

AMRONE Tales

Volume 12, No. 1 Summer 2011

Uniting great dogs with great people

NEW TRAILS TO EXPLORE

Bark in the Park moves to Sendaishi Pet Resort



Rick and Lorraine Westcott allow Shadow and Abby to sniff.



Abby gets a hug from her former foster mom, Kathy Ferragamo.



Gracie looks over the activity with her best friend, John Burger.



Gary Bennett waits for Molly to descend the A-frame.

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Photos by Carl Hartdegen & Barry Millman

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Win some



Those some

How a foster family's 'failure' becomes a win-win

By Ruth Mellen

Sometimes you win; sometimes you lose. Here's how we did both at the same time.

We in AMRONE have heard the plaintive call many times: "Can someone please foster this dog?" However, because of our circumstances my husband Bob and I never felt we could help.

But last year when the call went out, we had lost Kodi, our old guy, the previous September and had only our 4-year-old female whom we adopted from AMRONE in 2006. We agreed to foster the male puppy Titan while volunteers Roger and Bonnie agreed to take Aspen, the female.

That decided, the transferring of the puppies began. One volunteer picked up the pair and took them to a volunteer groomer and then to a vet for their first shots. Then Roger picked them up and Titan stayed the night with yet other volunteers, Kathy and Jerry. We arrived early the next morning to take him to his temporary home.

Kathy is a veteran foster mom and she showed us how she separates the dogs when necessary and had many other useful hints. We loaded him into a crate and headed home, a two-hour drive.



Among the winners: Arlo, top, who won a good home, and Breeze, who won a long-sought playmate. There are no losers.

We decided not to have Titan meet our Breeze at home and had them meet and go for a walk in the neighborhood before we took them into the house together. We had crates set up in our bedroom and soon realized that one in the den would help so we borrowed a neighbor's. (AMRONE has crates to lend to a foster family, but this was quicker.)

The dogs got along wonderfully but there were times when they needed space and the downstairs crate was put to good use. We also have a cat and thought that the crate might be necessary but the puppy seemed to love cats.

We had arranged for a vet visit before he arrived and then scheduled additional visits for shots, neutering,

etc., all paid for by AMRONE. As we worked with him, he was getting used to us and being away from his sister and parents. He was 7 months old and in a totally new situation, all very unsettling.

He had to learn that we would always come back, food would be available and he did not have to eat in 17 seconds flat. He did not know what a leash was, nor any commands and he was not house broken. But he learned very quickly, both because he is smart and by following Breeze's example.

When a foster dog is socialized, has necessary vet work done, and you feel he is ready; it is time for another family to adopt him. That could take a couple of weeks, a month or

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Baxter, a 'loving old soul'

Baxter, a 135-pound giant malamute, came to us late fall of 2008 and passed away on June 6, 2011, three days before his eighth birthday.

Baxter's health has been a constant challenge, but he was coming along after a few bumps – emergency surgery for bloat in January 2009, ongoing treatment for Lyme disease and surgery for a torn meniscus in 2010. His hair had grown back (there is a lot of it) and he was getting stronger each day.

His condition was very fast-moving and took his precious life within days of the first indication that something

was seriously wrong, but he would not give in to the pain or let us know. He knew he was dying and without hesitation got up each day to be with us every minute the last week until his body finally collapsed.

He gobbled up all the precious time left in his sweet, dear, unselfish life and gave it all to us. We have never known such a kind, wise, loving old soul and to have walked in life with him, even for the short period of time we had, was such a gift and insight into a spirit that inspires one's life.



Paul and Claire Hahn's Baxter

Fostering can be a win for all

[From Page 2]

possibly more. We were ready to wait.

Volunteer screeners would do the basic work of helping select possible adopters. Then we would arrange to have the adopters come to our home so they could see the dog and we could evaluate them. Not all dogs are for all people. If your gut says it is not a good fit, another family would be given the chance for the dog.

But our foster dog was such a cute and friendly puppy, large but oh, so lovable. He followed us everywhere. He greeted the neighbors and wanted to be petted by everyone. Initially he was underweight but was putting on some needed muscle and pounds.

He just wanted to be held or to sit near us. His wonderful face, personality and overall goodness soon won our hearts, so he ceased being a foster puppy.

We adopted him ourselves, changed his name to Arlo and joined the ranks of foster flunkies. Roger & Bonnie also adopted their female, Aspen. Technically we "failed" as fosters because we couldn't give him

up, but we won a wonderful and loving companion. And Breeze finally won a playmate close to her own age.

All that being said, fostering another dog was not as difficult as we had thought it might be. Take it slow and give the dog time to adjust. Protect them and any other pets you might have; crates are a big help. Our dogs love theirs and each one has his own and it becomes their refuge.

Simply care for them as you would your own dog. Teach them basic good dog behavior and spend some time with them. When it is time for them to leave, the new family will be grateful for what you have done (if you actually allow them to go to another home).

Foster families are badly needed; please consider trying it. AMRONE will help with any assistance possible. We had owned four other mals over the years and still wanted advice with Arlo. With an email or phone call we got lots of information. The people of AMRONE are wonderful. Please foster.



The AMRONE family extends its sympathies for the loss of these adopted malamutes.

Brock, loved by Judith and Richard Kremer

Yukon, loved by Geoff and Lisa Bourque

Dakodah and Ahbleza, loved by Marie Lipski and Ken Barillaro

Kodi, loved by Walt and Anne Pepperman

Baxter, loved by Paul and Claire Hahn

Smokey, loved by Dave and Gina

PULLING

Does your dog pull your arm off when you take him for a walk? You can fix that

**By Joanne Duval
AMRONE President**

Does your dog drag you down the sidewalk? Has he pulled you down? Can others walk him or do you have to “handle” him? Has it become so horrid that you no longer want to walk him? As a malamute owner do you excuse your dogs behavior with the common thought that “malamutes were bred to pull”?

Your dog does not need to pull you. Your mal does not have some inbred instinct to drag you. If your dog is doing this he has never been taught to walk on a loose leash. He has learned that pulling you down the street is what a walk is supposed to be. It is time to change this. Just imagine walking next to your dog, no yanking, no bracing yourself and no blisters on your hands.

There are ways to change this behavior. In the next few issues of Tales we will ask several mal owners and trainers what they do to teach their dogs to walk nicely with them and how they correct a dog that has learned to drag a person around.

First a suggestion from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to get you started:

If you want a dog who walks politely on a loose leash you must



teach him that this is what you want. Get out some really yummy treats. Put the dog on the leash (starting in the house), hold your hand containing a treat at your waist, and begin to walk. He will be interested in the treat so he will stick by you. Walk around and every once in a while praise him and give him a treat.

Then move your practice sessions outside. Practice having him walk by your side in non-distracting environments before going to the park. Start in the backyard and then move to the sidewalk in front of the house. Build the behavior through praise and treats.

Here are a few other methods of working with a dog that pulls:

Method one is to “do a reverse” when your dog pulls you. Start walking, and whenever the leash becomes tight, you simply turn and walk in the opposite direction not saying a word. Have the treat ready in your hand. Your dog will eventually look back at you to say, “Hey, where we going?” When he turns and follows give him the treat while the leash is loose. He will eventually learn that when the leash is slack he is allowed to walk.

Method two used the Gentle Leader head halter. This is a wonderful training tool for pulling dogs. The

Gentle Leader was designed to work like a horse halter. Head halters work because if you control the head of an animal, you control its entire body. When a dog is wearing a Gentle Leader head halter he is prevented from pulling because as he does, his head is brought around towards you, making it impossible for him to pull you down the street. Most dogs will get used to a gentle leader quickly with treats and time.

Another method is to “become a tree” when your dog pulls you. Start walking, and whenever the leash becomes tight, you simply stop, plant yourself like a tree, and don’t say a word. Your dog will eventually look back at you to say, “Hey, why aren’t we moving?” When he does this he will most likely move slightly toward you, loosening the leash. When there is slack in the leash, start walking again. He will eventually learn that when he feels tension on the leash, he doesn’t go anywhere, but when the leash is slack he is allowed to walk.

Remember that all these methods work best if your dog thinks you are the most interesting thing around. Have your dog learn to give you his attention. Use praise and treats. Give it a try and work on this today.



Camp N Pack Weekend

An Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England Event

September 30 - October 2, 2011

Camp Timber Trails

Tolland, MA

It's time for the FOURTEENTH Annual Camp N Pack Weekend. The full flyer with registration form is available on our web site, WWW.AMRONE.ORG.

Camp N Pack may include the following and more:

- Fun, interesting dogs
- Fun, interesting dog people
- Hot, tasty meals
- Fresh air
- Agility equipment
- Weight pulls
- Silent auction
- 10-mile qualifying hike
- Dog videos
- Raffles
- Campfires
- Fenced doggie exercise areas
- Canine Good Citizen testing
- Short casual hikes
- Ice cream buffet
- Rescue parade
- Workshops on agility, obedience, sledding, backpacking, and ski/bike-joring
- Group photos
- Dog games
- AMRONE sweatshirts and T-shirts, and dog goodies available for sale
- Stargazing
- "Gently used" donated dog items available for sale



Please review the flyer on our web site, WWW.AMRONE.ORG, for detailed information about the weekend's schedule, registration form, location, maps and rules.

Newcomers are welcome, including dogs of every breed. Please feel free to copy this page and give it to friends, or post anywhere accessible to fellow dog lovers.



Rohn

Rohn is a 14-month-old neutered male. He is friendly, playful, completely goofy and utterly charming. Although he has had no training up until the last two weeks, he is picking things up very quickly. He has learned sit, down, stay, and is working on leave it, off and heel. He has come a long way in his leash manners and now walks very well on a head halter and leash. He is really just a big puppy and he just loves to play. He is currently being crate trained and is receiving professional training.

He loves all people, but being as big as he is, will need to learn restraint. He seems to get along with other dogs and has played with a female dog very nicely. He is not dominant and takes direction from the female very well. Rohn is sweet, smart and loving but he cannot live with cats.

Kobi

Kobi is a great malamute with a gentle disposition and nice manners. He is very loving, likes to please and is looking for an owner that would give him lots of love and attention. He is housebroken, knows his basic commands and is learning to walk nicely on a leash.

Up to date on all of his vaccinations, Kobi had a complete physical during his last vet appointment and was given a clean bill of health. Even though he is 8 he's in good shape and enjoys running around the yard. He also loves to go on long walks. Kobi does take medication for his thyroid. His fur was shaved down, but is now growing back and he's easy to groom.

Kobi has lived with a female



malamute and is pretty good with other dogs, as long as they are not aggressive toward him. He is currently living peacefully with cats.

Kobi is a sociable malamute by nature and definitely would bring a lot of love and friendship to whoever adopts him.

Meet Our Fosters

The dogs on these pages were in foster care as of the middle of July. To learn more about them, new dogs that AMRONE has taken in, or to fill out an adoption application, please visit our web site: www.amrone.org



Hal

Hal is a 5-year-old gentleman who just came

into rescue as the newsletter went to print. He seems gentle, calm and loves to ride in the car. According to his past owner he is good in the house, especially good with men and is a great companion. He likes exercise and could lose a little bit of weight. Please visit our website at www.amrone.org for updated information as Hal is checked out by the vet and settles into his foster home and starts looking for a forever home

At press time we had some new dogs entering rescue. We can't tell you a lot about them here but you can see updates on our website.

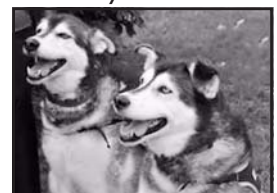


Jake
9-year-old male



Tonka
6-year-old male

Willow and Santana
10-year-old mixed mal/ husky siblings



Screening applicants is critical for success

By Joanne Duval
AMRONE President

Hi everyone.

Many of you have been to our website to read about our dogs. You have listened to the great stories behind some super dogs. We have talked about meeting new dogs, transporting dogs, vet visits and fostering dogs. But dogs are only one half of the equation when it comes to finding great dogs for great people.

The people end is the other half. We have been very lucky to have Kathy and Susan and a small handful of volunteers over the years to work the people end of things. Alas, we could use some more help in this area so I wanted to take the time in this issue to talk about our screening process.

This is one of the most important jobs that can be done for rescue. The greatest reward of rescuing dogs comes when a dog goes to a new home where they will live out a life filled with love. The biggest concern for any rescue is finding these homes



and matching the right dog to the right home, making it a forever home.

We have found that attracting adopters has not been a problem but the problem comes in separating the good candidates from those who would be better off with a different dog or no dog at all. Careful screening is essential.

We receive adoption inquiries from all types of individuals — people who have never owned a dog to experienced malamute owners. Most of these inquiries come to us by way of the application inquiry form on the AMRONE website.

If we receive an inquiry by phone or email, we have the potential adopter fill out an online application. If they do not have a computer we need to get all the information and fill one out for them. We only consider an adoption to someone

after they have an online application filled out and they are screened by a volunteer.

The job of a screener is to first gather information on a potential adopter. This is done by reading the application form, calling and talking to the potential adopter and then calling the person's vet to check on past ownership.

If the person qualifies as an adopter, the final step is to follow up with that adopter by giving them a list of possible dogs that we have that might fit their situation, and help them contact the foster homes. If no dog is available it is a matter of watching our dogs till a match is found or helping the adopter find a dog through other means.

No two applications are alike; therefore, each one will require different questions to ask and things to look for. Does an applicant understand that a new dog cannot simply be turned loose with other dogs, and/or an older dog? Some have cats and/or other small animals that a malamute might look at as prey. Some have children. A screener tries to learn as much as possible about a potential adopter and help them to understand that you not only have the dog's best interest at heart but theirs as well.

We are currently in need of screeners to work with Kathy in handling applications that come in. To screen you will need access to the internet, a phone and, the ability to communicate well over a phone and a few hours a week/month.

AMRONE can supply phone cards, training and an experienced screener to walk you through the steps. If you are interested in helping let us know by emailing board@amrone.org.



Jane Gonska and her mal have fun with a popcorn toss, one of many games for dogs and people played at Camp N Pack.

Bite wounds should be allowed to drain

How should bite wounds from fights or predation be treated?

A common statement when a pet receives a bite is, "We wanted to do something before it becomes infected." The mouth is not sterile and all bites are infected. Some dogs have a good immune system and can fight off minor infections.

The least you can do is give antibiotics early to prevent the bacteria from progressing. Washing the surface of a puncture really does little. If it's a slash type wound flushing it out with salt water or peroxide would help. Do not use alcohol. Alcohol destroys tissue and stings. Depending on the severity of the wound surgery might be indicated.

The key is to allow the wound to drain. Humans tend to slap a Band-Aid on their wounds, sealing in the bacteria. Animals tend to lick wounds, which keeps them open and allows the bacteria to leak out and heal from the inside. With a malamute I would expect hair would have to be clipped away from the wound to allow proper drainage and cleaning.



If your pet is up to date on rabies vaccine and is bitten by a known rabid animal he would need a booster and be kept home for 45 days in Massachusetts. Other states may differ. If the rabies vaccine is not current Massachusetts requires isolation off premises for three months with no one touching the pet, followed by quarantine at home for another three months. Cost becomes a factor and many owners elect the other alternative — euthanasia.

If the bite is from an unknown origin the unvaccinated pet would be quarantined at home for six months and vaccinated after five months. If a

dog or cat bites you or your pet and lives for 10 days, it wasn't able to pass on rabies. Dogs and cats can pass the virus only in the last few days of life. I'm not sure on wild animals but it's probably the same.

Heat is very important. Washing your hands with hot soapy water can reduce the chances of getting rabies from a known rabid bite by 90%. People then get post-exposure vaccines which are virtually 100% effective. There is no post-exposure vaccine for pets so keep current on rabies vaccine.

How can you estimate the age of a dog, especially a malamute?

Check his wallet. Ask the breeder what his birthday is, etc. With experience looking at thousands of dogs you can get a pretty good idea looking at changes in the eyes or teeth. Ask your physician how to estimate the age of a person. We all do it automatically. No one mistakes me for a kid.

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



Mail your donation to:

Alaskan Malamute Rescue
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Post Office Box 558
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Give a gift from the heart

My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I would like to make the donation in honor of in memory of:

My Name: _____
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I prefer that my donation not be publicized.

Please make checks payable to: Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc.

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters

A magnet on my car states it all: "Who rescued who?" I knew from the moment I saw her picture on the AMRONE site she was mine. Nikolai, formerly Lily, (Yes, I changed her name; it's a town on the Iditarod Trail.) is doing great.

She instantly made herself at home. It is so rewarding to own a rescue and to see them grow. It hasn't always been easy; tears, bumps and bruises. An 8-month-old puppy in a 16-month-old body. However, Jane and Susan were there with suggestions and advice.

We have been to obedience

classes, learning to play with other dogs and love meeting new people, especially if they scratch her belly. She plays in the yard, digging after chipmunks, watches people walking by and in generally keeps me on my toes. We make progress every day and she is a joy.

To the people who gave her up, thanks, because otherwise she would not have been mine. To AMRONE, you are all angels to these dogs and especially a thank you to Jane for caring for Nikolai until I came along. To Nikolai thank you for rescuing me, I love you!



— Julie Nikolai amuses herself.



Kaya, "the perfect pooch."

After reading the winter 2010 edition of Tales, I decided to send this update and picture.

A few years ago I drove to Massachusetts to see an AMRONE referral dog. The beautiful female I brought home, Kaya, has been a wonderful addition to our house. Like the four other mals that I have housed and fed, she is the perfect pooch. Perfect for me. Thank you AMRONE.

— Ronald



Belle strikes a pose on the rocks.

Belle had a very nice time at Bark in the Park and was snoozing on the way home.

I've sent some of my favorites of "Miss Belle." I love her so so much. She's the reason I breathe every day, and she really really loves me and takes care of me and protects me. We are so very attached to each other. (As I'm sure all mal people are.)

Thank you to all the organizers of a very fun and successful 2011 Bark in the Park.

— Lisa and Belli girl

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters

Well, it's been about six months since I came to live with my new people and my goodness how things have changed! My new family lives in Cambridge, MA, and I wasn't sure how I was going to like the city at first. There were lots of manhole covers and bridges that made me nervous. But you know what, it's all right.

I love meeting all my neighbors, walking to parks and restaurants with my people, and there are so many sirens to howl at! Some days it's just nice to sit outside on the sidewalk, meet and greet, and get lots of belly rubs. My owners taught me how to cross bridges and navigate those manhole covers, so things are good!

I was also a little nervous about meeting other dogs in my new neighborhood. Sometimes I felt like I needed to lunge and bark to make sure they knew I was there. My people didn't like this very much for

some reason, so they took me to meet a wise dog trainer. Now I walk very nicely on a leash and feel much more confident.

I have lot of dog friends, including a fun mal named Boris that lives around the corner. Our people take us hiking together in the woods and we have so much fun running and exploring. I've never been so tired in my life!

Now I'm also a traveler! My people are on the go quite a bit. I've seen the mountains, the beach, Canada and been out to the Midwest. I love seeing new things, meeting new people, and smelling the smells.

Life is pretty good! I go for a run every morning, my new dad works from home, I meet new people and dogs every day, and I'm really working on building up my confidence. My people tell me that I'm going to keep working with my dog trainer and one of my owners wants



Bena goes to the beach.

to take me to work with her as a therapy dog. That will be a lot of work, but I think I can do it.

Well, that's all for now. Thanks so much to the AMRONE people and especially to my foster parents Kathy and Jerry for all the hard work they do for us.

— Bena (Chad and Maggie too)



Lobo, in his favorite season of the year

Trudy and I saw the article about Carl in the last AMRONE newsletter and enjoyed reading it immensely. We didn't know Lobo was his first foster dog. We are the ones who adopted Lobo.

At the ripe old age of 12.5 years Lobo is weak in the hips yet strong in energy and personality. He is doing great. He is not a big fan of the summer heat so he spends much of that time in our basement, which is the coolest part of the house (we don't have air conditioning), or under our massive 1,500-square-foot deck in whatever hole he digs for himself.

Winter is bliss for him. He loves to root around in the snow, often burying his whole head in the snow as he runs forward. He still rolls around in it like a puppy. When he has had enough play he settles down on his "snow pillow."

— Trudy and Don

Bark in the Park canceled? Not to worry

By Carl Hartdegen

For an event that was canceled, the 2011 Bark in the Park was a remarkable success.

In March, Kathy Ferragamo who, with her husband Jerry has organized Bark in the Park since its inception in 2002, reported that the event would have to be canceled this year.

Kathy explained that the new venue she had found for the event when its original site, Berry Pond in the Harold Parker State Park, did not open due to budget constraints, was not available this year and no other suitable site could be found.

But longtime AMRONE supporters Joyce and Bill Matott came to the rescue and offered the use of their Sendaishi Pet Resort in Manchester, NH, for the event.

So, Kathy and Jerry, with the loyal support of Paul Ferragamo of Building Supplies Outlet in Peabody, MA, — who has sponsored the event since the beginning — were able to organize the event despite the much longer distance from their home.

The result was that, on a beautiful sunny May 1 when participants started to arrive at the sprawling Sendaishi complex in rural Manchester, they found Kathy, Jerry and the usual AMRONE stalwarts setting up for the event next to one of the buildings at the pet resort.

The 10th annual Bark in the Park drew 70 two-legged participants who brought 23 dogs.

The event proceeded much as it



Laurel Flax and Faith meet Carlo Obligato and Dante



Ernie Gaudes shows off Briar.

has in previous years but there were new trails to explore around a pond and through the woods. An agility course was available in an exercise ring and the pet resort offered plenty of room to spread out or simply wander.

Before lunch, Roger Davies led more than a dozen people and their dogs on a woodsy walk and returned to find Jerry and his crew serving a picnic lunch.

In addition to the usual burgers

and dogs, Jerry et al offered grilled sausages and chicken with salads and fixings. Homemade brownies and cookies were available for dessert.

After lunch, Bill Matott introduced a special guest, Natalie Hodgen, who, with her husband Arthur, operated Sno-Pak Kennel in Wilton, NH, breeding Kotzebue malamutes since the 1940s. Bill explained that the dogs bred there are found in the

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**ALASKAN MALAMUTE
RESCUE**



OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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A M R O N E T A L E S

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Esteemed owners discuss their kennel at Bark

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lines of all the significant contemporary kennels.

Hodgen was accompanied by her daughter, Peg Hatfield, who said the legendary kennel is now for sale.

Also after lunch, 15 dogs that had been rescued with help from AMRONE or another rescue group were featured in the annual rescue parade. Stephanie Bayliss announced each participating dog and gave the audience a brief biography of each dog as their adopters led them past for their moment in the spotlight.

Later, the winning tickets in the popular annual raffle were drawn for a wide variety of dog-oriented prizes, including autographed copies of novels written by celebrated author Susan Conant, a staunch supporter of AMRONE.

The raffle brought in \$230 and an additional \$285 was raised by the sale of AMRONE merchandise. Registrations for the event garnered \$615 and contributions received during the day totaled \$5,325.

Before long it was all over except for the cleanup but



Jerry Ferragamo & Tom Zipp help prepare lunch.

many hands made light work and, by mid-afternoon, the 2011 Bark had become a golden memory for the friends of AMRONE as they scattered and drove away into the sunny Sunday afternoon.