

Uniting great dogs with great people

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Stephanie Bayliss leads Smokey and Mark Pinavalle takes Sarge around the ring during the Rescue Showcase.



**RESCUE  
SHINES AT  
NATIONALS**

**By Hannah McKinnon**

They greeted each other with sniffs and howls, wagging tails swept wide across the group. It was a rowdy class, with a joyful chorus erupting, and just a few grumbles spoken. It was 5 p.m. on Oct. 17, and 18 Malamutes were gathered ringside to rehearse in an arena in Sturbridge, MA.

A diverse group it was. Woolly coats, short coats, silvers and blacks. Crooked ears, curled tails, a few wobbly gaits. Handlers were no

exception. Of all ages, from all places, the common thread among us was simple: the love of a dog. So as the sun set, 18 dogs and their owners waited; each leash checked, each collar straightened, and pairs took their places by the gate. The Rescue Showcase soon would begin.

Sponsored by the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League, and comprising regional rescue participants, the Rescue Showcase at the National Specialty is a tribute to the volunteer

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# Jazz: A young seed ready for planting

By Hannah Roberts McKinnon

**A** ready a striking 19-month-old female Alaskan Malamute, Jazz is ready to burst into bloom.

She arrived in her Connecticut foster home at only nine months of age, so she has been training and preparing for a loving home for some time.

Jazz is a lively youngster who loves to play with all kinds of toys, especially balls. She has been working diligently on basic obedience training with her foster family, and behaves very well both in the house and in the yard. Jazz has come a long way in her young life, from an insecure adolescent to a more confident companion ready for adventure.

A rather intelligent girl, Jazz would thrive in an active home with an owner who would enjoy sharing that lifestyle with her. Her clever disposition and independent nature demonstrate a young girl who would especially enjoy the challenge of learning tricks, doing obedience work, and agility activities. She would also make a great companion for an outdoorsy person looking to hike in the fall leaves, or romp in the snow.

Jazz lives very politely in the house, and has also learned to be in a crate or kennel. She does get along with some other animals very well, but then there are others for whom she wastes no time sharing her immedi-



ate dislike.

That plus her attitude toward cats and independent personality make her best suited for a home without other pets. Jazz would prove a loving companion in a home with an experienced owner who can provide this young girl the structure and attention she deserves.

Jazz is ready to meet her new family. With the addition of an affectionate home and a place to settle her roots, this sweet girl would simply blossom. If you've got that green thumb and would like to meet Jazz, please contact AMRONE.



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# Mal hair — more than just a nuisance

By Glenn Conant

My Malamutes shed like crazy when summer approaches. As a result, my back yard is littered with tufts of undercoat. Sometimes I feel like a fur magnet. Five minutes with the dogs in the morning before work and I have to spend 10 minutes with one of those masking tape roller lint remover things. I think someone needs to design a really big one of those for mal owners.

The fur has gotten into the trees, spider webs, fences, the pool and the neighbor's yard on windy days. The neighbors don't complain because they have a mal too. It also has found its way into another place that is useful which I'll explain later.

What is fur good for anyway? Well, lots of things for mals. It has more uses than those knives they sell on TV. When shedding season comes, don't just throw caution, and loose fur, to the wind. Recycle. Wait! Before you go taping fur back on your mal, know that it will grow back when they need it.

We all know a mal can stand the cold so well because of the woolly undercoat they grow for the winter. A dog's body temperature is higher than a human's, 102° F compared to 98.6°. You might think snow would melt right away when it touches them, but when it snows for any period of time, mals will have a coating of snow on

their backs because their body heat is trapped close to the skin and the guard hairs help keep the snow far enough away to stay frozen. The oil in the fur also prevents moisture from making direct contact with their skin. Their big fluffy tail can be used to cover their legs and face when they curl up in the snow. That combination makes for a warm pooch.

Fur has many uses to animals but it is mainly for protection. It protects them from the extreme cold of winter, and once the undercoat is shed in the spring, the remaining guard hairs help keep direct sunlight off their skin in the summer. Fur also protects animals from cuts, abrasions and injury by distributing the force of an impact across a wider area like a bulletproof vest would distribute the impact of a bullet and reduce or prevent penetration.

Coat markings can help mals

identify each other. Scent is probably a much more important sensory input for dogs but individual markings may help in identification if one dog is upwind of another. Markings also help owners identify which dog is whose at Camp N Pack. From a hunting perspective, markings aid in camouflage. A mal can disappear in a snowy forest. Since many animals don't see colors, the patterns and shading are important.

Last winter I noticed that the mal's fur was being recycled. No, I didn't collect it all and leave it in the blue plastic bin with the bottles and cans. Mice were collecting it and making some very cozy nests. The bird nests in the area were also very cozy. All the bird nests around my house had mal fur in them. The birds also used some of the straw bedding that I put in the dog houses in their nests. I thought to myself, "I'm on to something."

My father is a bird lover and has plenty of bird houses and feeders. I told him of the recycling going on at my house and offered him some fur I saved. As it turns out, his birds love mal fur too. He stuffed a nylon mesh suet bag with fur and hung it near one of his feeders. The birds plucked out clumps of fur and stuffed their nests with deluxe insulation.

He said they tend to use a lot while roosting to protect the eggs so spring may be a good time to put some out, too. Bird folks may appreciate a small bag of fur so the next time your mal sheds, save a little for the other animals.



**How many dogs can you find in this picture?**

# AMRONE accomplished much in seven years

**By Joanne Duval, President**

In the early '90s I attended the national specialty on Long Island, N.Y. While I was there I noticed a table up against the wall that was advertising the National Alaskan Malamute rescue group. I went up to the table and looked through their material and struck up a conversation with the woman who was manning the booth.

We talked about our dogs and she told me what the mission of rescue was all about. I was interested and offered my help. I didn't know what I could do but I did have an empty kennel. It turned out that the woman was from Massachusetts although she lived on the other side of the state from me. I told her to call me if she needed anything and never really expecting to hear from her again I walked away.

Skip forward a few weeks and the phone rang. Hello, this is Susan Conant calling and I need your help." That is how it all started for me. I expect that quite a few of us can tell a story that is similar. Susan Conant has a way of gathering people around the cause of rescuing her beloved breed.

Since that first time I met Susan years ago life has changed. My husband and I have fostered many, many dogs, started a family and generally have a very busy life. Malamute rescue in New England became Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc. and Susan Conant, after serving for seven years on the board of AMRONE, has decided to take a break from the board and concentrate on her own dogs, her grandchild and of course her normal volunteer activities for rescue.



With Susan stepping down we needed a new director on the board to serve with me and Stephanie Bayliss. Kathy Ferragamo's application was accepted in July 2003 and she became our newest board member. Kathy and her husband, Jerry, have been active volunteers for about six years and always have been ready to offer their assistance wherever it was needed. Like all of us involved in rescue, Kathy has a deep love for this breed and a deep commitment to this organization.

During the seven years AMRONE has been officially in place we have grown as an organization and several things have happened:

- Volunteers new and old formed a working group dedicated to saving dogs. We have added active volunteers each year, wonderful people who all do varied things for rescue: transportation, looking at dogs, Web site work, help with fundraising and educational booths, dog evaluations, contacting potential adaptors and fostering dogs.

- We have been blessed by having many supporters: Companies and businesses that send items for our raffles and auctions or sponsor our fund-raising events. Boarding kennels that will board our dogs for a reduced rate. Veterinarians that give us a discount on their services and fit us into their busy schedules. Shelters that call us and work with us to provide services for mals in need. Individuals who have made small and large donations that help us provide the care that each dog needs to help it find a new home.

- We have been holding two

very successful fund-raising activities each year — Bark in the Park and Camp N Pack. Both focus on having a good time and helping educate dog owners about activities they can do with their dogs. Both generate funds for rescue through their raffles and the auction. The volunteers and supporters who make these events possible have been incredible with their time and their deep devotion to the cause of rescue. The money raised has helped us save and care for more and more dogs each year.

- We have been encouraging responsible care of dogs through public education including materials relating to spay and neuter and training by manning booths at public events, publishing a fantastic newsletter and maintaining a Web site that has a huge amount of educational material on it.

- Since AMRONE was formed we have rehomed between 60-100 malamutes a year. We have helped many Malamute mixes find homes by publicizing their availability and sending potential adopters their way. We have whelped three litters of mixed-breed puppies (a total of 23 pups) from purebred Malamute rescue dogs that were pregnant at turn in. We have spent hours talking to people to help them keep their dogs, work through a problem or help with the grief of losing a family member. We have answered hundreds of emails wanting more information about rescue, the dogs or our help with a situation. We have driven to all corners of New England and beyond when dogs from other parts of the country have really needed us and there was nowhere else for them to go.

Overall, we can all be proud of our part in making this organization

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# Lee Ann is dedicated to helping others

**By Anneliese Behrman**

Lee Ann Morales took her first steps toward AMRONE one fine day when she had a question about showing dogs in conformation. She knew so little about the subject (she even admits to not having realized that dogs cannot be altered) that a friend gave her Susan Conant's name and advised Lee Ann to speak with her.

AMRONE was a topic brought up in their conversation, and right from the start, Lee Ann was impressed. It was ultimately Stephanie Bayliss who formally introduced Lee Ann to the world of AMRONE. Camp N Pack sounded like fun to her, so she signed up for a fun-filled weekend of camping and canines. After having such a great time, she decided she wanted to be a volunteer.

"The group is great! The people are great," Lee Ann says. "Everyone has been extremely helpful and encouraging. The thing I like the most with everyone I have worked with is their honesty and dedication. For example, the first time I met Susan she told me my dog was fat. What an introduction! She was right and with the advice she gave me, my dog lost the weight just like she said."



Lee Ann always has loved dogs, both large and small. As a child, her parents had two German short-haired pointers. She had a friend with two Malamutes, and she fell in love with the breed when a litter of puppies was born to the dogs. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I just went ahead with what I had planned, neutering and obedience."

The only malamute she has ever shared a home with is her almost 5-year-old Kobi. Because her son was only 2 when she decided to bring a dog into their lives, Lee Ann decided not to adopt from rescue, where a dog could have an unknown background. Bringing a puppy into the home and starting from the beginning was the sensible idea.

"It has been a lot of work. I luckily have an easygoing dog. I am still learning new things every day. I find that my dog is like a 5-year-old and will keep testing me all the time to see just how much I will take from him.

"He does get mad at all of us in my family, (for example) if we don't take him with us in the car he will get into the



**Lee Ann Morales says that, like a 5-year-old child, Kobi constantly tests his limits.**

trash and leave it all over the floor. He doesn't eat it, he just puts it everywhere. When we come home he won't look at us or even come greet us. He knows he's been bad and I always tell him that he is not allowed to come to the grocery store. I do talk to him like he is a small child; I know he understands me!"

Lee Ann has done a lot of outside volunteer work for AMRONE. She began with staffing rescue booths at local animal shelter events, such as charity dog walks in and around her hometown of Hopkinton, MA. Since then, she has traveled as far as New Bedford, MA, and Concord, NH, just to staff booths. Her latest undertaking has been learning how to screen applicants for potential adoptions, a crucial task for the organization.

Becoming involved with rescue "has really made me aware of all the people out there who are dedicated to good causes," she said. "All the dog walks that we have done over the years and the people who are there for the animals is good. This is such a great

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# It's dry-skin season, so here's Dry Skin 101

Grooming is one of the most important things you can do for your dog aside from regular vet visits and quality diet. The food you feed your dog directly affects the quality of the dog's skin and coat. Groomers are not miracle workers and cannot rid a dog of dry skin in a one-shot wash and conditioning treatment. Please, feed your pet a quality diet.

A premium pet food is not usually something you can find at the



grocery store. Visit your local pet store. A good diet for pets with dry skin would be

a premium dry food with Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids. A dog food with chicken or lamb as the first or main ingredient will usually give the dog a nicer skin and coat. Lamb diets produce a good shine in a coat but are a little harder to digest and are tougher on the wallet.

There are also many excellent oils sold at most retail pet stores that can be added to the food to help in the dry skin dilemma. Some of these oils are flavored to encourage your dog to eat his food even with the oil on it. Also, brushing stimulates the oil production in a dog's coat. Try to brush your dog often during the winter months.

One of the most common questions is what to do for a dog's dry, itchy skin. First, make sure the dog is not scratching from a poor diet, fleas or allergies. Many dogs have allergies in spring and fall. Endless scratching and licking to the point that the fur turns red is a good sign that it is more than just a case of dry skin but is most likely another problem.

Next, DO NOT wash your dog again and again thinking you are trying to help him to scratch less by

washing away the flakes. You do not want to wash your dog more than once a month. Washing too frequently will strip the coat of its natural oils. However, the advice that you should only wash your dog twice a year is just not valid anymore. Modern shampoos and conditioners have advanced and are actually good for your pet. Gone are the days of harsh chemicals.

When you wash always use a quality shampoo. You tend to get what you pay for. If the shampoo does not lather a lot or make a ton of bubbles it is often of better quality, so it will clean better. Never use people shampoo. The pH of a dog is completely different than that of a human. Many people shampoos will dry out your dog's coat or give your dog's skin a harmful reaction.

If your dog has dry skin, or red, easily irritated skin or is prone to hot spots try a medicated shampoo. Keep in mind that medicated shampoos do not clean as well as regular shampoos. It may be helpful to wash them in a hypoallergenic tearless shampoo first, then the medicated shampoo.

Allow the medicated shampoo to sit on the dog for five to 10 minutes, then rinse.

Follow up with a conditioner. Conditioners can be tricky. Some conditioners you put on after the bath. Allow it to sit five minutes or so and then rinse out. Rinse well so as to not leave a residue that will become dry and cause irritation and scratching. These are excellent for moisturizing the skin and will soften the fur. They also help in getting the undercoat out easier. However, sometimes they can attract dirt or leave the coat with an oily feel.

Other conditioners are sprayed on and worked in, then allowed to dry normally. These seem to help with

tangles and undercoat, repel dirt and leave a nice shine.

No two conditioners are the same. Dogs with dry skin should avoid oatmeal shampoos, which might dry the skin more. Oatmeal shampoos are better for dogs with normal to oily coats; they are milder and are of a better quality than many others. The strongest shampoos are formulated for deodorizing or for skunk smell. These are very drying and should be used only when absolutely necessary. Always follow a bath in these shampoos with a conditioner.

Remember too that every dog is different and what works for one might not for another. I have a list of shampoos and conditioners that I have tried and feel work best on Malamutes. If you would like to know my combination e-mail me.

Finally, some dogs have specific skin conditions that require vet assistance. For these pets please consult your vet. There is a variety of prescription shampoos and leave-in conditioners that your vet can prescribe if necessary.

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*Joy Tetreault went to the Nash Academy School of Pet Grooming in New Jersey and is a PetsMart certified Petstylist. If you have a grooming question, e-mail her at [mulderbean@juno.com](mailto:mulderbean@juno.com).*

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# Why Americans are obsessed with rescuing dogs

*[The following article, reprinted by permission from Slate magazine, does not necessarily represent the views of AMRONE.]*

**By Jon Katz**

I was walking in a nearby park recently when an enormous mutt — a Lab/shepherd mix, from the looks of it — came bounding down the wooded path, plowed into my belly, and knocked me down, touching off a spirited tiff with my two border collies.

As I clambered to my feet, a middle-aged man came chugging up, agitated and out-of-breath. He began belatedly scolding the genial and oblivious dog, whose name was Bear, explaining that Bear was a rescued dog, “probably abused.” So the guy — who introduced himself as Stan — didn’t want to train him to come, sit, or stop ricocheting into people, not yet; Bear had been through so much heartache already. He did lecture Bear — “no,” “bad dog,” “why don’t you listen to me?” — long after the fact and well beyond the point of usefulness.

Finding Bear was no cinch, it turned out. Stan told me he had combed animal shelters for months but found that in the Northeast, at least, the number of abandoned and adoptable dogs has fallen in recent years. New leash laws had resulted in fewer lost and straying dogs, and a sharp rise in neutering and spaying meant fewer dogs running around, period. Stan didn’t want to simply buy some fancy purebred pet, he explained, not when there were so many creatures in need. He preferred to save one from misery, possibly even death.

So Stan went online and located Bear not in New Jersey, where we lived, but in a foster home in Ala-

bama, via a rescue site listed on Petfinder.com. The demand for “rescued” dogs is so great that groups often have to scour faraway rural areas these days to find abused dogs for people to adopt.

Bear was transported north, by volunteer “transporters” located via mailing lists on the Net, and delivered to a local New Jersey “fosterer” for evaluation. “Screeners” check possible homes and new owners. Stan and his home and family were thoroughly evaluated before he was



permitted to bring Bear home. “Believe me,” he said with some pride, “it was easier for me to buy a house than to get this dog.” The screeners returned more than once and let him know they would be back periodically. He signed a document promising to care for the dog and to never let the dog walk off-leash.

Now he was crazy about the dog, he confessed. It seemed to me that at least part of that feeling stemmed from his pride in having spared the animal a grim fate.

How did he know that Bear had been abused? I asked. “You can just tell,” Stan assured me. “It’s obvious. If you come near him with a leash or collar or stick, he looks terrified.”

I’d heard such stories countless

times. It needs to be said that there are innumerable and well documented stories of horrific abuse inflicted on dogs. At a Brooklyn shelter I visited a few months ago, I saw dogs that had been burned almost to death, abandoned, starved, poisoned, nearly drowned, beaten, and horribly mauled after being used as training fodder for fighting dogs. Rescue volunteers go to extraordinary lengths to save and care for these dogs.

But many professional trainers and dog lovers have become wary. They often roll their eyes when people explain that their dogs have been abused, seeing that as an excuse for obnoxious or aggressive behavior and as a way to avoid the effort of training. Many also sense a need for some dog owners to see their pets as suffering victims, rather than animals.

Pet behaviorists will tell you that it’s usually impossible to know what dogs have actually been through, since they can’t tell us. Dogs who are simply adjusting to new homes or poor training frequently show the same behaviors as ill-treated dogs: cowering, trembling, eliminating, shying away from the unfamiliar.

But dogs, like so many other things, are a mirror of the society we — and they — live in. And a growing number of Americans not only need to rescue a creature, but to perceive those creatures as having been mistreated. Somehow, our dogs have joined us in our culture of victimization. Since we can only guess what has happened to them, they are blank canvases on which we can paint anything we wish. Add to this the fact that millions of dogs are indeed abandoned or maltreated

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# Breeder's diary: A day at Nationals

By Jeannine Theriaque

Since I went to Sturbridge to help get things ready on Thursday, the day before showing, I claimed a space in the not yet full grooming tent for three crates, a grooming table, grooming items, towels, buckets, water, extra collars and leashes.

The next morning I get ready, make sure I have everything I need for the day: dog food, show clothes, and miscellaneous, load up the dogs and leave around 5:30 a.m.; I make it there after 7. After settling the dogs into their crates, I unload the rest of what I need and park. I then head to the hospitality room for more coffee. People are grabbing something to eat, then hurrying back to the grooming tent to get dogs ready.

I walk back and take my guys to the x-pens, or you could say "doggy portapotties," outside the tent. I begin grooming one pup and then the next. Grooming malamutes for a show is

not a laborious task, unless you want to make it that.

Placing them back in their crates, I head back to the truck for my show clothes. I change and head to the ring for my armbands from the ring steward. These are the numbers worn on the left arm that identify the dog in the catalog. The steward marks that the number has been picked up. A dog is marked absent if the number isn't picked up, which may affect the total points awarded.

Back at the tent I grab treats and take the first puppy in. This competition is the futurity event. It starts way back when the dam is bred. The breeder nominates her before the puppies are whelped; the litter is nominated after the puppies are born but before they reach 2 months old; then individual puppies from the litter; only after this whole process can a puppy be entered.

The steward calls us into the ring by catalog order. Arm bands are checked by both steward and judge.

We stack our dogs: Set up the feet four square, head up, tail over back; not an easy task with puppies. My boy keeps moving his feet after I set each one, won't hold his tail up on his own, and decides he would rather sit. (Gee, he does so well in class.) I entice him to stand by holding bait (a treat) in front of him. With practice and more showing experience, he will learn to set himself up, with little adjustment by me. I am a little nervous but that dissipates as I

concentrate on my puppy and I forget about the people outside the ring, or the camera taping the event. Being in the ring has to be a fun experience or they will learn not to enjoy it.

We have one run around the ring – it should be an easy, controlled gait to show the dog's movement. Each dog is individually examined by the judge, looking for among other things correct bite, head set, shoulder, front (chest), tail, overall structure, and expression. I am instructed to gait the dog to the corner and back, down the mat that cuts diagonally across the ring to the opposite corner. This is to check the dog's movement coming and going, for soundness and how the dog stands on its own after coming back to the judge. She looks again at the front and the hock area. We gait around the ring to the end of the line as she looks at the topline, angulation and reach and drive.

We again stack our dogs for a final look; then she makes her picks, choosing the dog that she feels most represents the standard for the breed, first through fourth place. We don't make the ribbons this time.

I take my puppy bitch in later. This time we place. She is a different style than her brother that I showed in the dog class. After the futurity is over, I have a picture of my bitch with her rosette taken with the judge. At noon I will go through the process again in the sweepstakes competition under a different judge. This time my boy places but not my girl. Later, a picture for his placement.

Each judge chooses based on their interpretation of the standard. One judge may not like your dog at all; another may absolutely love him/her. Some prefer a particular style or type, flash or showiness. But no matter, a dog that deserves its championship will earn the title.



Jeannine Theriaque takes her dog around the ring under the watchful eye of a judge.





**A handler stacks her mal during judging. To see more pictures of the National Specialty, go to the National Web site: [www.amcaevents.org/NS/](http://www.amcaevents.org/NS/)**

## AMCA marks 50 years

The Alaskan Malamute Club of America's National Specialty has come and gone. Oct. 17-22 was an event-packed week in Sturbridge, MA. It included a wide range of activities, something to suit every interest: obedience, conformation showing, weight pulls, veterans showcase, working dog showcase, CGC testing, a DNA clinic and a microchip clinic. There were also a variety of seminars, as well as the AMCA events: the annual meeting, auction, raffles and the annual banquet.

At the show there were malamute people from around the world, and a wonderful collection of dogs. This was a very special year, since it was AMCA's 50th anniversary. A once-

in-a-lifetime opportunity was the charter members event: Ten of the club's charter members, founders of AMCA, were at the show, and did a presentation about the early years of malamutes.

Of course the event near and dear to AMRONE's heart was the AMAL Rescue Showcase, which included dogs from AMRONE. It was a heartwarming event, showing 18 rescue malamutes from five rescue groups.

AMAL, the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League, the national malamute rescue organization, had a very successful table at the show, raising \$4000, which will help malamutes in need across the country.

## Stories of rescue dogs proclaimed at Nationals

*[From Page 1]*

effort across the nation. Dedicated to the spirit of Malamutes and enthusiasts alike, this extraordinary evening event highlights just some of the dogs who have been given a new life in a new home courtesy of the rescue groups who serve them.

My dog Rush and I were honored to be included in the evening. Of the 18 dogs we were among the seven affiliated with AMRONE. The others were Cathy Martin with Ice, Kathy Ferragamo with Keni, Walter Pepperman with Kodi, Mark Pinavalle with Sarge, Stephanie Bayliss with Smokey and Marc Garrett with Star.

The purpose of the showcase is to share the dogs, both their life stories and their successes, with the audience. Accompanying that happy endeavor is the opportunity to educate those present about the rescue mission.

As each dog is called into the ring, his or her biography is read from the loudspeaker while owner and dog take their lap. Not an evening devoted to sad stories or misspent puppyhoods, the Rescue Showcase aims to introduce some very smiling canine faces to the crowd, and to revel for a few minutes in each of their victories.

No dog's victory is the same. The rescue dogs are as diverse a group as their owners. Amid the ranks are Ambassadors who work for Pets on Wheels, and accom-

plished sled dogs who have logged hundred of miles. Alongside therapy dogs and emergency response-trained canines are those whose greatest accomplishment is adjusting to the new family, or curling up on a favorite couch.

I am not certain for whom the evening is most enjoyable; at both ends of the leash are smiling faces and skipping gaits. Indeed it is a night of celebration for rescue dog owners, who with one hand accept their dog's ribbon and the other brush away a proud tear. For the dogs it is a night to step out, to greet old faces who may have helped along the way, and when all is over, to sit back on their haunches for a good throaty howl.

As the showcase came to a close, I scanned the clapping crowd, settling on the faces of new friends. Later, we said our goodbyes, and made our way out of the ring with a show ribbon and a medal. I was proud to have been included in the showcase, and I was grateful to the National Specialty for recognizing all the dogs that evening.

As we drove home, Rush settling in the back, I thought of all the dogs I'd seen running around the ring that night. And I thought of all those dogs I did not see, but who I knew were out there. Those dogs are waiting to be rescued, waiting for that second chance. Those dogs are waiting for their turn to take a lap around the ring.

# Thyroid test tricky but treatment is simple

*Question: My dog was recently diagnosed with thyroid disease. Where is the thyroid and what does it do?*

The thyroid is a gland consisting of two lobes and can be found in the front of the neck surrounding the trachea. Its primary purpose is to produce a hormone called thyroid hormone or thyroxine. This hormone affects every cell and organ in the body and is essentially responsible for controlling the rate of metabolism. An overproduction of thyroid hormone, more common in cats, is called hyperthyroidism and an underproduction, more common in dogs, is called hypothyroidism. I will limit this discussion to hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism typically occurs in middle-age dogs with more frequency in the following breeds: golden retriever, Doberman pinscher, Irish setter, miniature schnauzer, dachshund, cocker spaniel, and the beloved Alaskan malamute. Symptoms of the disease include but are not limited to lethargy, hair loss, obesity, poor skin and hair coat, chronic ear infections, pigmentation of the skin and cold intolerance.

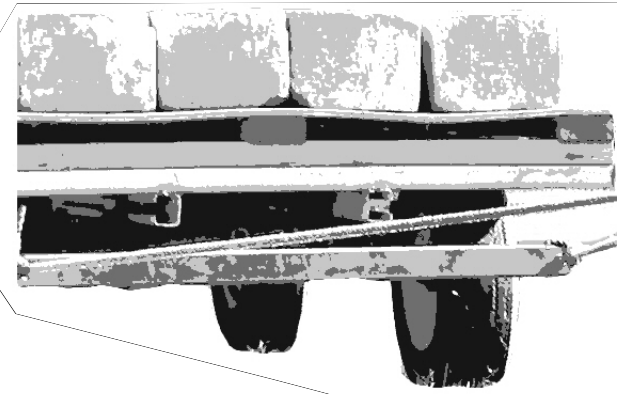
Dogs with hypothyroidism usually develop symptoms that reflect poor function of many organs, but in some dogs one symptom may predominate. One of the most common complaints I hear from owners of hypothyroid dogs is that the pet is drinking a ton of water.

Diagnosis of thyroid disease is made by running blood tests specific to the thyroid itself and in conjunction with the pet's clinical symptoms. Blood testing alone can be unreliable since there are many factors within the body that can alter the measured serum levels. For example, non-thyroid illness can falsely lower the measured amount of thyroid hormone in pets that do not have thyroid disease.

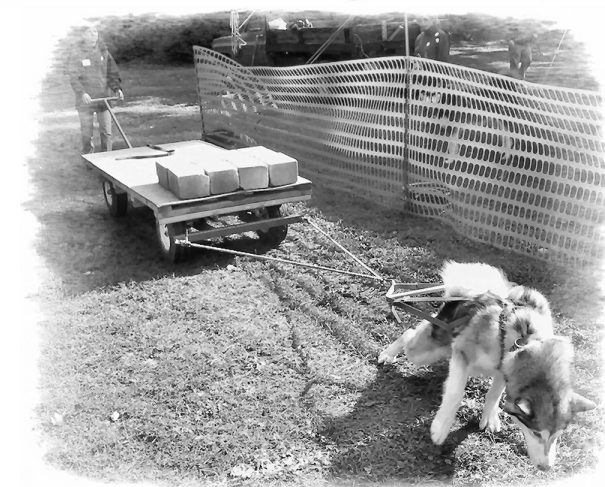
Other laboratory findings that can be related to low thyroid levels include a low red blood cell count and high cholesterol (this will not predispose your pet to having a heart attack).

Once a diagnosis of hypothyroidism is made, your pet will be placed on supplemental thyroid hormone replacement. The pills are very small, easy to administer, and come in a variety of sizes to ensure accurate dosing. Once therapy is initiated it is important to monitor the levels of thyroid hormone at regular intervals. A blood test will be taken usually within two months of starting the treatment. If all goes well testing will then be done once or twice a year unless problems develop.

*If you have questions about your dog's health, e-mail Dr. Steven Teisch, DVM, at [drmoo@together.net](mailto:drmoo@together.net)*



## Pulling their own weight



Mals at Camp N Pack again took up the challenge of weight pull this year, one of many activities AMRONE conducts.

# Barking in the park becomes spring tradition

**By Kathy Ferragamo**

**A**MRONE once again had the gift of a picture perfect day on Sunday, May 4, for its second springtime get-together – Bark in the Park. The gates opened at 10 a.m. and soon Berry Pond in Harold Parker State Forest, North Andover, MA, started to fill up with familiar faces from last year — both human and canine — along with many new ones.

As our chefs (Jerry Ferragamo, Jerry Feldeisen and David Ferragamo) started to fire up the grills in preparation for our barbecue, Roger Davies was busy getting the participants together for a two-mile hike through the trails. Like last year, some people decided to just hang out



**Alicia Badolato takes Keni for a walk on park grounds.**

Micky Gogan announced each dog as their owners proudly walked them around, and the crowd cheered them. Each participant received a key chain with the words “I love my rescue dog” on it.

There was one dog in this parade that I would like to mention: Chena. She was a senior rescue Malamute from Georgia who came to New Hampshire to live in her forever home with Mike and Kristen Albanese. Many of us knew about

by the pond, socialize with old friends and make new ones. By noontime the hikers were back and lunch was being served. The cooks did a terrific job again this year; there was great food for everyone to enjoy.

A rescue parade of 24 dogs – not just Malamutes but other breeds and mixes as well, started off the afternoon events. Stephanie Bayliss and

Chena’s story and were very happy to finally meet her. After about six short months the Albaneses lost Chena to heartworm. Her pretty face and wagging tail will be remembered by all of us.

After our parade, Jane Zimmerman and Ben Steele with their Malamute Igor had the crowd’s attention. If any of you have been to agility competitions, you’ve seen Jane and Igor in action. Jane brought some of her equipment with her, talked about agility training and put on a demonstration for us. Everyone enjoyed watching Igor maneuver his way ever so easily around the obstacles. People then had a chance to try their own dogs at agility. Ben and Igor gave us a demonstration on how to properly clean your dog’s teeth.

Our day was quickly coming to an end and it was time for our raffle. With handmade items, doggie gift baskets, stuffed animals, dog beds, an autographed book by Susan Conant and Rowdy (among many items donated by our wonderful volunteers), the raffle was a success.

A huge thanks goes to Joy Tetrault and Jen Ryder; they worked hard all day long doing a nail clipping and ear-cleaning booth. Many dogs left the park that day with nicely manicured paws.

Thanks to our sponsor, Paul Ferragamo, owner of Building Supplies Outlet Inc. in Peabody, MA, all of 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.

This day wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of all of the volunteers involved, and to the wonderful adopters and attendees who came to spend the day with us — approximately 86 people and 60 dogs. Thanks to all of you.

Mark your calendars and tentatively keep the first Sunday of May 2004 open, as we’ll soon be planning our Third Annual Bark in the Park.



**A mal at Bark in the Park teaches his master how to feed him through a hoop, then how to crawl through it.**

# Sarge earns his stripes

By Carol Peck

Many of the dogs who come into rescue arrive as strays with no history. Sarge had a history.

The cute, exuberant puppy had been sold to an elderly woman who was told that the dog was close to his adult size. While the woman invested in obedience training for Sarge, he continued to grow and soon overwhelmed his fragile owner. When he



accidentally knocked her down and she broke her hip,

she realized he was just too much dog for her so she left Sarge at the obedience school to be placed. Although the appealing pup was placed in a couple of homes, new owners soon returned the high-energy youngster.

Meanwhile, Mark Pintavalle had always wanted a dog, any dog. His father didn't. After years, friends and AMRONE volunteers Joanne and Danny Duval invited Mark and his family to the first annual Camp N Pack. Mark met many beautiful Alaskan Malamutes and their owners, who talked about life with their wonderful dogs. Mark fell in love with the breed. With help from Joanne and Danny, Mark convinced his father that the Malamute was the breed for them and that Mark could take care of one.

Now that Mark knew a dog was in his future, he decided that he wanted a playful, friendly companion. Mark met Sarge and found that the puppy had those qualities in abundance. He had lots of energy, loved to play tug

of war, and was very friendly. In addition, Sarge was good looking and surprisingly well-trained, thanks to all the time at the obedience school. Mark and his family adopted Sarge in November 1998, when he was still only 10 months old.

Sargeant has grown into a handsome, 110-lb. adult. With a little wooly in his background, Sarge has a beautiful, medium-length black and white coat, with a little brown around his ears. At 5, he retains his friendliness and still loves to play with Mark.

Mark has introduced Sarge to a wide variety of foods and, with the exception of citrus fruit, Sarge has devoured them all eagerly. Mark reports that Sarge's obedience



Mark and Sarge: a couple of lucky guys.

training is not as good as it used to be, and on occasion if a margarine container is left on the counter, it winds up in the living room, cleaner than if it had gone through the dishwasher.

Regardless of when Sarge has been fed, he refuses to eat his dinner until after all the humans have finished eating. Mark suspects that this behavior is not motivated by politeness but because Sarge doesn't want to fill up until after he has finished begging.

In the summer, when the family is out during the day, Sarge relaxes in the basement, lounging in his favorite

spot with fresh ice water and a fan. One day, Mark came home to discover that Sarge was not in his usual location. Mark raced through the house, looking everywhere. No Sarge.

Desperate, Mark went back to the basement. Searching carefully, he discovered Sarge behind his father's workbench. While there was plenty of room for Sarge to stand and lie down behind the workbench, there was not enough room for him to turn around, and Sarge had not yet mastered the concept of walking backward. Mark had to pull the workbench away from the wall in order to free Sarge.

Sarge is more adept at maneuvering in human company in the living room. Mark reports that when people visit and they are all sitting in the living room talking, Sarge sometimes quietly slides just his butt up onto the couch so he is sitting with everyone else. His tendency to act like a human is amusing and endearing.

Camp N Pack continues to be an enjoyable annual event for Mark and his family, where they are well-known and well-liked. Mark has attended every camp so far, and Sarge has been to all except the first.

When I contacted Mark about writing a success story about Sarge, Mark's thoughtful response was, "But I'm the lucky one." After talking with Mark and learning Sarge's story, I've thought a lot about Mark's comment. I agree that Mark is lucky to have Sarge to share his life with, I know Sarge is lucky to have such a loving home, and I believe that all of us involved in rescue are lucky to have the opportunity to help bring together wonderful people like Mark and lovable Malamutes like Sarge. We are all the lucky ones.

# Mals make a splash at Dog's Life weekend

**By Jane Palinkas**

When the rain is so heavy that the inside of your boots get wet and Malamutes don't even want to leave their crates, you know you have a horrid day for a rescue showcase.

Nevertheless, AMRONE had a booth at "It's a Dog's Life" rescue weekend in Goshen, CT, on Sept. 13 and 14. The weather started out on Saturday morning a little hazy. I had gone up to the sports center and set up the tent, and had pretty much most of the rescue things up there on Friday. The haze was not too bad and it lifted throughout the day. There was not our normal attendance but for the weather being "iffy" it was not too bad.

Jeannine Theriaque and I had purchased some things during the year, so we had a drawing with three prizes. One prize was an airline crate with a bunch of doggie things in it: leashes, dishes and of course toys and treats. Another prize was a basket of goodies, again being toys, treats, and leashes, and Ruth Mellen sent us a beautiful sweatshirt with embroidered paw prints on it. So we had three prizes with tubs for people to put tickets into for whichever prize they wanted. We had seen other rescue groups do this last year, and figured we could increase our profit this way.

We met many interesting people and saw lots of dogs of all kinds. We sold some things at our booth, supplied for us by Stephanie Bayliss. Steve and I did two demonstrations that day, a sledding demo, and a weight-pulling demo. They were both very well attended. People seem to

enjoy learning about the "fuzzy" dogs.

Sunday was a totally different story. It was raining so hard that none of my dogs even left the safety of their crates, except to go potty, or to be the poster dog in the AMRONE booth. We took turns taking our dogs inside so people could see a Malamute. I learned last year that no dog can represent AMRONE in this way unless he or she has a CGC or an obedience title. All of my dogs have CGC's and all but one also have a CD Obedience title.

They finally moved some of the things indoors, but the demos either did not go, or were held outside. Around 1:30 p.m., the head of the Canine Center called an end to the weekend. We never did our demo because of the weather, and I don't think there would have been anyone there to watch anyway.

All the profits made that weekend are split evenly among the rescue groups, of which there were supposed to be 14 this time. Last year just for being there AMRONE made \$500. The goal of the weekend this year was \$10,000. We made over \$5,000 on Saturday, but Sunday we only added \$1,800.

I enjoy doing this for rescue. With a little help Steve and I can make some money for the dogs. We would like to do it again next year, and would welcome anyone who wants to pitch in. The weather couldn't be that bad again, could it?



**Jane Palinkas demonstrates sledding in September at the Dog's Life rescue weekend.**

## How to set up a show booth

**By Lee Ann Morales**

The main thing I have come to learn is that if you are going to spend the better part of a day in a booth in a field somewhere for AMRONE, you are doing it for the dogs and to educate the public.

You probably will be the only ones there with Malamutes, so you will get a lot of attention!

With two people, running a booth is a breeze. You can take turns walking the dogs and still be able to have someone at the table. Something to think about is that people let their children and their dogs go right up to any dogs so if your dogs have any trouble with new dogs or running, yelling kids, you may want to keep yourself or the table between you and the public.

Don't be surprised to see adults in their own little world and walking  
*[Continued on Page 15]*

## 'Fido at the Fort' welcomes AMRONE

The Humane Coalition for Animals, an umbrella group for Greater New Bedford, MA, rescue organizations, sponsors "Fido at the Fort" each year.

Attended by hundreds at picturesque Fort Taber in New Bedford, September's fundraiser drew 86 people whose walking raised \$8000.

Lee Ann Morales lent her experience to Ruth and Bob Mellen to staff a booth to help get AMRONE's name out to a new group of people, and maybe earn a little money besides.

They were joined by their three malamutes, which drew plenty of interest from visitors and petting from the children.

In addition to the charity walk, demonstrations included dancing with dogs, obedience, agility, a very popular police canine unit and a Canine Good Citizen talk.

There were about 14 booths by organizations that aid a variety of pets including dogs, birds, cats and gerbils.



Ruth Mellen, above right, keeps an eye on Kodi as a young girl reaches out to pet him in New Bedford. The AMRONE booth, left, was staffed by the Palinkases at the Dog's Life rescue weekend in Connecticut.



## Caution needed when staffing a booth

*[From Page 14]*

in circles. I set up the table at the front of my tent and I put myself and Kobi near the back and whenever I see people come up with their dogs leading them I just let them know that Kobi is not dog friendly. I tell the kids and the parents that they need to teach their children to ask first and not go running up to any strange dogs.

You probably will get a few nasty looks but just remember you are covering yourself and if they take their kids out to a place like that and NOT tell them to ask before petting a dog they have a few things to learn.

You will find that everyone just loves the pretty "huskies." You'll find yourself repeating, "Malamute,

Alaskan Malamute. They are bigger than huskies, they do not have blue eyes, etc." When you do take your dogs for a walk everyone will be watching you too.

But once most people find out malamutes shed a lot and are stubborn, they chuckle and say, "Not for me!" They don't usually stay around to hear about all the good things.

Even though you don't get a lot of donations, or see any other mals, you will get a lot of questions and I do find it rewarding. It is a little awkward at first because all of a sudden someone may throw a few questions your way that you will find yourself stopping to think about. You also might get invited to other events.

### More booth tips

- ✧ Take water for you and your dog. (although it is provided you might need it when someone comes up with a bunch of questions and can't leave the table).

- ✧ People seem drawn to photos. Try to display as many as possible.

- ✧ Don't take dog treats. Everyone will feed them to your dogs.

- ✧ You'll want a canopy for sun protection. Full-grown mals don't fit well under card tables. Nor do people.

- ✧ Stephanie Bayliss can provide you with all the goodies it takes to put up an attractive AMRONE display.

# Camp N Pack: Where everyone has a blast

By Jane Palinkas and Joanne Duval

**Jane:** People assembled for our annual 10-mile qualifying hike on a wonderfully cool, sunny day in Granville State Forest. After weighing all the dogs' packs we left on the first adventure of Camp N Pack 2003.



The temperature had fallen quite low the night before, so the humans were a little chilly but once we started walking through the woods we all warmed up. Our friend and trail leader Mark Andersen could not be with us this year because of work commitments. (How dare something other than dog business ruin his plans!) So Chris Tetreault stepped up to the plate.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and there were no problems. Quite a few dogs earned titles and the rest just had a good time sharing nature with their owners on a lovely day.

After the exhilarating hike, we all made our way to camp Timber Trails to sign in and be welcomed by new and old friends. It is so much fun to see people return year after year! (Thanks to Dan Duval for working so hard at the luggage again. Ben Palinkas, too.)

After a dinner of hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings we attended an informative talk by Dr. Steve Teisch on thyroid problems and how they relate to dogs (cats also). Some of us then

went to the campfire and had s'mores and some of us retired to our sleeping quarters to be lulled to sleep by the wonderful woo-woosing sounds of our four footed friends.

**Joanne:** Saturday morning started off with breakfast made to order by our chefs, Arnie and Eric. Somehow we persuade them to come back each year and give their services to our cause. After breakfast our day started. We all kept hoping the rain would hold off as long as possible and we were lucky that it was relatively clear until after lunch. The morning included workshops on backpacking with Joanne and agility with Carolyn's crew. Walks around camp were guided by Jo, and Patti Sousa gave a workshop on "Talking to Your Dog" that was very well attended.



After lunch the rain wouldn't hold off any longer and we moved the doggie games into the dining hall. Headed by Jeannine Theriaque, and assisted by Laura and Kevin Baigert,

the mummy-making contest, dress-up race and the ever-popular popcorn catching were crowd favorites. The limbo was a close contest and the noisiest dog contest made us all hold our ears. After the games we all went our separate ways again for the afternoon, attending workshops of our choice, spending time on our own or just enjoying the company of other dog people.

Throughout the weekend Lee Ann Morales had a variety of children's activities available in the dining hall.

**Jane:** The afternoon workshops included a short hike offered by Mark that took a bunch of brave souls who didn't mind the wet weather on a mixture of camp trails, dirt roads and tracks through the brightly colored leaves of fall. Also offered for campers was a workshop given by Steve Palinkas (my husband) for novice weight-pullers followed by a novice weight pull. The novice dogs did a great job and hopefully a few of them will continue their interest in this sport. A few entered the weight pulls at the National Specialty in Sturbridge, MA.

As the afternoon went on the rain really started coming down and during the wettest time of the day we did some awesome Canine Good Citizen testing. Joanne and I evaluated eight dogs and all passed in exceptionally distracting conditions. Laurel Flax and Faith deserve a special mention because she was the only



A campfire wards off the chill and encourages camaraderie.

[Continued on Page 18]

# Mals not for everyone, Lee Ann tells people

[From Page 5]

group of people who have a lot of help to give and determination to find good homes for our dogs."

Another organization that Lee Ann joined is the Pets and People Foundation Inc. This non-profit organization offers animal-assisted therapy to elderly homes, special-needs facilities and children's hospitals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. "Kobi has been tested and passed; we just have not had the time to start with therapy dog work yet. I would like to get into it when time permits."

She has attempted to get Kobi into weight-pulling as

well, but because Kobi prefers food rewards, it didn't work out quite so well as she thought. Lee Ann is not giving up, however, and is planning on acquiring more information on the activity. Despite his refusal to perform in public, Kobi does enjoy pulling Lee Ann's son on his sled in the winter.

Lee Ann has a different, but very logical way to tell potential new Malamute owners about the breed. "People who just want a pretty dog and aren't ready for that challenge should not be getting a Malamute. Also the ones who like a hair-free home definitely should not get a Malamute!

"There would be more than one thing I would say to potential adopters and the first thing would be all the bad things about them and (of course) the hair. If they stick around to hear more then I will tell them all the wonderful things about (the breed). They just may be that special person."

# 'Fan Hitch' describes spirit of working together

[From Page 4]

what it is today. We all share in its success. When Bob Mellen first approached me about writing this column he mentioned that a good title would be "Lead Dog." I thought about that idea for awhile and decided that in sledding a lead dog is in front and doing the thinking and planning while the other dogs follow along behind.

That just does not describe me, rescue or our many volunteers that are independent, hard working people that tend to get an idea and run with it, which is a trait that has developed some of our best assets. Our incorporation, Camp, Bark, the Web site, the Goshen weekend, the booths, the newsletter — all were developed by people who had an idea and ran with it.

I decided that this column would better be called "Fan Hitch." In this team formation each dog is attached directly to the sled. Each dog pulls with the other dogs, pulling his share, taking a break when needed only to jump in again and pull when their help is needed. This better describes

the way we strive to work in rescue. I am proud to be a member of this team.

In the future, I would like to use this column as a way for the Board of Directors to recognize the accomplishments of our organization as I did this time, to let the mailing list

know what changes and challenges we are facing as a rescue organization and to introduce any new ideas and programs that will make a difference in our goals of rescuing dogs, educating the public and providing for the safety and security of all dogs.

On the money trail with AMRONE		EXPENSES	
(January - June 2003)			
INCOME			
Adopter	\$2450	Automobile expense	\$55
Apparel sold	\$60	Boarding	\$2434
Bark Park	\$2428	Insurance	\$865
Camp	\$-200	License & permits	\$35
Donor - books	\$25	Microchips	\$19
Donor - General	\$2460	Office Supplies	\$19
Matching funds	\$100	Pet Supplies	\$42
Owner turn-in	\$80	Postage/Delivery	\$301
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7403</b>	Printing/Reproduction	\$483
		Professional fees	\$1000
		Shelter fees	\$5
		Telephone	\$360
		Veterinary costs	\$1912
		<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$7530</b>
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$-127</b>



# Imagination marks camp event, 'judge' says

[From Page 16]

rescue dog to try it and pass with flying colors.

**Joanne:** Just before dinner everyone came in from the rain and dried off during our social. Yankee pot roast with the trimmings hit the spot for dinner and during the "make your own sundaes" the raffle winners were announced.

The annual auction started with Roger Davies and Mark acting as the MC and the auctioneer again. They kept us laughing all night. This year's auction featured many items donated by Camp N Packers both past and present and by many businesses and companies that support our organization with their donations.

The items had been collected, entered into the computer, organized and displayed by Bonnie and Roger Davies, Ruth and Bob Mellen and Stephanie Bayliss prior to the auction, so things ran very smoothly. By the time the last item was sold I think everyone was impressed by the generosity of the audience and the money that was raised to help the dogs!

**Jane:** Sunday started off for us with an open weight pull weigh-in and pull. We ran two classes: the under 80-pound class and the 101- to 120-pound class. Gus, owned by volunteers Vicki and Hiram, pulled a whopping 1600 pounds to earn him not only first in the under 80-pound class but also most weight pulled and highest percentage pulled (20 times his body weight). Baloo, owned by Steve, earned first in the 101 to 120 class by pulling 1500, and not quite finishing the 1600-pound pull.

**Joanne:** Back at the dining hall the newest Camp N Pack event was taking place. The First Annual Stuffed Dog Show had entries in the veter-

ans, working, juniors, beanie and open divisions. Competition was fierce as the competitors "gaited" their dogs down and back in front of the esteemed judge, Mr. Roger Davies. The crowd cheered their favorites and it even came down to a tie in the juniors division. This event most will likely grow in the future and was fun for all. The judge had the following to say about this event:

### Judge Red "The Hammer" Davies:



I was honored to be selected to judge the First Camp N Pack Stuffed Dog Show. I am sure it was because of my total lack of integrity

and my previous experience as a bagman for the "Boston Hill Gang." "Bribes are us" is my motto, and I am sure that the second show will be more productive in this area.

The selection of dogs being judged was exceptional in all classes and the

decision-making process was difficult, but bribing did help. I was truly impressed with the level of imagination and creativity displayed by many of the entrants. The varied costumes, backgrounds and ah, some appendages, were simply amazing.

Here is hoping that the next show will be bigger and better.

**Joanne:** Following the dog show Jo gave a pet first aid workshop and Joy Tetreault ran games on the agility course. Some people took advantage of the Rally O course that was set up or used the TV/VCR in the dining hall to watch some of the dog videotapes that were available.

This Camp N Pack was a great time as always. If you have never checked out this event we welcome you to do so next year. You will find something for everyone. One of the things I like best about camp is the mixture of new owners, pet owners, working dog owners, rescue adopters and professional dog people. I love seeing everyone learning from each other and enjoying their dogs in a non-competitive, friendly environment.

When we started Camp N Pack we wanted to create a place where everyone was comfortable and could learn about their dogs, and it makes me very happy that we accomplish this goal each year.



Caught red-handed. And so young, too.

# Rescued dogs fill a hole in some people's lives

[From Page 7]

and do need homes, and it becomes clearer why animal rescue is a booming social phenomenon.

The dog rescue movement is relatively new. A generation ago, a person in need of a pet went to a breeder or to a local dog pound. There, he or she "adopted" rather than "rescued" a dog. There was and is no numerical shortage of abandoned dogs: The Humane Society of the United States estimates that between 8 million and 10 million enter the U.S. animal shelter system each year, with about 5 million unable to find homes and euthanized. It's worth noting that nobody really has any idea how many of these are actually abused.

But this hardly matters. Rescue workers have become the special forces of the dog world: dedicated, fearless, driven, intensely organized, wily, and resourceful.

The Internet has propelled and shaped this movement. Type "dog rescue" into Google, and more than 700,000 references pop up. Rescue groups have formed for almost every breed in almost every city and state, some with scores of members, fundraising campaigns, sometimes their own vans, plus badges, caps, T-shirts, and bumper stickers.

Through this national network of sites and lists, dogs can be rescued, re-rescued ("re-homed" is the preferred term), and transported all over America. Thanks to sites like the online clearinghouse Petfinder, any dog in need of a home can be eyeballed by anybody in the country with a computer. Last week, Petfinder had nearly 100,000 "adoptable pets" on its Web site, with sophisticated software that permits potential adopters to search databases for the

pet: What breed? What age? What color? Housebroken? Deaf, blind, or injured?

Rescue fantasies are familiar to therapists, who see them particularly in people who were themselves mistreated or ached for escape from loneliness and alienation.

Some rescue workers have encoun-

**While the lavish and forgiving affection showered on rescued dogs may be psychologically satisfying for the pet owner, it isn't always good for the animal.**

tered people they call "hoarders" or "compulsives" — that is, rescuers with a dozen or more dogs. Hoarders are especially drawn to hopeless cases, dogs that are severely injured or especially aggressive. They are often confident that they can "flip" the dog around. And sometimes, they simply can't say no.

Rescues also can provide an outlet for thwarted political inclinations. Social problems seem overwhelming, government remote. People can't easily stop a war or even get a stop sign installed on their blocks. But as a neighbor of mine explained, "I can't seem to do much for people these days, so the least I can do is rescue a dog." In sophisticated cities and their

suburbs — New York, Washington, San Francisco — where everything makes a political statement and children are always being taught "values," it means something to have rescued a dog as opposed to having simply bought one.

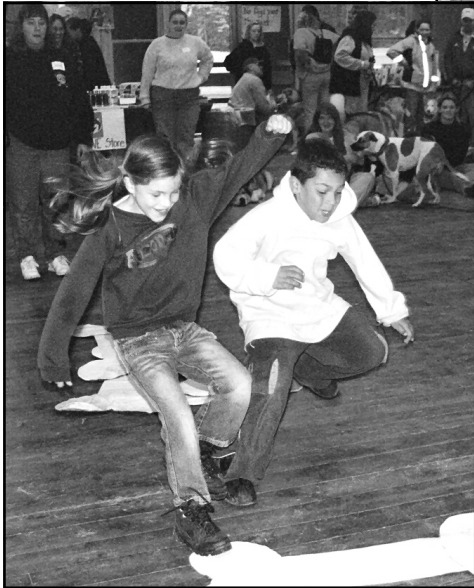
Something buried in the psyches of certain dog owners needs to alter animals' fates and leads them to see those animals as having suffered. Owners of rescued dogs I have talked to tend to have holes of one sort or another in their lives: "Saving" an "abused" dog can sometimes fill that hole. It makes the owner a hero: a literal savior. It makes the owner necessary: This poor abused creature can't possibly live without the person who saved it from misery and death. And it gives the owner a willing, and ever grateful, target of endless love.

But while the lavish and forgiving affection showered on rescued dogs may be psychologically satisfying for the pet owner, it isn't always good for the animal. Seeing a dog as a victim in need of rescue, too traumatized to be confined or to learn simple commands and behaviors, actually impedes proper care. It undermines a dog's ability to be well-socialized, to live happily in a home, and to coexist with humans in general. Dogs like to be trained. It calms them, gives them a sense of order. When we respond to them in terms of our own needs, rather than theirs, we do them no favors.

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*Jon Katz is the author of "A Dog Year: Twelve Months," "Four Dogs and Me," recently published in paperback, and "The New Work of Dogs: Tending to Love, Life and Family." He can be e-mailed at [jonkatz3@comcast.net](mailto:jonkatz3@comcast.net)*

# Campground frolics



The dogs seem more interested in the photographer than the agility ring at Camp N Pack 2003, above. Kids race to the base during musical chairs on a rainy day, left, and a dog's agility performance pleases his owner.



**ALASKAN MALAMUTE  
RESCUE**



**OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.**

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