet breed standard</p>
<p>Breeds only dogs with stable temperaments</p>	<p>Breeds shy/aggressive dogs with poor temperaments</p>
<p>Breeds only dogs over 2 years old, and a limited number of times</p>	<p>Breeds dogs at almost any age, and any number of times</p>
<p>Mate choice could be anywhere in the country (almost never breeds his own males to his own females)</p>	<p>Mate choice is that which is convenient, cheap, local (very often owns both sire and dam)</p>
<p>Does all genetic testing and will provide proof; does not breed animals with genetic defects or which are carriers of defects</p>	<p>Does no genetic testing; ignorantly breeds defective animals or those which are carriers, thus perpetuating disease in breed</p>
<p>Puppies are sold from waiting list created before breeding even takes place</p>	<p>Puppies are sold after birth in the local newspaper, first-come, first-served</p>
<p>Puppies are sold with health guarantees</p>	<p>Puppies are sold with no guarantee</p>
<p>Pet-quality pups generally cost \$500-\$600+ (show-quality costs more)</p>	<p>All pups are pet-quality and are relatively cheap, usually \$200-\$400</p>
<p>Puppies are sold with contracts</p>	<p>No contracts; does not care what you do with puppies</p>
<p>Requires pups back if new homes don't work out</p>	<p>Says "Find them good homes"</p>
<p>Dogs on property are friendly, socialized, trained</p>	<p>Dogs on property may be aggressive or shy, and untrained</p>



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Responsible Breeder	Backyard Breeder
<i>[From Page 5]</i> Does not own more dogs than he has room, time or money for. Dogs are groomed, exercised, healthy, happy	Puppy mills are overloaded, “warehoused” dogs are not groomed or exercised, don’t look healthy or happy
Will show you pups’ parents if available, or if not, will have pictures	Might have to “lock up” pups’ aggressive or shy parents (dogs that should never have been bred)
Raises puppies indoors	Raises puppies outdoors
Stays home to care for puppies	Dam and pups are alone for long hours
Feeds only premium dog food	Feeds cheap, grocery store dog food (containing 4D meat/chemicals)
Visitors remove shoes and wash hands to prevent spread of parvovirus	Has no understanding and takes no precautions to prevent puppy-killer disease
Keeps pups with mom and litter a minimum of 49 days to ensure sibling socialization and important lessons from pups’ mother	Doesn’t know leaving litter earlier can cause lifelong temperament problems or staying too long can hurt bonding with humans
Socializes pups by systematically handling them and exposing them to various noises, children and other animals before sending them to new homes	Does not understand or want to be troubled with any kind of training; just tries to keep puppies quiet and contained until sold
Tests pups to match their temperaments and drives with buyers’ personalities and lifestyles	Knows nothing about puppy-testing or matching puppies with buyers; allows buyers to pick the “cutest” one
Can honestly evaluate pups’ quality	Says all pups are high quality
Never sells to “impulse” buyers	Not concerned about buyers being prepared for pups
Never sells two pups at the same time to a novice	Would consider this killing two birds with one sale
Interviews prospective buyers, checks home and references, refuses to sell to substandard homes	Sells first-come, first-served to whomever has the cash; does not find out which homes are substandard
Wants to meet whole family; won’t sell if children are abusive	Does not consider anything past obtaining the funds
Sells only to buyers with disposable income (AKC reports it costs \$1327 yearly to properly care for a dog)	Is not concerned whether or not buyers can afford to properly care for pups
Waits for buyers who offer lifelong homes (Knows that only 30 percent of all dogs stay in one home throughout their lives)	Does not reject high-risk buyers: (renters, young people, those with poor track records, low income, other pets, dogs kept outdoors)
Understands dogs are pack animals; sells pets only to buyers wanting to make pup an indoor dog and part of the family	Doesn’t care if pups live as outdoor dogs or chained dogs, being unhappy or anxious being isolated and separated from packs
Sells only to buyers who make pup’s safety a priority	Does not consider pups’ best interests
Encourages or requires buyers to spay/neuter pet-quality pups	Encourages buyers to breed, regardless of quality
Encourages buyers to train pups; refers to good trainer	Shows no concern for pups after sale; knows no trainers
Makes sure buyers understand pup’s considerable need for time, attention, exercise and training	Does not provide even his own dogs with enough time, attention, exercise or training
Responsible Breeders Improve the Breed	Backyard Breeders Damage the Breed

Breeding dogs should be free of defects

[From Page 4]

are children. Half of all kids 12 and under have been bitten by a dog. Every day more than 900 people are hospitalized with dog bites. Every year 25 people are killed by dogs.)

If you can not be a responsible dog owner, please wait until you can be.

And please don't breed out of greed or ego or for any reason other than to improve the breed (i.e., to make the puppies better than their parents).

Most purebred dogs, and of course, all mixed-breed dogs, should not be bred. The majority of dogs have some defect (in structure, temperament, health) that should not be perpetuated. Dogs used for breeding should be free of all defects — that's the definition of quality. ("Papers" mean nothing; They are simply, and nothing more than, birth certificates. Plenty of dogs have "papers," but are so poorly bred they actually look like mutts.)

And no human should ever breed any dog without veterinary/laboratory testing and pedigree research to be sure that dog is free of (and not a carrier of) genetic defects.

Failure to test/search for inheritable health problems is the number one mark of a backyard breeder. It is also the most damaging to canines, and the most heart-breaking to puppy-buyers, who end up with the yet another generation of poor-quality dogs who too often develop expensive, early health problems and often die prematurely.

We have a severe pet-overpopulation crisis in the US; we slaughter thousands of beautiful, vital, healthy dogs every single day. (Twenty-five percent of shelter dogs are purebred.)



Every puppy produced by a backyard breeder and placed in a home takes the place of one killed in a shelter because no one adopted it. And every puppy produced by a backyard breeder can make more puppies, and those puppies can make more puppies and so on. (And of course, backyard breeders, through their encouragement and the dispersal of misinformation, have a knack for turning uneducated buyers into yet more backyard breeders.)

There just are not enough homes (not to mention "good" homes) available for all these puppies. No matter how hard one tries, only 30 percent of all dogs (and their pups and their pups and so on) live their entire lives in the home to which they went after weaning.

Seventy percent will be given away or abandoned or dumped along the way for one reason or another. (Common excuses are, "We didn't have time for him," "He was too much trouble," "He kept jumping on us," "He bit my child," "We couldn't afford him," "We had to move.")

None of these were good homes to begin with. The buyers failed to

socialize or train, or they lacked time, money or commitment. Again, there just are not enough "good" homes for all the puppies born.) Why not leave breeding dogs to those with the ability and desire and quality animals to do so at a "professional" level?

If everyone bred only dogs with excellent conformation and stable, correct temperaments, working titles and clean health, we would have top-quality dogs in this country. Get your dog evaluated by judges and trainers. If he meets breed standard, and is healthy, and has the correct temperament and drives, show him, work him, and get him titled.

If you feel you have what it takes to be a "professional" breeder, educate yourself, and with enough experience in dogs, maybe you, too, could make a positive contribution to your breed.

But if your dog's only credentials are that it is a great pet, then love it, socialize it, train it, exercise it, give it the best in feed, comfort and veterinary care, but for its own good (including better health - ask your vet!), and for the sake of puppy-buyers, society, and all canines, get it spayed or neutered.

Resist the greed; don't support backyard breeders, and certainly don't become one.

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Proud mom of the beautiful
Dobermann Calidancer V Teraden,
CD, OA, AD, OAC, OGC, NJC, RS-N,
GS-N, JS-N, CGC (As a pup she
cost \$900. She is trained in obedience,
agility, personal protection,
wheelchair assistance and
tricks...and she is spayed.)

Avoid extremes when exercising older dogs

What is the best exercise for the joints of an older arthritic dog? Are there any diet considerations?

Obviously what you've heard for humans would pertain to pets. If you allow your pet to become overweight those little joints wear out in time. It's a little late to prevent arthritis in a 12-year-old Malamute that has been overweight for the last 10 years.

If you go to any gym to exercise the first thing they will tell you is "If it hurts don't do it." If the dog likes to run along when you go biking and he can't get up for the next two days, leave him home. By the same token I wouldn't keep a dog miserable inside to prevent exercise. Avoid extremes on both sides. If he likes to play fetch but it makes him lame, play for only 10 minutes rather than 30. Life's too short; he has to enjoy some.

One very popular but controversial food supplement is glucosamine. There are many products containing this on the market, each better than the competitor and all equally as expensive. Since it is not a drug it doesn't come under the FDA so testing is minimal. It seems to be relatively harmless so I always left it up to my clients to try it if they wanted.

The theory is you need glucosamine to develop cartilage. Are you or your pet deficient in glucosamine? It would be nice to measure cartilage thickness, give glucosamine for a year and then remeasure the cartilage. Some people claim almost instant relief which doesn't fit with the theory. This could mean there is something else working in the mixture. I have been told the only glucosamine compound that works is the most expensive one.

There are a number of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories on the market similar to human products. Comparable to aspirin, Celebrex, Vioxx, and Mobic veterinarians have aspirin, Rimadyl, Deramax and Metacam. Previcox is also very similar to these but has no human counterpart. Yes, they all have side effects and even the rare possibility of death.

Since these have been on the market until my retirement July 2007 I'm sure I had well over 1000 dogs on one of these. One had adverse effects and had to be removed from medication. When local TV stations come out with some story to scare people about this I would have about a half dozen clients return their bottle and ask for an alternative. On most the alternative would be euthanasia.

These medications were the only thing keeping the dog alive – why worry about rare side effects? If I remember correctly the makers of Rimadyl told me one out of 10,000 might have a serious side effect. I'm willing to take that chance if it makes my pet comfortable.



Our 5-year-old malamute never had a hot spot until this year, when he developed three. What causes them and how should they be treated? Can they be prevented?

First let me describe what I refer to as a hot spot. A dog (usually large breed) will come in with a raw, hairless patch of skin that he developed within 20 minutes. I don't think anyone really knows what predisposes certain dogs to have hot spots more than others. If the spot is on the cheek always look in the ears. Pets aren't very accurate with their scratching and will tear up the cheek trying to get at the ears.

During the spring, when ticks are most active, we seem to get the most hot spots. A dog might chew or scratch at a tick and get rid of it very quickly but keep digging at the spot of irritation till it's huge. Treatment usually involves clipping the surrounding hair to let the area dry. Steroids will take down the irritation and are usually given orally or by injection and continued until the area no longer has the dog's center of attention.

Topical ointments containing steroids or drying agents might help but the pet usually licks them off quickly. Antibiotics certainly won't hurt and will help with topical bacteria.

As far as prevention, obviously keeping parasites off is important. Treating the ear infections would certainly help. Changing foods to eliminate food allergies will help in some cases. Changing from Pedigree beef to lams beef does nothing. Beef is beef. One would have to totally eliminate a certain protein. Veterinarians will carry some non-allergenic foods, as will some pet stores. A popular alternative would be fish and potato. Foods are available with the base of venison or kangaroo.

Food allergy treatment is not as easy as it sounds. Fluffy would have to get only fish and potato — no snacks, no dog biscuits, no table scraps. A dermatologist told me of a case where the family was very diligent for a month with no improvement to a skin condition he knew was food allergy. He had them switch from the monthly Heartguard beef cube to tablets. After another month with no improvement and much investigating he found the family was brushing the dog's teeth with beef-flavored toothpaste. When this was discontinued the skin cleared.

How many of us will be this conscientious? In my area the most popular dogs are Labradors or goldens. Labs rarely get hot spots. Most of my golden owners kept a bottle of prednisone at home in anticipation of another hot spot.

Dr. Robert Tremblay, VMD, is retired after 35 years of practice at the Marion (MA) Animal Hospital.



Mike Grandfield and Julie Ludworth supervise as Shadowfax and Noatak get to know each other at the 8th annual Bark in the Park.

Bark in the Park gives AMRONE people, mals a happy reunion

By Carl E. Hartdegen

Although the skies threatened rain, none fell on Berry Pond one Sunday last May, and the overcast kept the 48 dogs (and their 85 two-legged attendants) who gathered for the 8th annual Bark In the Park cool and comfortable.

The event in Harold Parker State Park in North Andover, MA, drew volunteers from Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, adopters of malamutes rescued by the organization and friends of AMRONE to the park for a social gathering that also raised funds for the group's efforts to assist malamutes in need in New England.

Again organized by AMRONE Secretary Kathy Ferragamo and her husband, Jerry, the event was

sponsored again by Paul Ferragamo of Building Supplies Outlet of Peabody, MA.

Kathy Ferragamo acknowledged that the outing is "a lot of work" but "it's worth it. When you see the dogs that you've fostered, the dogs that you've helped, and their adopters, it's worth it."

In addition to some planned activities, the day was an opportunity for volunteers to meet fellow volunteers whom they have met via the internet, for volunteers to visit with dogs they might have fostered or helped in other ways and for friends of the breed to gather and share their common enthusiasm for the best dogs in the world.

The day was also for the dogs to have the opportunity to sniff noses (and other areas) and greet one another with varying degrees of amiability. The dogs also got lots of

attention from the participants who enjoyed meeting different members of the breed.

The first organized activity was a walk through the park with Roger Davies, who led a group away from the pond in the late morning and returned them with hearty appetites in time for a picnic lunch prepared by Jerry Ferragamo with help from his brother, David, and Danny Duval.

The crew prepared hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages and chicken to complement a salad and baked beans. Dessert, homemade cookies and brownies disappeared quickly.

After lunch, 21 dogs had a moment in the limelight during the rescue parade as their adopters brought out dogs who found their forever homes through the efforts of AMRONE volunteers or other rescue groups.

Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon was the teacup auction with prizes that ranged from a sisal door mat that admonished visitors to "Wipe Your Paws" to copies of the most recent books written by AMRONE stalwart Susan Conant.

AMRONE Treasurer Stephanie Bayliss got help from adopter Donald Borek whose loud, deep voice clearly announced the winning numbers for the many prizes donated by the friends of AMRONE.

Later, AMRONE volunteers Laurel Flax and Susan Gallagher offered advice on techniques and equipment to allow participants to explore backpacking opportunities with their dogs.

Then it was time to clean up and pack up as the Ferragamos and friends put everything away and ensured the park was left as clean and tidy as they found it.

The clouds finally started to drip a light drizzle on the clean-up crew but it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the organizers.

"Same time next year" Kathy said before she and Jerry left.

CAMP N PACK 2009



The 12th annual Camp N Pack was fun and relaxing this year. Everyone had a great time with their dogs. Most of our campers enjoyed themselves despite the wet weather. The dogs didn't seem to mind either.



6 In a festive atmosphere, the evening social brought everyone together to mingle, talk and enjoy the appetizers. The pot roast banquet cooked by our volunteer chefs, Eric and Arnie, was delicious as always.



Camp N Pack started on Friday, Oct. 2, with a 10-mile hike. Some hiked just for fun and some were working toward their working pack dog titles.



3

Saturday was warm but rainy but that didn't stop the fun. Agility... Rally-O... biscuit baking... weight pulling... a Canine Good Citizenship workshop — and that was just the morning.



4

The afternoon was kicked off by Vicki McKinney. She spoke about dog manners and how to make your dog adoptable if the unthinkable was to happen.



The annual auction was the highlight of the evening. Steve, Mark and Roger kept everyone entertained while helping AMRONE raise money for the dogs.



Roger auctions a picture of Roger auctioning.

7



Mark auctions off a dog bed.



Steve points to a winner.



5

The afternoon options also included a hands-on problem-solving session, jewelry making, baking more goodies and Canine Good Citizen testing. There was also plenty of free time for everyone to enjoy the camp, walk the trails, talk with friends and rest by the fire.

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CAMP N PACK 2009

[From Page 11]

8 On Sunday the weather cleared up just in time to have our dog games and costume contest outside.



Popcorn catching



Just jesting



Cheer leaders



10 Thanks to everyone who helped and supported Camp N Pack. See you next year.



The dog walk



The pause table



OK ...some people entered any dog that was available.



Jumping Dobie

The Super Dog Challenge was a Sunday camp favorite. We used different challenges from a variety of activities that took place over the weekend and combined them into one big obstacle course. A dog/handler combination moved through the course pulling, packing, jumping, doing agility and rally obstacles and even items from the CGC test.

CAMP N PACK CONGRATULATES:



Elliott Mareau and his American foxhound Buddy, who passed the Canine Good Citizenship test at Camp N Pack.



Kathy Tuttle and her Australian cattle dogs Casey and Kairi, who both passed the Canine Good Citizenship test at Camp N Pack.



The malamutes Mask A Raid's Femme a la telle (aka Trouble) and Mask A Raid's Hokus Pokus (aka Merlin), both owned by Lisa King. They finished their pack dog titles during the Camp N Pack hike.



Jeannine Theriaque and Pekaboo's Wootiful Noise (aka Melody), who finished her pack dog title during the Camp N Pack hike.



Donald Borek and his rescue malamute AMRONE's Snowball, who finished her pack dog title during the Camp N Pack hike.



Laura Yaghy and her American pit bull terrier Halo, who passed the Canine Good Citizenship test at Camp N Pack.



The person/dog who won the adult division of the Super Dog Challenge. Unfortunately we were unsure of who this was (we couldn't find the score sheets) but if you let us know we will be sure to get you into the next newsletter.



Grayson Duval and his friend Carolyn's border collie Jet, who won the kids' division of the Super Dog Challenge.

Our photographers

All Camp N Pack photographs taken this year by Moses Martin and Barry Millman. They can be seen at: www.pbases.com/kaboommals. The photographs can be purchased and the proceeds go to AMRONE.

Understanding values for common lab tests

By Julie Edwards, BS, MT, and Amber Hampton, DVM

 Chances are you will have lab work performed on your Alaskan malamute at some time due to an annual check-up, pre-anesthesia, illness or other reasons. Let's discuss some common lab tests, their uses and their normal values to provide you with a quick reference for these common tests. I will leave you with a chart with the normal values for you to cut out and keep with you or I can email it to you.

Complete Blood Count (CBC): The CBC evaluates red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. The hemoglobin and hematocrit help your veterinarian check for anemia. The total white blood cell count helps your veterinarian determine infection, neoplasia, inflammation, stress, and other immune system disorders. Platelets determine the clotting ability of an animal. If an animal has prolonged bleeding from a cut, etc., chances are the animal has decreased platelets. Low platelets could be indicative of infection or a clotting disorder, which should be taken seriously.

Electrolytes: Sodium, potassium, chloride are electrolytes, which if out of range, can be dangerous to your malamute's health. Electrolyte disturbances can be caused by dehydration, severe liver or kidney disease, certain types of medications (e.g. diuretics), vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

Glucose: Blood sugar levels can help in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, sepsis, endocrine disorders, stress, and liver insufficiency. Like many of the values discussed in this article, many other conditions exist that can cause an abnormal glucose level.

Liver enzymes: ALT, AST, Alkaline Phosphatase, and Total Bilirubin test for liver function. If abnormal, the liver may be at risk and possibly damaged. Pancreatitis, toxins, and the administration of certain medications can also affect these enzymes.

Kidney (Renal Function) tests: BUN (Blood Urea Nitrogen) and Creatinine test for proper kidney function. Some poisons, such as anti-freeze, can greatly affect kidney function. Your veterinarian can tell you the cause of elevated values, such as primary kidney disorder, a urinary tract infection, toxins, or severe dehydration. In aged malamutes, your veterinarian may diagnose chronic renal failure (CRF). Although elevations in BUN and Creatinine due to CRF will not occur until major kidney damage has already occurred. CRF cannot be cured, but it can be managed, and early detection holds the key to success. It is important for malamutes older than 7 years of age to have annual blood tests performed to catch any life threatening conditions early.

*Normal Laboratory Values	
Test	Normal Range
White Blood Cell Count (WBC)	6000-17000
Hemoglobin (HGB)	12-18
Hematocrit (HCT)	37-55
Platelets	200-500
Sodium (Na)	141-155
Potassium (K)	3.9-5.6
Chloride (Cl)	96-122
Glucose	55-100
ALT	25-60
AST	25-60
Alk. Phos	20-108
Total Bilirubin	0.1-0.4
Bun	12-25
Creatinine	1-2
Total Protein	6.0-7.7
Albumin	2.8-3.8
Endogenous TSH	<0.6
Total T4	1.7-3.6
Free T4	8-32
*The normal values in the above chart are applicable at this time.	

Nutritional tests: Total Protein, Albumin, Calcium and Cholesterol can show the nutritional and hydration status of your malamute. Your vet may want to alter your malamute's diet based on these results. Other important conditions which may cause abnormalities in the above values need to be considered. High cholesterol may indicate hypothyroidism or diabetes. Albumin, a component of the total protein levels, may be decreased due to blood loss or hepatic insufficiency. High albumin can point to dehydration as well as infections, immune mediated disease, and cancer, to name a few. Elevated calcium values can be caused by neoplasia, renal failure, toxins, or endocrine disorders. Calcium can also be elevated in large breed dogs normally. Low calcium levels

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More people needed to pitch in

[From Page 2]

ask me what my malamutes rescued.

In the past someone with an aggressive dog did not look for a home for it — they put it to sleep or tied it up in the backyard and forgot about it. Now with the education from shows on TV they realize that people might be able to help them and that just leaving the dog alone outside is not a humane option. Now rescues get the calls.

AMRONE can handle the dogs that have never been taught manners, the untrained dogs, the dogs that need to learn to walk on a leash, the dogs that need to be house-trained, crate-trained, learn to ride in a car, not jump on everyone. The dogs that need to be out in the world and see new things, and the dogs that just need a job to be happy.

Most of the dogs we take in fit into this category and need various degrees of work and attention from our volunteers but are basically friendly, nice dogs and are very adoptable. They will make nice pets.

But currently we don't have foster homes or the adopters who could (or would want to) take on dogs with people aggression issues. We don't have foster homes or adopters that would consider dogs that show tendencies toward being that way.

These dogs we do end up turning away. I have turned quite a few of these dogs away over the years, I have turned several such dogs away recently. Once we turn them away we do try to continue to help, either by helping to find a trainer in their area, finding a shelter in their area that might be able to evaluate the dog better and give suggestions, or at times helping walk the owners through humanely euthanizing their dog.

You asked about foster care. We could always use more. To be honest we have lots of people who support rescue in both major and minor ways (we are very lucky) and we do muddle along but we have a real need.

We need to increase the number of hands-on active volunteers. We

need help with screening online applications and with fostering dogs. Screening means talking to prospective adopters and finding out what their situation and needs are and matching them to possible dogs.

Kathy Ferragamo can train anyone who would like to help. This means really committing to following up on one to two prospective adopters a month on the phone and calling vet offices to check on past ownership.

As far as fostering, we have not had to turn a dog down yet, but we have come close. The foster homes we do have always seem to take in dogs (thank goodness for them!) but we can always use more, if for nothing else just to give our regulars a break. Currently, we have only about four places for dogs to go. Three of them are full at the moment.

I have always said that if we could find five to 10 people to take one dog a year, or one to three people to screen two applications a month, (or two to three people to write an article for AMRONE Tales once or twice a year) then we would have it made and I could retire!

Urine holds markers for many conditions

[From Page 14]

can be life threatening, and is seen with low albumin, eclampsia (note the importance of good nutrition in lactating bitches), renal failure, as well as in many other disease processes.

Urinalysis: The UA includes many tests that indicate kidney function status, kidney infection, dehydration, and many other conditions. Your vet will look for red & white blood cells, bacteria, crystals, protein, glucose, and specific gravity. Early stage CRF (Chronic Renal Failure) can first be detected on urinalysis, before elevations in BUN and Creatinine become apparent from blood tests.

Thyroid Function Tests: Endogenous

TSH, Total T4 and Free T4 test thyroid function and can detect hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism. Abnormal thyroid results can cause many health issues with your Malamute too numerous to mention here.

We hope this helps you understand a little bit more in depth about the lab tests that your vet may run on your malamute. Of course, above all else, your vet should consider your malamute's clinical status and listen to your questions or concerns. After all, if you're like me,



your malamute is a loved family member that deserves the best care available.

(Julie Edwards, an AMCA member, holds a Bachelors degree in biology, is a nationally certified (AMT) medical technologist and the laboratory director at the hospital where she works. She and her husband, Ric, are loved and owned by their malamutes at Ghost Dance (www.ghostdance.biz). She would love to hear from you at ghostdance@bigbend.net.

(Dr. Amber Hampton is a veterinarian practicing in Austin, TX. She received her doctorate in veterinary medicine in 2005 from Texas A&M University and is currently starting her own mobile equine clinic, and works regularly on small animals as well.)



AMRONE extends sympathies for the loss of these adopted malamutes:

Kodi, loved by Ruth & Robert Mellen

Allie, loved by Sarah Todd

Harmony, loved by Jim Koch & Rachel Griffian

Jenna, loved by Nancy & Jeff Teolis

Burney, loved by Bill & Stella Wilson

Asia, loved & cared for by Vicki McKinney

Kia, loved by Steven & Deborah Surabian

Kiana, loved by Mark & Allie Andersen

Keyo, loved by Leslie Caufield & Rich Pacheco

Roxie, loved by Kathy & Jerry Ferragamo

Moose, loved & cared for by Vicki McKinney

Star, Tristan and Travis, loved by Carol Peck

Dogs Live Here

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
you don't like pets, be on your way.
they share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is their place.

You will find dog hair on the floor,
they will alert you're at the door.
they may request a little pat,
a simple "no" will settle that.

It gripes me when I hear you say,
"just how is it you live this way?
they smell, they shed, they're in the way."
WHO ASKED YOU? is all I can say.

They love me more than anyone,
my voice is like the rising sun,
they merely have to hear me say,
"c'mon, time to go and play."

Then tails wag and faces grin,
they bounce and hop and make a din.



They never say "no time for you,"
they're always there, to GO and DO.

And if I'm sad? They're by my side
and if I'm mad? they circle wide
and if I laugh, they laugh with me
they understand, they always see.

So once again, I say to you
come visit me, but know this too:

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
you don't like pets, be on your way.
they share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is their place.

— Author Unknown

In memoriam

The malamute world recently lost a very special person. Sadly on June 29, 2009, Margaret Bouin passed away. She was a long-time friend and donor to Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc. We were very grateful for her support and for her love of Alaskan malamutes. She was a dear, sweet person who will be missed by all. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.



Margaret Bouin

*Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc.
Presents Our 9th Annual*



*Sunday, May 2nd, 2010**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location to be announced

Bring your dog or come alone.

Noontime Barbecue! Rescue Parade! Raffles! And more!

*Only dogs with proof of rabies vaccination are permitted to attend
and all dogs must be on leashes.*

For more information, please visit our website at www.amrone.org

**Tentative date at time of publication. Please check our website WWW.AMRONE.org for exact date and location, and watch for a mailing in the spring.*

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters



Hi, it's me, Bear! I had my 13th birthday this February and my family made a dog-friendly cake for me! I had a piece every night after dinner for a week. After that, it's all carrots and green beans for snacks.

The winter was great, but got pretty icy the last month or so. It was miserable on my pads; I was sliding all over the place. They sent me for a geriatric blood work-up. Dr. Bach was amazed at how very close to normal my levels were at my age.

There are frog eggs in the pond already and I am back to swimming. When it was winter I ate some snow — it was really good. I also like to lie on the deck in the snow for hours. I still go to the bus stop with the kids every day, too.

Bear was born 13 years ago when his mother (Alaskan malamute AMRONE's Casey) was



Bear: amazing for his age.

taken into AMRONE with a large group of malamutes that had been neglected and abandoned in Vermont. Casey came in one day and had 10 puppies two days later. We never did figure out what breed dad was but the puppies were all honorary malamute in our eyes.

Black Ribbon — AMRONE sends its condolences on the loss of Bear shortly after this note was received.

My dog Faith is 7½ years old. I got Faith from AMRONE in 2003. She does everything — Rally O, skijoring, agility, hiking, therapy dog. We even are doing a little freestyle (dancing). She has level 1 and 2 Rally O titles and a level 3 leg and has hiked about half the 4000 footers in New Hampshire! She is always happy (except in thunderstorms) and she is my best friend.

The thing that she loves to do most in the world is play and be silly. She is always the class clown. She and her friend Skippy (a keeshond) were kicked out of attention class one night for playing dead and disrupting the class!

The funniest thing that ever happened with her was in agility when she decided that tunnels were too much fun and raced around the course doing the tunnels instead of the course. She looked at me, looked at the tunnel, looked at me (and the obstacle I was sending her to) then said, "Oh well, just gotta do the tunnel!"

—Laural



Faith: versatile and a little silly.



Avery: an avid hockey fan.

For now our pack is complete — malamute and humans and we know who is in charge!

We have had Avery (formerly known as Lacey) since September '08. She was very skittish around kids at the beginning, but she has overcome her fear of small people. My son, Michael, (now 12) plays travel hockey and Avery has gotten herself imbedded in our crazy hockey world. She has attended nearly 70 hockey games since joining our team, not to mention the 120 or so practices.

She loves to be around our extended hockey family, go for long rides in the car and hang out with the other hockey kids. She even made the trip to our winter tournament in Lake Placid this year. For those who know hockey there is a player on the NY Rangers that my son named Avery after.

She is a joy to have in our lives. Someone spent a fair amount of time training her. She even refuses to step foot out of our kitchen and foyer. Somehow she knew from day one that she should keep to the ceramic floor area and not venture from there. Avery is a very gentle soul that really wants to be a lap dog.

If you think her legs look short in the photo, it's because they are. She's built like a small tank.

— Martin Yonnore

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters



When we offered to foster the 11-year-old Mandy, we expected to become custodians who would allow her to live out her life with us. Almost as soon as Mandy arrived, however, she won our hearts so completely that we wanted her to be



Mandy: a friend indeed.

a foster dog no more: on Aug. 25, when we officially adopted her, she became our dog. Our darling Mandy is now a cherished member of our family. She fits in as if she had spent her whole life with us.

With her sweet temperament and lively attitude, Mandy wins friends everywhere. In September, a month short of her twelfth birthday, she began to attend classes at the New England Dog Training Club. She is a pleasure to take to classes and a pleasure to live with. We are very grateful to AMRONE for trusting us with this perfect dog.

— Susan and Carter Umbarger



Holden: the center of attention.

We adopted Holden (f/k/a Fuzzy) on Aug. 15, 2008. On Aug. 18, we learned that he has separation anxiety. We've never had a dog with separation anxiety before, but we have adapted to this new reality.

Separation anxiety aside, Holden is a great dog with lots of personality and character. (He is a favorite at doggie daycare!) Holden's unusual coloring generates a lot of attention wherever we go, which is fine with him — he loves to be the center of attention.

He is an industrious hole-digger and tennis ball chaser. He is a little more idiosyncratic than our previous malamutes, but he makes us smile every day and we're happy he is part of our pack.

— Maggie O. Conway

AMRONE's Koda, now Tiguag, arrived in Maine in August after being perfectly assessed and lovingly fostered by volunteer Ruth Ellis in Massachusetts. While at Ruth's, Tig met Ruth's beautiful Bella and it was love at first sight for both. Although it's a long-distance relationship now, each time he has been back to visit they renew their friendship and happily cavort with each other.

Now 15 months old, Tiguag continues to be a happy-go-lucky, furry little angel with the sweetest disposition in the world. With the exception of one mid-air banana and a few of Ruth's irresistible Christmas cookies, food remains exactly where it is left.

I'm still astonished that there has not been one intentionally disembowelled stuffed toy, deconstructed shoe, "edited" book, or "reupholstered" furnishing since his arrival here at just 6 months old. He happily interacts with people and dogs of every shape and size. During one hike, Tiguag even offered a play bow to a very large wild turkey!

Tig does have an issue with cats, although not the typical malamute issue. Most cats are worthy of only a cursory sniff. Black cats, however, must be washed, thoroughly washed until they are sopping wet with enough cowlicks to ensure a resemblance to a feline Dennis the Menace. So far, he has managed to accomplish this feat without sustaining a pierced nose, so perhaps Tig is able to melt kitty hearts just as quickly as he melts human ones.

Tiguag, who started out as a puppy mill dog and pet shop purchase before his surrender to AMRONE, is amazing and I'm beyond blessed to have him in my life. He is a testament to the importance of the great evaluations done by our AMRONE volunteers and foster folks.

I never would have considered adopting such a young dog otherwise and what a treasure I would have missed! Ruth and Susan, thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing us together.

—Corinne



Tig: A hug from Bella feels so good.

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters

My dog is Princess Snowball. She is 5 years old. We got Snowball from AMRONE in 2006. She is unique because she loves everyone and everything. Her temperament is great! I never even have to worry about food or anything we leave on our counters.

The thing that she loves to do most in the world is going for walks. She loves this any time of the year and of course she really likes the winter, but the spring, summer and fall are about the same unless it is too hot.

The funniest thing that she does is how she wakes up my mother, just like the way my father used to do. She knows the difference between older and younger people. She is an all-around great dog!

— Snowball's Dad



John Aiken enjoys the sled he won at Camp N Pack. He and Mickey Tundra, Yukon and Nikko the Freak-O put their sled and the donated accessories to good use.



Our dog Koani (adopted as Zoey) is 4 years old. We got Koani from AMRONE in 2005. She enjoys fine literature (eating books that is)! Koani also howls every time she hears a police or ambulance siren. Her uniqueness can also be seen in her use of her paws. She loves

to grab people's attention by touching them with her front paw.

Koani loves to snuggle and give kisses. She also cannot help her passion for licking your elbows. Her favorite things to do are hiking, swimming in her parent's pool and playing with her big brother Amarak.

Koani's mom received a donation of baby toys to pass onto a relative and left the bags of toys in the rooms of the house!

— Koani's parents

**ALASKAN MALAMUTE
RESCUE**



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AMRONE TALES