

Howls & Growls

November / December 2024

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Gloria Toussaint

It's that time again! Please remember that your **membership renewal is due January 2025**. Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 per couple/household. Payable to: SCAMC, c/o Starks, 6910 Beckett Street, Tujunga, CA 91042. Any roster updates should be emailed to my attention.

Here's to a Great New Year filled with Good Health, Abundant Blessings, SCAMC Activities and Specialties, and Lots of Good Cheer To All. 🍊

~ Gloria

BRAGS & CRIES

AKC's Breeder of Merit Award recognizes breeders who are dedicated to breeding purebred dogs with the right temperament, appearance, and abilities. It's also given to those committed to health screening, puppy registration, and canine sports. This award has recently been given to our very own Nichole Royer. Congratulations!

From Nichole Royer

Kwikk completed the final run of her CAT title in late December. She's needed one qualifying run for this title since pre-COVID. In a wide-open field with no fence in sight, she did a lovely recall. What a good girl! Pending AKC confirmation, she'll now be Brown Sugar of Kiyara's Wolf Pak CAT BCAT CGC TKN FITB!



Club Address: 6910 Beckett St,
Tujunga CA 91042

The SCAMC Newsletter is distributed electronically to club members and will be available later on our [website](#). Please send submissions to: taylor_sd_1@yahoo.com

2024~2025 SCAMC Officers & Committee Positions

President	Stephen Starks
Vice President	Terry Toussaint
Treasurer	Patricia Starks
Secretary	Sherri Taylor
Membership Director	Gloria Toussaint
Working Director	Open
Ways & Means Director	Karen Ulfing
Education Director	Sue Carnall
Rescue Referral	AMAL

Calendar of Events

Club Meetings via Conference Calls (dates are subject to change), all scheduled for the **4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM**, pending notifications (check your email). **

Specialties:

- March 6, 2025 – Malibu Kennel Club, Lake Perris State Recreation Area (See the flyer back of this NL issue for more details on the page 10.)
- May/June (date TBD) 2025 – Lompoc Kennel Club, Ventura Co Fairgrounds & Seaside Park

2024 Annual Awards Banquet – TBD – Possibly after the Specialty, Ventura

Working Events: New Trailer Setup Day (contact Steve Starks for details) – TBD **

Fun Day: February 2025 Vail Lake (contact Sue Carnall for details) – TBD **

Obedience Training: Contact Patty Starks for whenever Saturday morning schedule may resume – Schedule TBD **

Christmas Party/Club Meeting: Early December –TBD **

**Please Note: Other than the club meetings, all these dates remain somewhat tentative.

(See more "Brag & Cries" continue page 3.)

Malamute Myth Busting

Alaskan Malamutes have been on this planet for a long time and recent DNA testing shows they are one of the world's most ancient breeds. Throughout history we have called upon the malamute for the toughest jobs—dragging sleds to the North and South Poles, hauling U.S. mail across Alaska, and packing ammunition for our soldiers in WWII. But why are there so many myths about Alaskan malamutes?

In order to bust some of the myths, first we need to explore their history and origin. The Malamut people or Inuit, whom they are named after, used the Alaskan malamute breed over 10,000 years ago and possibly earlier. The malamutes crossed the Bering Straits with the Inuit from the arctic regions of Siberia. They were used as pack dogs, hunting dogs, and sled dogs and protected the Inuit families from bears. It must have been a rugged life back then and the dogs had to conform to their environment or else they wouldn't survive. They had to be stout and have stamina to carry a pack or pull a sledge. Their coats had to be lush with just the right length and thickness to hold their body heat and repel whipping snow during blizzards. And malamutes had to be intelligent, trusting, and loyal since they lived with people who valued them as part of their family.

It's also believed the dogs ate when the family ate which meant during famines they had to develop a digestive system that al-

lowed them to absorb every micronutrient from their meager rations of food. I have seen dogs half the size of malamutes eat twice the amount of food as them—malamutes are just great keepers. These guys also had to develop hefty paws that would endure traveling on dry snow and sharp ice. Basically, it can be said the Alaskan Malamute is the perfect breed for a brutal and imperfect environment.

When traders, trappers and gold miners explored the frozen lands of Alaska they were introduced to the Inuit's most important family member: the malamute. Eventually the dogs became quite a valuable commodity amongst the newcomers, which ironically nearly destroyed the breed. The increased demand for dogs decreased the numbers and caused people to start breeding the malamutes with other breeds. Luckily, the line was saved and was registered in 1935 with the American Kennel Club (AKC). There are several strains of Alaskan malamutes, and a variety of color phases and sizes.

Although the AKC has their standards for the show ring, I prefer the heavier guys with big feet and larger bones. They hold up better for freighting in the arctic, and that's what the breed was designed for originally. Nonethe-

less, the smaller strain makes great leaders and swing dogs since they are lighter and more athletic than the larger brutes.

Myth 1: Malamutes have an aggressive nature towards people

Sometimes called aggressive, or half-breed wolves, the malamutes' character has been dragged over the coals. It's completely understandable why a person would be intimidated by a 100-lb. malamute. I certainly was when my first malamute looked me in the eyes like he was seeing dinner. Then he knocked me off my feet, pinned me down with his butty paws then snacked me on my lip and nose with a big drooling kiss. Malamutes love people, it's just amazing. From the time they are pups waddling around in the yard until they pass on to malamutes heaven they starve for attention from people. This desire to please is the

foundation of the Alaskan malamute character, their driving force. It's what makes these guys tick.

Because of this strong instinct to please, malamutes have to be handled with kid gloves, psychologically speaking. These guys are so emotionally sensitive that it's easier to deal with children, but children eventually grow up and malamutes don't. One of the things that really get me is their pouting. Now, many of you have kids and have experienced this ancient art of persuasion or maybe some of you remember practicing this tactic of getting what you want yourselves. But, when malamutes pout, it seems to pierce your inner soul and there's no way you can resist, just no way! You end up throwing the white flag of surrender and give them what they want and a bit more for good measure. Pouting is typical behavior from malamutes and not exactly aggressive or wolfish in any way whatsoever.

Myth #2: "Alpha Role" method is an effective way to train malamutes

I have been told that malamutes have to be trained with the alpha role method, a tactic that became popularized in the mid-seven-

ties. With this method, basically you flip the dog onto his back and hold him in that position, sometimes by the throat. The theory is that this teaches the dog that you are the pack leader. The alpha technique may work for other people and other breeds, but I don't think our malamutes attach themselves to me because they think I am an alpha dog. Nope. No way, I don't buy it. I am not one of them, I don't act like them and I don't dig holes, roll in dirt or howl all night. Those malamutes look at me with respect and love and not as their equal or competitor and I see them in the same way.

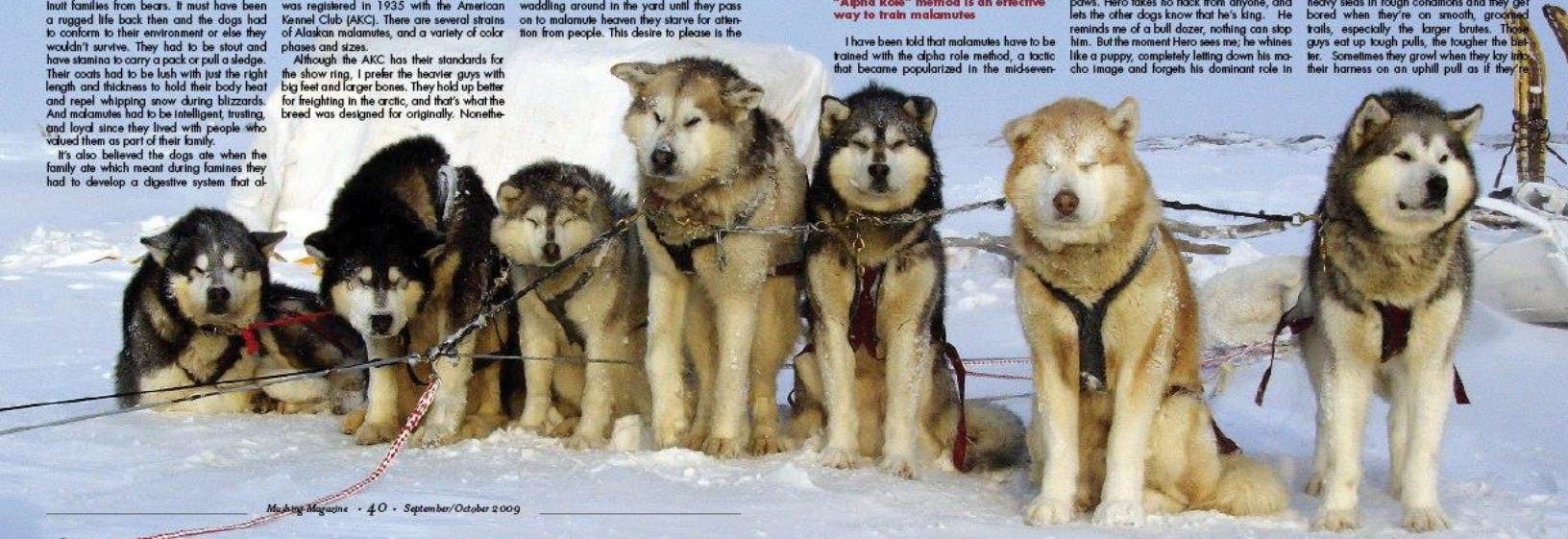
Besides, most malamutes are naturally submissive toward people, and they don't need to be terrified into submission. I have found that even my toughest, macho, hormone raging, dominant dog in the kennel will turn into an innocent, tail wagging ball of fur that acts like a baby when I walk up to him. Take Hero for example, he's the tough guy, the jumpy dog. He intimidates the other dogs just by his powerhouse physique, and polar bear sized paws. Hero takes no back from anyone, and lets the other dogs know that he's king. He reminds me of a bull dozer, nothing can stop him. But the moment Hero sees me, he whines like a puppy, completely letting down his macho image and forgets his dominant role in

the kennel. He turns from a lion to a kitten; actually I am embarrassed for him acting like that in front of his girlfriends!

Myth 3: Malamutes are lazy and have no stamina

There are a few myths about malamutes that I have heard which surprise me. Alaskan malamutes were not designed for speed; they are the draft horses of the sled dog world. Malamutes love to work hard. That's their nature. I have never seen sled dogs that yearn to pull heavy loads with such passion and enthusiasm. But my malamutes do not care for (nor are they interested) in sprinting for long distances. Sure, once in a while they enjoy a good run for a few miles but after that, their tails start to droop down which usually means that they aren't enjoying life. Droopy tails for pure bred malamutes just isn't natural for them and can sometimes signal stress or injury.

Malamutes love the challenge of dragging heavy sleds in rough conditions and they get bored when they're on smooth, groomed trails, especially the larger brutes. Those guys eat up tough pulls, the tougher the better. Sometimes they growl when they lay into their harness on an uphill pull as if they're



Making Magazine • 40 • September/October 2009

Myth 3: Continued...

proving themselves to their mates. I have one guy named Mitch. His brown and white coat and sharp mask makes him one of the handsomest dogs in the team. Every time we hit a tough pull; he lets out weird growl/bark that intimidates the dog beside him. Now, if Mitch could speak, I bet he would be barking orders like a drill sergeant, "Follow me! Lean into it you punks." Those guys can pull with high intensity for hours and hours without tiring. They're just unbelievable!

A freight team will put their heart into pulling all day. But there isn't an animal on earth that can work at such high intensity for long; otherwise, they would give in to exhaustion and crash. To protect themselves from crashing, malamutes have developed a strategy that sets them apart from other breeds, a strategy that has evolved over thousands of years of hard work. When I first observed a freight team employ this pulling method, I thought the dogs were lazy. But after watching them closely I realized that the malamutes were performing a calculated and ingenious energy conserving tactic.

The best way to exemplify this tactic is just visualize that you are standing on the runners with me. Holy smokes, what a white-knuckle experience! The whiplash we'll get when 2,000 lbs. of malamutes hit their harnesses. After the team runs about a mile and settles to a trot, you'll be able to relax your hands to allow the blood flow back in them. Directing your eyes up the gang line, you will notice that some tug lines are slack, and the dogs are pulling sporadically. Actually, these dogs are testing the load. Like a computer gathering data, those ancient canine creatures are testing the weight in the sleds and friction of the snow.

Depending on these conditions, the dogs will set a comfortable pace for themselves that enables them to conserve energy like a marathon runner. Even after the team finds a good pace, they stretch the energy saving tactic even further and each dog hits their harness for a few minutes then relaxes and hits their harness again. This tactic lets them recover their energy, regain their strength, and then jump back in the game. Often the pace will surge in speed every few minutes when the team employs this method in sync with each other. Conclusion: malamutes aren't lazy...just wise.

Myth #4: Malamutes are stupid animals

Now, how many times have you heard this: "Malamutes are dumb as a rock." But my favorite is: "Malamutes are dumber than 100 dead chickens." That's great! And it's damn hard for me to keep a straight face when I hear this. These guys have a way of making you think that they are dumb. I believe they have a hell of a sense of humor. I swear if you let them, a team of malamutes would have you pull your own sled across the frozen white tundra while they relax on the runners sipping hot chicken soup and smoking cigars. After all they couldn't have survived thousands of years being dumber than 100 dumb chickens.

Malamutes are great people trainers. They know how to get folks to do the most ridiculous things. I remember a while back when we were filming the Walt Disney feature film, White Fang. We had spent most of the winter prior to the movie in the arctic busting through drifts in -70 Fahrenheit temperatures. Suddenly my team of tough freight hauling brutes was introduced to Hollywood. Instantly, they had fallen victim to the soft celebrity lifestyle. Wow, those guys just melted with all the attention. Everyone on the film crew smothered them in pets, kisses, belly rubs and ear massages. By the time they were done with them they had become a bunch of flower-sniffing cream puffs, and I feared they would find a smelly harness, a disgusting insult to their new sophisticated life!

Getting the team adapted to a film set wasn't easy. My freighters pull and stop on verbal command only, which is an extremely important aspect in hauling freight. They don't stop on resistance from the brake



or a hard pull, and when they do feel resistance, they dig deeper and pull stronger. So, the command to go is "OK", and those malamutes live to hear that command. The first day of filming was a blast for my new team of cream puff malamutes. I had them lined up in front of the sled with the actor waiting patiently for the scene to begin.

"Action" rang out on the director's megaphone. Just like clockwork the actors carried out their lines gracefully and professionally. Then it was the malamutes' turn to perform. On cue from the director, I said "OK" and the team took off with the actor standing on the runners. It was the perfect scene and a perfectly executed performance. I must say that the director was quite impressed.

Take two. I'll never know why Hollywood directors have to retake every scene. As the words "action" rolled out of the director's megaphone again, the malamutes were on it. Instantly they sprinted toward the set...without the actor! The leader then recognized his favorite ear scratching buddy, the camera man, and dashed toward him. The team figured out the command to go followed "Action." So, it was only reasonable for them, they thought, to enter the scene when they heard the director yell "action." After all, the malamutes decided they were the stars of the show and the sooner they put on an Academy Award winning performance the better. What a scene—a team of malamutes nearly plowing over an expensive movie camera in pursuit of their best ear scratching buddy. Nope, these guys didn't win an Oscar, but they proved they were a gut busting comedy team.

Of course, the dogs received so much attention for their lively Hollywood performance that they were anxious to do it again. But knowing these guys and how quick they learn, I suggested to the director that he should start the scenes with a different word rather than "action." And also, he should change his tone of voice periodically also. The director seemed awfully put out using ridiculous code words like "start" or "begin please," rather than the traditional "Action!" I couldn't believe it, here was a major motion picture being filmed and a team of malamutes running the show!

Alaskan malamutes have been clouded in myths and misunderstandings, but they have risen above it all and have made excellent contributions to our society. They have certainly served above the call of duty and have brought many smiles to young and old. And God willing the legacy and spirit of the Alaskan malamute will live for at least another 10,000 years.

Joe Henderson has worked with Alaskan Malamutes for over 25 years, and although he doesn't admit it, his malamutes have him well trained. Each year Joe offers clients remote dog sledding expeditions throughout Alaska. For more information, please visit Joe's website at www.alaskanarcticexpedition.com





From Cyndi Chauvie

Anyone in need of any large crates? Got some free for the taking!

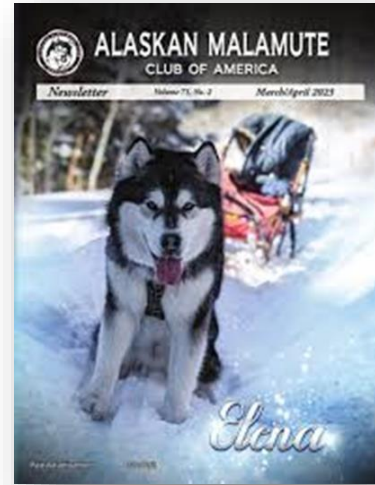
BRAGS & CRIES – Continue...

From Terry & Gloria Toussaint

Awww! Fonzie was recognized & received a beautiful rosette from AMAC National... Congrats to all the winners & participants!



Also, at our last dog shows of the year in December, Yuma, AZ, Fonzie dog got a Group 4!



This is the last call for any of these beautiful hard copies of past AMAC Newsletters/Magazines. These issues go all the way back to the 80's! **Please text or call me if you know of anybody interested in these items.** Thank you!

Happy Barkday

From Kieth & Cyndi Chauvie, John & Christy Sires, Dorothea Ragsdale, Kathleen & Bill Clary, Sherri Taylor

This December we wished a Happy 6th Birthday to the Friends

Litter: Phoebe, Ameer, Archie, Tundra, Sky, Monarch, Eevee



ODDS & ENDS

From Steve Starks (Click the link below view full video.) [Exercising an Alaskan Malamute: The Ultimate Guide!](#)

From Sue Carnall (Click the link below to view full details.) [Alaskan Malamute History](#)

From Sherri Taylor (Click the links below to view full details.)

❖ [Caring for Your Senior Dog: A Guide to Keeping Your Pet Healthy and Happy as They Age](#)

❖ [The Role of the Alaskan Malamutes in WWII](#)



(seen above all together as puppies)



This team, trained at Chinook Kennels for U.S. Army service, pulled an Army truck loaded with men six miles. There were 53 dogs in the team, and not a single fight took place.



❖ **Dog's Sleeping Positions & What They Mean**

YOUR DOG'S SLEEPING POSITIONS

How your dog falls asleep can tell you a lot about how they feel.

Sleeping on their side
Your dog is likely:

- calm
- relaxed
- in a deep sleep

Sleeping on their stomach
Your dog is likely:

- not fully relaxed
- ready for action

Sleeping on their stomach with legs extended
This could mean your dog is:

- too warm
- exhausted
- not fully relaxed

Sleeping curled up
Your dog could feel:

- vulnerable
- cold

Sleeping on their back
This position usually means your dog is:

- comfortable
- relaxed
- warm

Sleeping back to back with another dog
If your dogs sleep back-to-back, they usually:

- feel secure
- have a strong bond

If you have any concerns, take your dog to the vet for a check-up.
©2023 Mars or Affiliates.

ADVANCE



DOG SLEEPING POSITIONS

SIDE SLEEPER

They're relaxed, comfortable, and trusting.

LION'S POSE/SPHINX

They're feeling protective.

SUPERMAN

Dogs who tire themselves out from playing usually fall asleep like this.

CUDDLING

They're showing affection and trying to bond.

BURROWING

They're seeking additional comfort and security.

THE DONUT

Your dog is trying to keep itself protected.

ON THEIR BACK

They trust their surroundings and don't sense danger.

ON SOMETHING COLD

They're hot and trying to cool down.

BACK TO BACK

back-to-back cuddling is a sign of intimacy.

HEAD PROPPED UP

If they sleep like this, keep an eye on them.

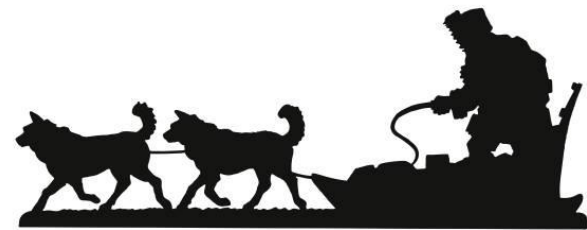
pupford

❖ **Xylitol Poisoning Alert**



[Click here to view other Doggie Holiday No-No's/Tips](#)

Beware: Benadryl **Gel Caps** contain Xylitol within its ingredients, which is poisonous to canines and is a huge "no-no" for our beloved dogs. Benadryl could cause acute respiratory depression and fluctuations in heart rate and blood pressure that could lead to death. The regular pink [Benadryl tablets can be used](#), as prescribed by a Vet, but be sure to read the label before administering Benadryl to your dog. An alternate medication is [Zyrtec](#), it's commonly used (instead of Benadryl) and can provide much needed relief to [a dog's allergies](#).



WHAT TO WEAR DOG SLEDDING





DOG HEALTH CHECKLIST



Inspect your dog on these areas regularly:

EYES

Your dog's eyes should be:

- clear
- bright
- no redness
- free of any discharge.



MOUTH

Teeth

Shouldn't have:

- Yellowish brown color
- Tartar build up
- Cracks

Gums

Should have:

- Pink color
- No foul smell
- No inflammation
- No redness

Snout

Should be no:

- Redness
- Inflammation
- Swelling
- Unusual bumps or lumps

EARS

Ears shouldn't have any

- Dirt
- Redness
- Inflammation
- Bad smell
- No scratching or constant shaking of head



NOSE

A dog's nose should be:

- Moist, not dry,
- Free of mucus & other discharge
- Have no cracks or dryness.



BODY & JOINTS

Shouldn't have

- Dull coat
- Missing fur spots
- Hot spots
- Fleas or ticks
- Bumps or lumps
- Painful spots
- Limping



PAWS

Shouldn't:

- Be dry and cracked
- Be swollen
- Have overgrown nails
- Have foul smell
- Have redness or inflammation

PEE

Shouldn't

- Have blood
- Smell very foul
- Have struggle peeing



VOMIT

Dog shouldn't normally vomit, but if he does make sure NO

- No blood
- Smell very foul
- Throw up often
- Have no appetite for more than 24 hours



POOP

Shouldn't

- Be diarrhea
- Smell very foul (more than normal)
- Have blood
- Have worms
- Have struggle pooping



If you notice anything else (not listed here) out of the ordinary, you should consult your Veterinarian

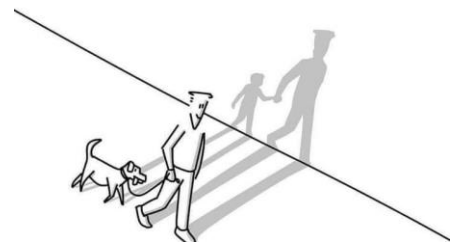
This is NOT a professional advice. Always consult your Veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns.



FOUND AT THE JUNE 15, 2018



METZGER

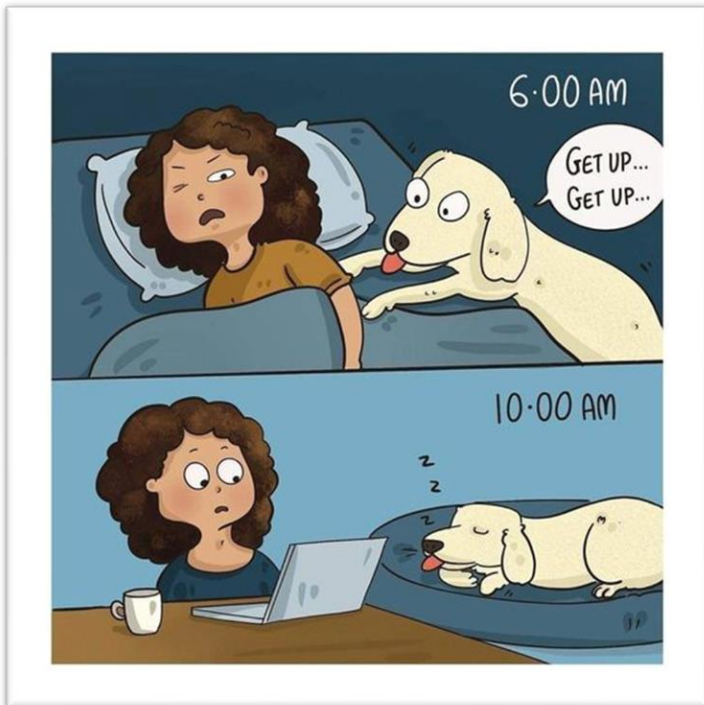


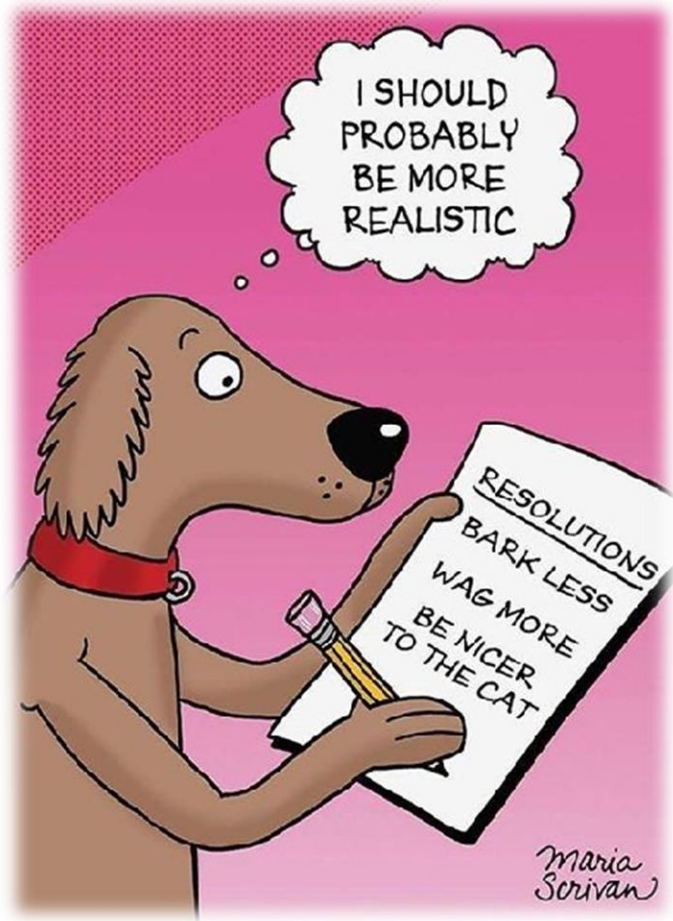
@Yo_Runner
Diana



© MARK ANDERSON

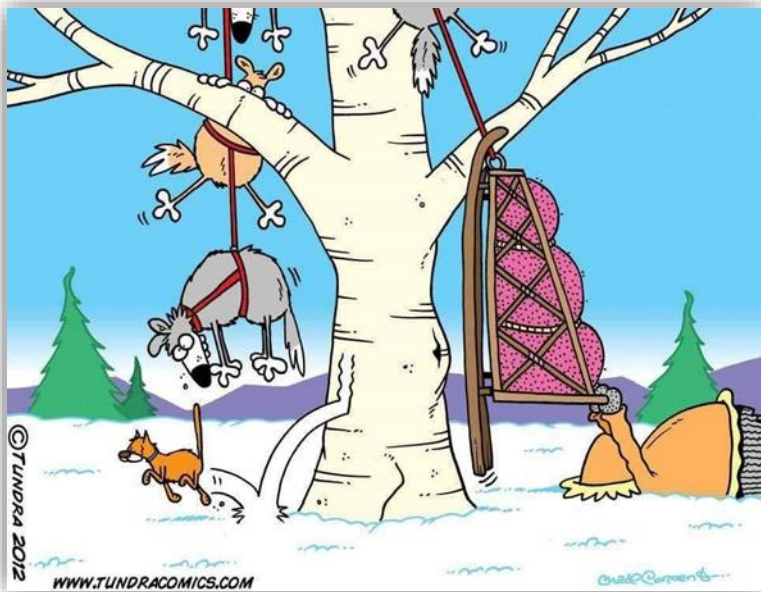
WWW.ANDERSTOONS.COM





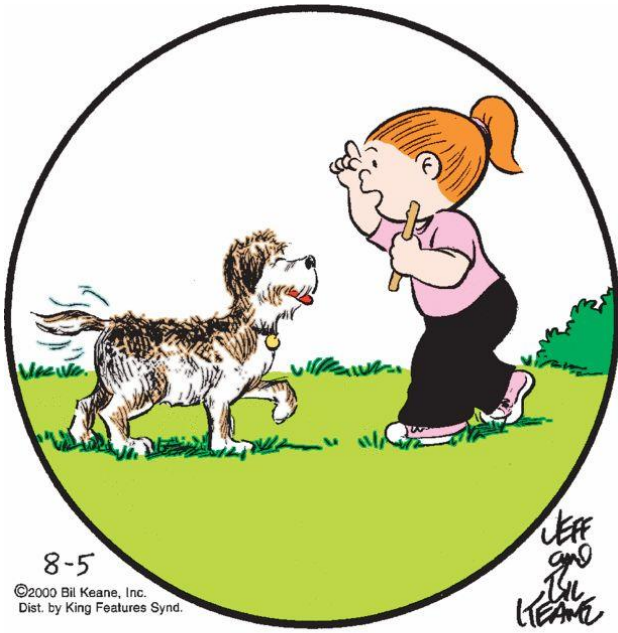
AN ALASKAN MALAMUTE'S HOUSE RULES.

- 1 DON'T COME HOME** smelling of other dogs.
- 2 I CAN SLEEP ANYWHERE** I choose even if it means you trip over me.
- 3 DON'T CALL ME** or lead me to a bath.
- 4 LET ME OUTSIDE** even though I just came in, there was an area I forgot to sniff.
- 5 YOU MUST FEED ME** every goodie you eat.
- 6 DON'T SHHHH ME** from barking while you are on the phone, I heard the wind blowing the leaves.
- 7 if it lands on the floor IT'S MINE!**
- 8 DON'T THINK** you can leave a room without me.
- 9 DON'T MOVE ME** while sleeping sideways in the middle of the bed you have enough room on the edge.
- 10 YOU WILL NEVER** pee alone again.



"I hate a pushy dog."





8-5
©2000 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.

JEFF
and
BILL
KEANE

“Sam always wants to do whatever I want to do. That’s why he got a pet-agree.”



I DON'T FEEL AS FESTIVE AS I LOOK

Maria Scrivan

DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI



DID YOU HEAR HIM MENTION HOW HE NEVER GOT TO GO WATER-SKIING LAST SUMMER ?

YEAAAAAAHHH!!

LEASH TRAINING

Happy Howlidays!



dddddeadline

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is **April 15, 2025** – please send your articles / pictures / Brags & Cries / cartoons / Odds & Ends to Sherri Taylor at: taylor_sd_1@yahoo.com



Past issues are available on our website. Please check out our club’s website scamc.org and our [Facebook](#) presents, too.



We have a photo gallery on our website as well. If you would like to see something added onto the website or on Facebook, please contact Sherri Taylor at: taylor_sd_1@yahoo.com





MALIBU KENNEL CLUB



Lake Perris Four Days of Shows March 6 – 9, 2025



Lake Perris State Recreation Area
17801 Lake Perris Dr
Perris, CA 92571

Our Premium will be located within the Malibu Kennel Club's Premium

Thursday: SCAMC Independent Specialty
Specialty Judge: [Joan Lunas Liebes](#)

Friday: Malibu KC Show 1
Working Judge: [Dr Steven L Keating](#) NOHS Working Group: [Angela Pickett](#)
BIS: [John Constantine-Amodei](#) NOHS BIS: [Ted W Eubank](#)

Saturday: Malibu KC Show 2
Working Judge: [Blai Llobet Cervilla](#) NOHS Working Judge: [Dr Eric Liebes](#)
BIS: [Angela Pickett](#) NOHS BIS: [Lloyd J Constantine-Amodei](#)

Sunday: Malibu KC Show 3
Working Judge: [Lloyd J Constantine-Amodei](#) NOHS Working Group: [Robette G Johns](#)
BIS: [Joan Lunas Liebes](#) NOHS BIS: [Blai Llobet Cervilla](#)



* [SCAMC](#) is accepting Trophy Donations now!
6910 Beckett St., Tujunga, CA 91042





6910 Beckett St.
Tujunga, CA 91042