

The Alaskan Malamute



The Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc., would like to inform you about our wonderful breed, The Alaskan Malamute!

Congratulations! You have just become the proud owner of an Alaskan Malamute, North America's oldest and largest sledge dog. The Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. (AMCA), is an organization dedicated to the welfare of these magnificent animals and preservation of this historic breed. Applicants must meet certain criteria to be sponsored for membership and must agree to abide by our strict Code of Ethics. As a result, our members can offer information, assistance, and guidance in all aspects of Malamute ownership.

AMCA hosts numerous Specialty shows throughout the nation each year and a National Specialty once each year. These shows are excellent places to meet other fanciers and learn more about the breed through informative seminars and programs. AMCA also publishes a monthly Newsletter to which non-members may subscribe.

Who Needs a Malamute?

After all, he will excavate your back yard, chew up your shoes, run away and get lost easily, and howl if ignored or excited.

...as a puppy, he is affectionate and full of life.
...as an adult, he is majestic and dignified,
strong-willed and self-confident.

Who Deserves a Malamute?

Only someone who can keep him safely confined, exercised and trained sufficiently, fed and groomed properly, and current on medical care. Only someone who plans to lovingly care for him for his 10-14 year lifetime!

What Is a Malamute Really Like?

Of the three arctic breeds (Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, and Alaskan Malamutes), he is the largest. His strength and endurance are second to none.



As a puppy, he is affectionate and full of life. Chewing is one of his bad habits; therefore, crate training is recommended when you are unable to supervise him indoors. He may argue about leash-breaking, but he is highly intelligent and will learn quickly, enjoying the camaraderie and exercise from daily walks. He must learn to relinquish his food and toys on command, but these lessons must be accomplished with fairness and patience.

As an adult, he is majestic and dignified, strong-willed and self-confident. You may find him to be more reserved with strangers. The Malamute loves children but, like all large dogs, should be supervised during interaction. He is unsuitable for guard work, although his size alone will discourage intruders. It is not unusual for a Malamute to become intolerant of other dogs of the same sex; therefore, caution must be exercised when introducing him to other canines, regardless of their size.

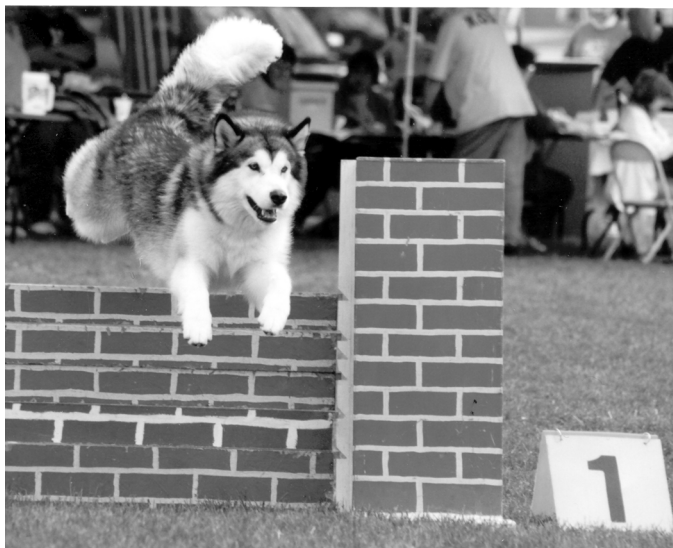
Now that you have him...

...what will you do with him?

A Malamute is a pack animal with the natural instinct to "lead or be led"; therefore, training must begin early. Because he is independent and smart, he may be a little harder to train than other breeds, but don't become discouraged! He is a true athlete—a dog with which you can enjoy sledding, weight-pulling, back-packing, jogging, and even swimming in the summer months. All Malamutes can earn an Obedience Title, Canine Good Citizenship Award, or one of the various Working Degrees. "Show Quality" Malamutes can also compete for an AKC Championship.

The Malamute cannot be allowed to grow up lacking controlled socialization with humans or animals, or he may become dominant over people he doesn't respect and aggressive with other dogs and cats. A sensible combination of love and discipline will result in a devoted, trustworthy companion.

For his general care, the Malamute should be fed a high-quality diet. His body should be trim and hard with no excess fat. He should receive yearly inoculations and be checked for parasites regularly. Your veterinarian should likewise check his ears and teeth with each visit. While not a high-maintenance dog, the Malamute's coat should receive regular combing and brushing to remove dead hair. Bathing is occasionally necessary to remove dirt and oil and to keep the coat in healthy, shining condition.



What About Breeding?

As a general rule, don't. Breeding is a serious business and a monumental responsibility; therefore, time should be taken to know the Malamute well before such an undertaking. All animals to be used in a breeding program should be of the highest quality, temperamentally sound, and certified clear of hip dysplasia, chondrodysplasia, eye disease, and a variety of other genetic diseases. Thousands of animals are destroyed annually because they are unwanted. Don't breed unless you are financially and ethically prepared to do it properly!

Lost Dog?

Protect your Alaskan Malamute in case it is lost. Identify your Malamute with a collar and tags. A permanent identification with a microchip or tattoo can be registered with AKC's Companion Animal Recovery. A 24-hour toll-free hotline helps locate the owners. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. For information, call 800-252-7894.

Help?

Certainly! The AMCA was formed with you in mind. We can answer questions about puppies, adults, temperament, training, activities, rescue, and shows in our area. We have a very active rescue organization; check our website for national and local rescue addresses. Please ask for help with problems if they occur—avoid the need for rescue at a later date.



AMCA
For more information,
visit our website:
www.alaskanmalamute.org