

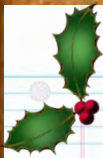


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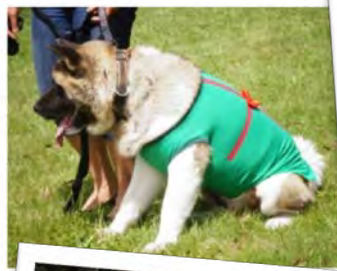
Christmas Fun Day

1 December, Mt Macedon



Fun Agility Competition Results

Merv & Iggy	35 seconds
Ian & Wilfred	35 seconds
Simon & Kaya	40 seconds
Colin & Rush	45 seconds
Ian & Luna	45 seconds
Jill & Aurora	50 seconds
Colin & Jai	65 seconds
Tyler & Cricket	70 seconds
Merv & Ava	70 seconds
Ian & Finn	70 seconds
Sharen & Ryme	80 seconds
Mel & Chardy	85 seconds
Alex & Zorro	170 seconds





Alaskan Malamute Club Victoria, Inc.

Registered No. A0016353X

PATRON: Mrs Olive Singer

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mrs Dulcie Sullivan, Mrs Sandy Koch & Mr Ian Luke

Postal Address:

PO Box 41, Hurstbridge
VIC 3099

General Enquiries:

Ralph & Sandy Koch
9714 8540
Email:
amcv@bigpond.com.au

2013/2014 Committee

President:

Ian Luke
0417 103 615

**Vice President
(Breed Welfare):**

Antoinette Wagenvoort
0401 614 994

**Vice President
(Activities):**

Sharen McPhan
0410 192 210

Secretary

Sandy Koch
(03) 9714 8540

Treasurer:

Ralph Koch
(03) 9714 8540

Show Secretary:

Lorraine Green
5784 1849

Puppy Registrar/Referral:

Michele Nimmo
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Publicity/Education:

Dayna Manser
0433 061 655

Fundraising:

Sharen McPhan
0410 192 210

Malamute Health:

Anna Paxton
0403 758 664

Newsletter Editor:

Sandy Koch
(03) 9714 8540

Obedience:

Marty Cord
0497 214 410

Sledding:

Ralph Koch
(03) 9714 8540

Weight pull:

Melanie Gray
0404 104 619

Backpacking:

Stuart Vanderpol
0413 118 305

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And welcome to the first edition of the Malamute Mail for 2014. We wish you all the very best for the coming year, and hope you'll join us in some of the fun we'll have in the coming months.

Our final event for 2013, our Christmas Fun Day, was a great day as always. We had a lovely turn out and lots of fun.

Once again our Activities Team have put together a calendar of events designed to keep you and your dogs busy and entertained, and again, we wish to see the focus on fun. Events kick off with training events for both weight pull and sledding, perfect for beginners and the experienced, so come along and have some fun.

Our Champ Show is once again in November. This year we have a Breed Specialist from Israel, Mr Arie Scharwz. Arie is well known through Facebook, and despite being from Israel has a long history of being involved in working dogs, including having published a book on the subject. I'm looking forward to watching Arie's judging, and am a little disappointed at not being in a position to enter.

I hope the coming year brings you and yours health and happiness. Stay safe.

Ian Luke



SCALE OF CHARGES

Membership:

Joining fee	\$10.00
Single (VCA Member)	\$30.00
Non VCA	\$36.00
Double/Family (VCA Member)	\$35.00
Non VCA	\$48.00
Special Interstate (Non-voting)	\$25.00

Other:

"A" Suffix Application	\$5.00
Ch'd Certification	\$10.00
Working Dog Title Application	\$30.00

Non Members:

All advertising for non-members are double the standard rates.

Malamute Mail Advertising:

Members' rates:

Inside front cover – colour	\$50.00
Full page	\$30.00
Full Page - copy ready	\$20.00
Half Page	\$20.00
Half Page - copy ready	\$15.00
Quarter page	\$5.00
Eighth Page: per issue	\$3.00
or per year	\$15.00
Stud Dog Register (1 year)	\$50.00
Breeders Directory (1 Year)	\$25.00
Puppy Register	\$25.00
Vale Notice (quarter page)	Free.
Normal rates apply for full and ½ pages.	

All Advertisers who pay for a year's advertising will also have their ad placed onto the AMCV website at no extra cost.



2014 Activities Calendar

Please note that this calendar is subject to amendment at the discretion of the AMCV Committee. Scheduling of some events may be altered due to temperature restrictions. Please contact the AMCV or check the website to confirm event schedule & venues

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Event	Venue
FEBRUARY	Wednesday	26	Meeting	Committee	Bulla
MARCH	Sunday	16	Activities	Activities Intro Day	Mt Macedon
	Thursday	27	Meeting	General & Show Point score presentation	Bulla
	Sunday	23	Backpacking	Picnic Fun walk	Brimbank Park
	Sunday	30	Weight Pull	Weight Pull Training "Boot Camp"	KCC Park
APRIL	Saturday	5	Backpacking	1-day hike	Mt Macedon
	Sunday	6	Weight Pull	Weight Pull Competition	KCC Park
	Saturday	12	Show	Open Show	Bulla
Easter	Fri-Sun	18-20	Backpacking	3-day hike (<i>Pre-registration essential</i>)	TBC
	Sat/Sun	26/27	Sledding	Sledding Training Day / weekend	You Yangs
MAY	Sunday	4	Weight Pull	Weight Pull Competition	KCC Park
	Saturday	10	Backpacking	Day Hike 2	Blackwood
	Saturday	17	Sledding	Sled Dog Race - Event 1	You Yangs
	Sunday	18	Sledding	Sled Dog Race - Event 2	You Yangs
	Saturday	31	Sledding	Sled Dog Race - Event 3	You Yangs
JUNE Queen's B'day	Sunday	1	Sledding	Sled Dog Race – Event 4	You Yangs
	Sat - Mon	7- 9	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>Northern Victorian Sled Dog Classic</i>	<i>Kialla West</i>
	Sunday	15	<i>Weight Pull</i>	<i>Weight Pull Competition (ASTCV)</i>	KCC Park
	Sat / Sun	28/29	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>Gold Seekers Sled Dog Race (Point Score 5)</i>	<i>TBA</i>
JULY	Saturday	5	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>NVSDC (AMCV Point Score event 6)</i>	<i>Wellsford</i>
	Sunday	6	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>NVSDC (AMCV Point Score event 7)</i>	<i>Wellsford</i>
	Sat / Sun	19/20	Sledding	State Cup Sled dog race – Event 8	You Yangs
AUGUST	Sat / Sun	2/3	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>Falls Snow Race</i>	<i>Falls Creek</i>
	Sat / Sun	9/10	<i>Sledding</i>	<i>A5K Snow Race</i>	<i>Dinner Plain</i>
	Sat / Sun	30/31	Sledding	Long distance & social weekend	You Yangs
SEPTEMBER	Saturday	6	Backpacking	Day Hike 3	You Yangs
	Sunday	14	Weight Pull	Weight Pull Event (Tuggy Shield)	KCC Park
	Friday	26	Show	<i>Melbourne Royal Malamute judging</i>	<i>Showgrounds</i>
	Sunday	28	Activities Obedience	Activities Introduction & Breed Information Obedience Practice Session	Templestowe
OCTOBER	Saturday	4	Backpacking	Day Hike 4	TBA
	Thursday	9	Meeting	Annual General / Committee	Bulla
	Sunday	12	<i>Weight Pull</i>	<i>Weight Pull Competition (ASTCV)</i>	KCC Park
	Sunday	19	Backpacking	Picnic Fun walk	Westerfolds Pk
	Sat/Sun	25/26	Sledding	Sledding training weekend	You Yangs
NOVEMBER	Sat -Mon	1-3	Backpacking	3-day Hike	TBA
	Sunday	2	Show	Championship	Sunbury
	Wednesday	12	Meeting	Committee	Bulla
	Sunday	30	Christmas Fun Day	Includes BBQ, Funny classes & Fun Agility Comp	Mt Macedon

Events not conducted by the AMCV are in italics

For further details please go to the AMCV Website closer to the event date, or check the next issue of the Malamute Mail.

Email: amcv@bigpond.com.au

Website: www.amcv.org.au

General Enquiries: Phone (03) 9714 8540

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY & RESTRICTIONS: Please note that temperature restrictions apply to some activities. In addition, events may be cancelled if forecast temperature on day of event is equal to or greater than 30°C, or in extreme weather conditions unless otherwise indicated. Please phone or email to confirm.

Working Dog Titles

Please note that a \$30.00 application fee is payable upon submission of Working Dog Title applications. Applications must be submitted one month prior to the Annual General Meeting in order for awards to be presented at the AGM. Application forms for AMCV Working Dog Titles can be obtained from the Secretary or can be downloaded from the AMCV website Documents & Forms page at www.amcv.org.au.

New Champions

Members whose Alaskan Malamutes have gained an Obedience Title, Australian Champion Title, Grand Champion Title or have become a 500 point Champion are eligible for a medallion from the Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria Inc. in recognition of their Malamutes achievement. To receive a medallion, members must send a copy of the relevant certificates to the Show Secretary, Lorraine Green, PO Box 216, Broadford, Victoria, 3658 or email to amcv@bigpond.com.au. The medallions will be presented at the next Annual General Meeting. Notifications must be received prior to the 31st of August to enable the medallion to be engraved. If you need further details please contact the Show Secretary on 5784 1849.

2014 Show Point Score Competition

To enter in the 2014 Show Point Score Competition, please send a marked and signed catalogue (Malamute results & cover pages only) to the Show Secretary, Lorraine Green at PO Box 216, Broadford VIC 3658, or hand your catalogue to Nicole or Dale Green.

This is the official organ of The Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria Inc. (Incorporations Registration No. A0016353X). Subscription is by membership only. The Editor and Publisher reserve the right to edit all copy including advertisements. The club and the committee assume no responsibility for false claims or articles submitted by the public or individual members or persons. Any views submitted may not necessarily be those of the club or committee

MOVING?



Change of address notifications must be made in writing to the Secretary at PO Box 41, Hurstbridge VIC 3099 or by email to amcv@bigpond.com.au

Malamute Mail

AUTUMN 2014 ISSUE

Copy Deadline: **15 March 2014**

If you have any letters, photos, or items of general interest to the members please email them to the Newsletter Editor, Sandy Koch at amcv@bigpond.com.au or mail to: **PO Box 41, Hurstbridge VIC 3099**

Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria Inc.

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 27 March 2014

to commence at 7.30 pm
Bulla Exhibition Centre, 5 Uniting Lane, Bulla
Melways Map Reference 177 G 8

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous General Meeting
(as published in the April 2013 Malamute Mail)
3. Correspondence
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports
6. General Business
7. Any other business
8. Show Point Score Award Presentations



Entries Close Wednesday, 26th March, 2014



Alaskan Malamute Club Victoria, Inc.

Inc Reg. No A0016353X

Open Show

To be held at

Bulla Exhibition Centre, Uniting Lane, Bulla

Saturday, 12th April, 2014

Judge: MR MICHAEL HIGGINS



Entries, accompanied by the Fees, to be sent to the Show Secretary
Mrs Lorraine Green, PO Box 216 Broadford. 3658 Ph. 03 57841849
 Cheques to be made payable to **The Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria Inc.**

- Catalogue:** \$3.00 please order and pay with entry
Entry fees Per class : \$7.00 (includes all levies).
 Special Classes \$2.50 per class, 5 entries or more \$2.00 each
 Desexed Classes \$5.00
 Entries not accepted without fees.
- Judging Times:** Judging commences at 11.00 am with Breed Classes. Special Classes after General Specials.
Fixture Closes: 5 pm
Exhibit Numbers: A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed for return of exhibit numbers, otherwise exhibit numbers are to be collected from the Show Secretary on the day of the Fixture.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

Dogs: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 21** Bitches: **1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 11a, 21a**

SPECIAL CLASSES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 18 Best Desexed Dog | 26 Best Coat: Bitch |
| 18a Best Desexed Bitch | 27 Best Head: Dog |
| 24 Best Gait | 28 Best Head: Bitch |
| 25 Best Coat: Dog | 30 Best Tail |

Baby Puppies may only compete against other Baby Puppies and are not eligible for Special Classes

Champion Class - The winners of these classes are not eligible to compete for Best Dog, Best Bitch, or Best of Breed, therefore can only compete for Best Champion in Show. The Champion class shall be judged first.

Classes 18 & 18a: Desexed dogs and bitches can only compete in this class.

Classes 24 to 30: To compete in Special Classes 24 to 30 exhibits must be entered and compete in at least one ordinary class – Champions may compete in these classes.

Special Prizes: Trophy and sash will be awarded to Best Exhibit, Runner up to Best Exhibit, Best of each Class. Sashes only will be awarded to Best Opposite Sex of each class and for all Property class winners. Trophy list incomplete (refer catalogue for full details)

Donations Required

Donations are requested for trophies and sashes for our Open Show to be held on Saturday, 12 April at the Bulla Exhibition Centre. Donations required are \$10.00 for a sash and \$15.00 for a trophy.

Donations will be acknowledged in the Open Show catalogue.

If you are able to make a donation, please contact the Show Secretary, Lorraine Green on 5784 1849 or email: amcv@bigpond.com

Information & Activities Day

Sunday, 16 March 11 am – 1 pm

Mt Macedon – Days Picnic Ground, Lionshead Rd

Melways Map Reference 609 G10



Backpacking



Showing



Weight Pulling



Sledding

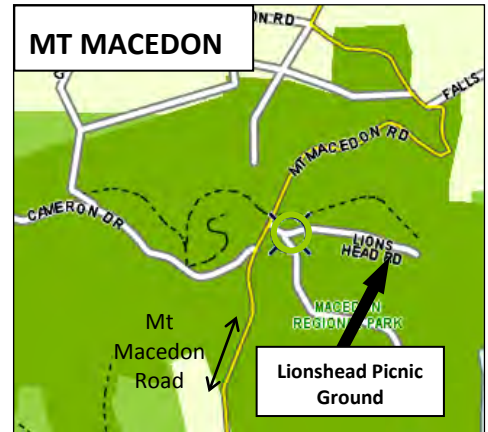


Obedience, Agility & Puppy Socialising

You do not need your own equipment – we will have equipment that you can borrow to try the activities. The Dog Shop will be there with harnesses, dog-lines, collars, backpacks and other working-dog and Malamute related items for sale.

PLEASE NOTE:

In extreme weather conditions or if forecast temperature on day of activities is equal to or greater than 30 degrees, please contact Ralph or Sandy to confirm if event will be held.



The Malamute is a working breed that loves to get involved in all these activities.

The Introduction to Activities Days are an ideal opportunity for those who would like to find out more about their Malamute and what's involved in showing, obedience training or working activities, and how to get started.

Further Information:

Phone Sharen on 0410 192 210 or Sandy on 9714 8540

Obedience enquiries to Marty on 0425 776 295



OBEDIENCE PRACTICE & PUPPY SOCIALISING

The AMCV will also be conducting Obedience Practice sessions & Puppy Socialising on the same day at the same venue commencing at 11.30 am.

All Welcome - do your dogs a favour and come along!

Non-members, puppies and other breeds of dog are also very welcome

Picnic Fun Walk



Sunday, 23 March – 11.30 am
Brimbank Park, East Keilor – Meet at Car Park C
 Melways Map Reference 14 H10

Who Can Join In?

Anyone and their dog(s) are welcome to come along. Please note that young puppies should only walk a short distance and must have had their 3rd (16 week) vaccination at least a week prior.

All breeds and non-members welcome – it will help us if you could let us know if you are thinking of coming along.

Cost: Gold coin donation

What to bring:

Bring your lunch. Your dog will require a sturdy lead & collar, water & water bowl for your dog and bags to clean up after your dog.

PLEASE NOTE: Dogs are to be kept **on lead or suitably tethered at all times** and remain the responsibility of their owner/handler.

Walk Etiquette:

Please remember that not everyone likes big dogs and some people may be scared of them.

- Dogs on the walk must be kept **on lead at all times**.
- Keep to the left on the paths, give way to other users and watch out for bikes.
- You must clean up after your dog.
- Be courteous and respectful of other people and their dogs, and keep your dog at a suitable distance.

Walk Distance:

Approximately 2-4 km of undulating paths - you can do as much or as little as you like.



Weather & Temperature:

The event may be cancelled if the forecast temperature on the day is 30oC or over or in the case of extreme weather conditions – if so please contact the Backpacking coordinator or check the website to confirm.

Registration & Further information:

Contact the Backpacking Coordinator, Stuart Vanderpol on 0413 118 305 or Sandy Koch on 9714 8540 or send an email to amcv@bigpond.com

Facilities at Brimbank Park:

Toilets and picnic tables. Drinks and some light snacks (scones, biscuits etc.) can be purchased from the Leaping Lizard Café.

Please pre-register

Please contact Stuart or email amcv@bigpond.com if you are coming to the fun walk to give us an idea of numbers and notify Stuart if you wish to hire a backpack (hire fee \$5.00).

This will be a short easy walk so everyone and their dogs and puppies over 6 months old are welcome.

We welcome non-members and other breeds

Bring your picnic lunch.



Weight-Pull Training Day

Weight Pull information, demos, training & practice

When: Sunday, 30 March, commencing at 10.00 am

Where: KCC Park, Westernport Highway, Skye
(near Cranbourne) Melways Map Reference 128 H 12

Who can come? The AMCV Weight Pull Training Day is an ideal opportunity for those who are interested in having a go at weight pulling with their dog to find out what it's all about and give it a try.

We welcome all breeds of dog, those who've never tried weight-pulling before and those who just want to give their dogs some practice.

Equipment: You don't need your own equipment, but if you have it please bring it. The club will have harnesses in a range of sizes for participants to borrow for the day as well as other Malamute equipment for sale and provision for dogs to be measured and harnesses to be ordered.

Further Information:

Ph: Mel Gray 0404 104 619 or Sharen McPhan 0410 192 210

Email: amcv@bigpond.com.au



All breeds, newcomers, non-members, and those who just want some weight-pull practice are all welcome.

Bring your dog along and try Weight Pulling!

WEIGHT-PULL RESULTS

13 October 2013 – ASTCV Event



Weight class	Place	Mal Place	Owner / Handler	Dog	Breed	Dog's weight (kg)	Weight Pulled (kg)	Time (seconds)	Weight / weight ratio
≥ 18 kg	1		Katrina Coulson	Deacon	SBT	17.80	160	40.78	8.99
19-27 kg	2	1	Ian Luke	Luna	AM	27.55	727	15.37	26.39
	3		Ian Luke	JJ	AST	25.30	496	14.53	19.60
	4		Angela Hart	Raven	AST	25.25	496	1.04	19.64
	5		Lee Parry	Matrix	VIS x	20.50	454	31.88	22.15
	6		Donna Treadwell	Fonz	SBT	19.85	412	44.47	20.76
	7		Eliza Perry	Lilly	AST	24.25	286	5.28	11.79
	28-36 kg	9		Eliza Perry	Mack	AST	30.80	913	22.19
10		1	Ian Luke	Daisy	AM	28.60	601	39.63	21.01
37-45 kg	1	1	Bradley Acht	Shadow	AM	41.80	973	11.22	23.28
	2		Jonathan Brimacombe	Rasti	AM x AK	40.50	538	10.97	13.28
	3		Mel Gray	Zorro	AM	40.80	286	16.75	7.01

Highest Pull for the Day: 973 kg pulled by Shadow

** Non-registered Malamute*

Best Pull for the Day: Weight:Weight ratio of 29.64 pulled by Mack (Am Staff)

Best Pull of the day (Alaskan Malamute): Weight:Weight ratio of 26.39 pulled by Luna



2014 Weight-Pull Events

ENTRIES TAKEN ON THE DAY – NO PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED

Venue:

KCC Park - Westernport Highway (Dandenong-Hastings Road), Skye
(Approx. 1.5 km south of Thompsons Road roundabout) Melways Map Reference 128 H 12

Weightpull Event Format & Schedule:

Events will be conducted as per AMCV Weight-Pulling rules – copies of the rules are available on the AMCV website at www.amcv.org.au or from the Weight-pull Co-ordinator.

Competitors are asked to arrive in plenty of time to register, weigh-in and organise equipment if necessary. The AMCV & ASTCV have weight pull harnesses available in a range of sizes that competitors can hire for the event (fees below).



No.	Event Details	Date	Venue	Registration / Weigh-in	Start time
	AMCV Training Day	30 March	KCC Park	10.00 am	10.15 am
1	AMCV	6 April	KCC Park	9.45 – 10.15 am	10.30 am
2	AMCV	4 May	KCC Park	9.45 – 10.15 am	10.30 am
3	ASTCV	15 June	KCC Park	9.45 – 10.15 am	10.30 am
4	AMCV – Tuggy Shield	14 September	KCC Park	9.45 – 10.15 am	10.30 am
5	ASTCV	12 October	KCC Park	9.45 – 10.15 am	10.30 am

*** NOTE – Events may be cancelled if forecast temperature on day of competition is over 25°C.**

Please contact the relevant Weight Pull Coordinator to confirm

The ASTCV events on 15 June and 12 October are included in the AMCV Annual Weight Pull Competition.

NB: Event 5 2013 – 13 October 2013 will count towards the 2014 annual competition
Event 5 2014 – 12 October 2014 will count towards the 2015 annual competition

Registration, Weigh-in and Practice: Competitors are asked to arrive in plenty of time to register, weigh-in and hire equipment if necessary. Competitors are welcome to practise in the weight-pull chute prior to commencement of the event.

PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Eligibility: Any dog over 18 months of age (but not bitches in season) may compete in an AMCV weight-pull event, however please note that only purebred, ANKC-registered Alaskan Malamutes are eligible to compete for major prizes and annual awards, and the competing Malamute's registered name and registration number must be included on this entry form. Trophies or ribbons awarded to all class winners and placings (all breeds).

Entry Fees:

ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN ON THE DAY
NO PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED.

AMCV / ASTCV Members:

First entry \$8.00, subsequent entries \$6.00.

Non-members:

First entry \$12.00, subsequent entries \$10.00

Harness Hire Fees:

\$5.00 per harness, plus \$15.00 bond
(bond is refundable upon return of harness)

Further Information:

AMCV Events: Phone: Mel Gray 0404 104 619 Email: amcv@bigpond.com.au

ASTCV Events: Phone Lincoln Hancock - 0409 135 800 Email amstaff@live.com.au

Extreme Weather Policy

Please note that a temperature restriction applies to this activity. In addition, events may be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. Please phone or email to confirm if you are unsure.

Weight Classes*:

- Up to 36 kg class
- 36 – 45 kg class
- 46 - 55 kg class
- Unlimited class

*Additional weight class will be available for Am Staffs only.

NB: Dog's weight is rounded down to nearest whole kilogram to determine weight class.

ALL BREEDS WELCOME

AMCV ANNUAL WEIGHTPULL COMPETITION RULES

Classes on offer will be:

< 36kg, 36kg – 45kg, 45kg - 55kg, Unlimited

The requirements of the AMCV Weight Pulling Rules apply – copies are available from the Weightpull Co-ordinator or website www.amcv.org.au.

Eligibility

For a dog to be eligible for the Annual Weightpull Class Titles and Top Weightpull Dog of the Year award, the following applies:

- the owner/handler of the dog must be a current financial member at the time of the event for that result to be eligible, and must be a member at the conclusion of the annual competition.
- the dog must be a purebred ANKC registered Alaskan Malamute;
- the owner/handler must provide the dog's registered name and registration number on the entry form.

In addition, to constitute an event in a class there must be a minimum of two (2) eligible competitors in that class. If, during the course of the year, there are less than two (2) eligible competitors in a weight category no award will be given, however that dog may still be eligible for the Top Weightpull Dog of the Year award.

*Subject to amendment in the event of changes to the event schedule.

Class Awards

Class awards will be determined on the basis of a dog's highest three (3)* weights pulled in that weight class out of the maximum five (5) eligible events*. A dog that has competed in less than three (3) events is not excluded from eligibility for class awards. Annual awards will be provided for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each eligible weight class. In the event of a tie, a joint award will be provided.

Top Weightpull Dog of the Year Award

The Top Weightpull Dog of the Year title will be awarded to that dog that has achieved the highest combined weight/weight ratio calculated from that dog's best three (3) results* achieved in any of the weight classes from the five (5) eligible events*.

Results will be calculated to 2 (two) decimal places.

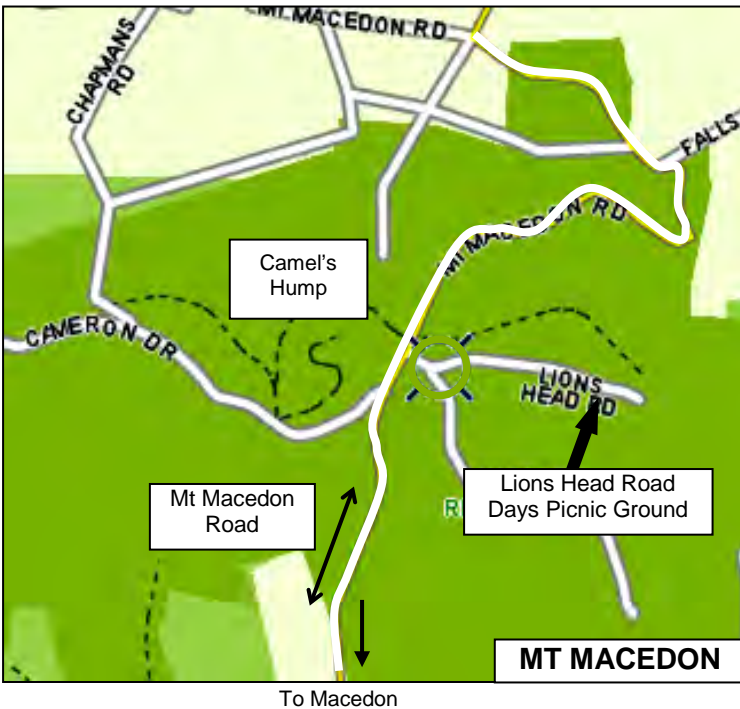
In the event of a tie a joint award will be provided.

Nominated Events

The events in which results are eligible towards the end of the year awards are listed in the Activities Calendar in the Malamute Mail and on the AMCV website www.amcv.org.au. Please note that the event schedule is subject to amendment at the discretion of the AMCV and that weather restrictions may apply.

Weightpull event results will be published in the Malamute Mail or can be obtained from the Weightpull Co-ordinator.

BACKPACKING EVENT Day Hike



SATURDAY, 5 APRIL

MT MACEDON

Days Picnic Ground, Lions Head Road

Please arrive by 8.00 am to register

Hike starting at 8.30 am sharp – do not arrive late!

Hike Distance: Approximately 16 km

Terrain: Generally undulating with some steeper sections

NOTE: Please notify the Backpacking Coordinator if you are interested in coming in case the event needs to be cancelled or rescheduled.

How to get there:

From Melbourne: follow the Calder Highway past Gisborne. Take the Macedon/Mt Macedon turn-off and turn right at the T-intersection, heading under the freeway. Continue straight ahead at the roundabout and stay on the Mount Macedon Road, go through Mt Macedon. Turn right towards Sanatorium Lake/Barringo Road taking the left fork into Lions Head Road (near the Camels Hump). Hike registration will be on your left at the far end of the picnic ground.

Who can participate:

ALL DOGS OVER 12 MONTHS OLD WELCOME.

Please note that dogs must be 18 months old to carry weight to the Working Pack Dog title standard.

New members & non-members are welcome to come along. You don't have to walk the entire distance, and your dog does not have to have a backpack or carry the entire weight – it's up to you, and your dog.

Extreme Weather Policy

Please note that a temperature restriction applies to this activity. In addition, events may be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. If unsure, please phone or email to confirm.

What to bring:

Sturdy lead & collar, canine backpack, weight for the backpack (pre-weighed), water & water bowl for your dog, basic first aid items, rubbish bags, sensible footwear, warm & waterproof clothing (the weather can be unpredictable), human backpack, food & drink, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, etc. Please load and weigh your dog's backpack to roughly the correct weight at home, this will save time on the morning of the walk.

NOTE: A first aid kit will be on hand, but walkers must carry their own basic first aid items. **Dogs are to be kept on lead at all times** and remain the responsibility of their owner/handler.

Cost: \$3.00 per member or \$5.00 per Family

Backpack Hire: \$5.00 per day – please contact co-ordinator to book a club backpack

Facilities at Days picnic ground: Toilets, Picnic tables

Further information: Phone Stuart Vanderpol on 0413 118 305 or Sandy on 9714 8540, or send an email to amcv@bigpond.com.au

NOTE: THE EVENT MAY BE CANCELLED IF THE FORECAST TEMPERATURE IS 25°C OR OVER.

If in doubt please contact the Backpacking Co-ordinator, Stuart Vanderpol, the day before the hike

Working Pack Dog Title:

This backpacking day will be a qualifying event for the Working Pack Dog title and Associate Working Dog Certificate for dogs over 18 months of age only. The rules for the Working Pack Dog title are available from the Backpacking Co-ordinator.

You will require a sturdy backpack which is sufficiently large to hold the required weights. The weight should be made up of something that is dense yet can mold to the shape of your dog: bags of damp sand and/or a soft pack of water (similar to the bladder of a wine cask) are suitable. Anyone attempting a walk should also carry a backpack containing some basic first aid items (dog & human), food (dog & human), drink (dog & human), water bowl and wet weather gear (as the weather dictates).

Your dog must carry 30% of its body weight for a minimum of 16 km for a walk to count towards the title - a dog weighing 40 kg would therefore have to carry 12 kg of weight, which is the equivalent of 12 litres of water. This is too much weight for an untrained and/or unfit dog to be expected to carry. Obviously you will need to train your dog, gradually adding more weight, before you can consider tackling the full load, and your dog will need to be fit and in excellent physical condition.

The only decrease in the weight carried by the dog on a backpacking trip may be by NORMAL consumption of food or water by your dog. What your dog doesn't drink must get poured back into the container he is carrying, and the final pack weight must be no less than 75% of the initial pack weight.

Please watch your dog carefully for signs of stress, and please remove the weight from his pack and shorten your walk if you feel that he is not coping well. You know your dog best, and it is up to you to recognise and act appropriately if he is struggling.

Sledding Training Weekend

Want to learn more about...



Backpacking



Sledding



Weight Pulling

Further Information:

Phone Ian on 0417 103 615,
Ralph & Sandy on 9714 8540 or
email amcv@bigpond.com.au

*Non-members, puppies
and other breeds of dog
are also very welcome*

PLEASE NOTE In extreme weather conditions, days of total fire ban or if the local forecast temperature on day of activities is equal to or greater than 30 degrees, event may be cancelled – please contact the AMCV by email to amcv@bigpond.com.au or phone 03 9714 8540 or 0417 103 615 to confirm.

Saturday & Sunday, 26 & 27 April

Commences 12 pm Saturday, concludes 12 pm Sunday

You Yangs Western Plantation (near Little River)

Enter from Sandy Creek Road Melways – Page 11 – Ref C12

This weekend is ideal for newcomers who want to try out the activities or for those who want to come along and do some training. There will be experienced people to help with training sessions and AMRAA will be providing catering (BBQ Saturday night, brekkie Sunday morning, and camping is available).

We can provide everything from basic obedience, to pull training, passing training, line out training, lead training, weight pull training, backpack training, even show ring training if wanted. Please let us know if there is something you want to try that is not listed.

Equipment will be available to borrow, and given the time of year, if you want to try a sledding training run, later in the evening or early in the morning is best, so camping would be best.

We'd really love to see lots of people and pooches, so put in your diary, come and have some fun!

There will also be some working-dog and Malamute related items for sale, however if you are interested in purchasing a particular item, please email the AMCV prior to the event.

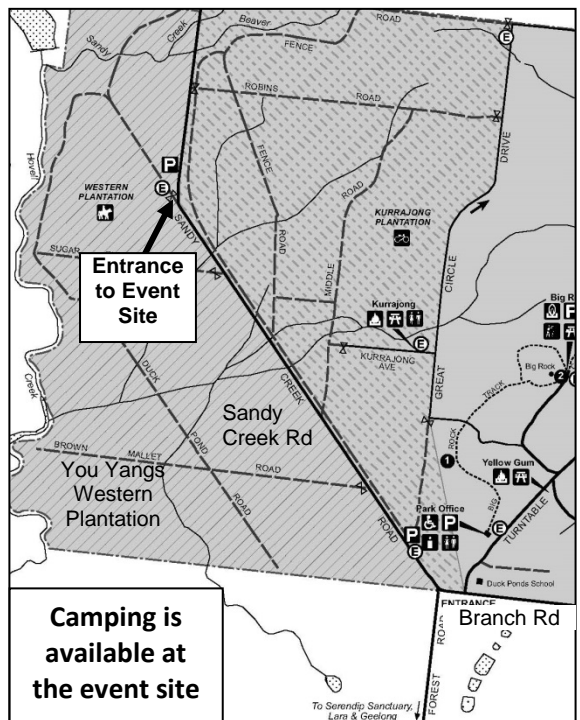
Directions :

From Melbourne – Take the Princes Highway towards Geelong. Take the Little

River turn-off and follow signs to Little River. Cross the railway line in Little River then turn left into You Yangs Rd, then left into Farrars Rd and right into Branch Rd - proceed past the main park entrance. At the end of Branch Road, turn right into Sandy Creek Rd, after approx. 2 km at the bend in the road, turn left into the Western Plantation car park.

What to bring:

Waterbowl, water and a secure means of tethering your dog. Bring your own equipment if you have it, if not there will be equipment available for you to borrow.



Camping is available at the event site



AMRAA Fundraising Barbecue

The Alaskan Malamute Rehoming Aid Australia (AMRAA) will be providing a fundraising barbecue dinner on Saturday night and a breakfast on Sunday morning, so please come along and support Malamute rescue!

All breeds & non-members welcome.
Do your dog a favour and come along!

Arie Schwarz

Profile: 2014 AMCV Championship Show Judge

I got my first Siberian Husky in the early eighties. Poof Omran Gvulot finished his Israeli and International championship within a year.

During later years I purchased dogs from Kathleen Kanzler of Innisfree and from Judith Russell of Karnovanda, and was fortunate enough to become co breeder of several generations of champions.

During the eighties I showed and handled my dogs in Israel and Europe, while taking on positions within the Israel Spitz Dog Club (ISDC) and the Israel Kennel Club (IKC). I served as the breeding coordinator of Siberians and Malamutes, club secretary and club chairman, managing director of the IKC canine college, IKC breeding committee member, stud book manager and IKC board member.

In the early nineties I got my first Malamutes from Nancy Russell's Storm Kloud in the US` and other reputable breeders from Belgium, Italy and the Czech Republic. Graduate of the IKC Canine College, having written in depth studies about the history and morphologically development of the breed and after three years apprenticeship, I was certified in 1996 as an FCI Siberian Husky judge. Two years later I was certified to judge Malamutes.

Over the years I have judged many CAC, CACIB and Specialty shows in Israel, attended National Specialty shows in the US and attended several judges' education seminars held by the SHCA. I am certified by the IKC to be a judging instructor for new judges.

About a decade ago, of personal reasons, I temporarily stopped judging for a while but continued to show dogs, attended seminars and kept tracking changes and developments in the breed around the globe.

Three years ago I returned to active judging, and was invited to judge Siberians and Malamutes in CACIB and specialty shows in Israel and England.

As for now, during 2014 I will be judging AM national specialties in Australia and France.



Along with my interest in breeding and judging, I am active in sledding and dry land mushing. I was invited to join the 1994 Storm Kloud Iditarod Race Team in Alaska, took part in many sledding boot camps in the US since, am the founder of the Israeli Dry Land mushing group (consisting around 500 members as for now) and writer of the book "All about dry land mushing" published in Hebrew, 2012, soon to be translated and published in English.

I will be certified to judge Japanese Akita, American Akita, Whippets and Salukies during 2014.

Outside the dog dome I am a lawyer, risk management expert, teacher, musician and avid stamp collector, currently working on a new thrilling project - a dog sulky manufacturing business.



20 essential facts dog lovers must always remember...

The last one made me cry so much.

These 20 essential facts all dog lovers must always keep in mind were written by [DogHeirs](#). These life lessons are sometimes easy to forget in our hectic lives, but when you remember that you are your dog's whole world, these 20 truths are unforgettable.

1. Don't ignore me for too long. I may only live for 10 to 15 years. It seems like forever when you're away from me and it hurts my heart when I don't know where you are.



Photo credit: [Christina](#)

2. Take me to new places to meet friendly people and animals. I might be frightened of them at first, but if you hold my paw through these new experiences, I'll learn to be more confident and trusting of others. I really do love to meet new friends.



Photo credit: [Anne Savage Photography](#)

3. Don't throw me away when new family members arrive. They are my family too and I will love and protect them as much as I love and protect you.



Photo credit: [Lindsey Potter](#)

4. Don't get mad at me when I jump up. I love you so much and sometimes I can't help getting excited and wanting to give you a hug.



Photo credit: [Misa Way](#)

5. Teach me new things. I love making you happy so teach me what you'd like me to do. Learning is great exercise and I love it just as much as a run at the park.



Photo credit: [Jeffrey Evans](#)

6. Don't get frustrated and give up on me. I don't understand your language, but I'm trying my best to learn. Give me time to understand what you want of me because all I want to do is please you.

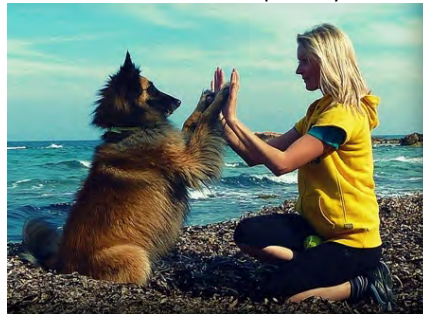


Photo credit: [Natassa Kost](#)

7. Don't take out your stress on me. No matter how your day went, I am always happy to see you and will do whatever I can to make your day better.



Photo credit: [Anna Teresa Herda](#)

8. Give me comfort when I'm scared. I always feel better when I'm with you and it may just take a moment before I understand that new things won't hurt me.



"Poor dog's terrifying first train ride..."

9. No matter how busy you are, try to spend a little bit of quality time with me every day. This is truly what I look forward to the most and every minute means so much to me.



Photo credit: [Matt](#)

10. Don't leave me outside when it's too hot or too cold. I don't have anywhere to go to stay cool or to keep warm and I don't know how to escape if I'm in a desperate situation.

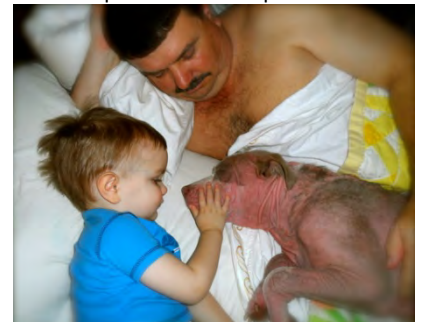


Photo credit: [Kristi Sockwell](#)

11. Don't forget the little things that keep me healthy and happy. My paws hurt if my toenails are too long and I feel much better after my coat has been brushed free of mats. I could even get sick if my teeth are too dirty. It's only minutes of your time, but it means so much to me.



Photo credit: [sarah-jane](#)

12. Trust me. I trust you with all my heart, so please trust me too. You mean the world to me.

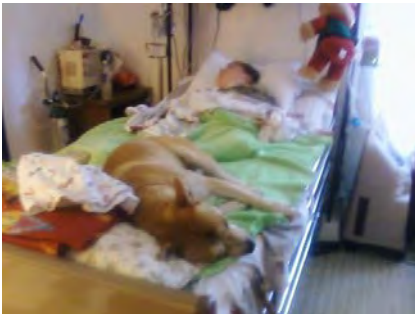


Photo credit: [paula etchieson](#)

13. Don't be angry with me for too long. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.



Photo credit: [Kim](#)

14. Talk to me. I may not understand your words, but I understand your tone and body language.



Photo credit: [ChurchinPhotography](#)

15. Always treat me with kindness. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it. The more you love me, the stronger our bond will be.



Photo credit: [Roy](#)

16. Please don't hit me. Remember that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you because I love you. If I did something wrong, I didn't mean to make you angry, so please help me understand how to not repeat it. I would much rather give you kisses.



Photo credit: [catherine krus](#)

17. Let me know whenever I've done something right. Nothing in the world makes me happier. I can tell when you're pleased with me and if I know what I've done to make you smile, you can bet your life that I will try and do it again. And again, and again, and again...



Photo credit: [juliana mckenzie](#)

18. Pay attention to me if I'm not being myself. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, please check to see if something might be bothering me. My heart may be getting old, I may be unwell, or I could even be in pain.



Photo credit: [Hans Gotun](#)

19. Take care of me when I get old, just as much as you cared for me when I was a puppy. When I was young, you spent so much time cuddling me and touching my soft fur. My fur might not be as soft and I am no longer small, but my love for you has only grown stronger.



Photo credit: [Janet Woudenberg](#)

20. Come with me on difficult journeys. I understand that it's hard for you, but please stay with me until the very end. Everything is better, easier and safer for me if you are with me. Remember, I love you.



Photo credit: [Sara Robertson](#)

Source: [DogHeirs.com](#)

Share this with your friends and family and remember that dogs are our best friends and family members for life.

Reprinted from <http://www.reshareworthy.com>



Committee Member Profile

Anna Paxton

My name is Anna Paxton and I live in Rural Victoria, with my partner Ben, our beautiful 18month old son Luka Wolf and our 8 dogs. Frost, Aloura, Cyndi, Wizard, Freyja, Shayle, Ash and Vi. (We also have 14 sheep and 3 chickens).

I have had dogs for 17 years, I got my first Alaskan Malamute Saxon then and there isn't a day that goes by that I would have it any other way. You see life without dogs just isn't the same. You could say that we love our dogs

more than people, they are great listeners and a huge comfort when you are sad or sick. I am very passionate about the Health and wellbeing of our Malamutes and strongly believe that we have so much more to do to achieve the best for our breed. I also love working our breed, in sledding, weightpull, backpacking and agility. I Own a gourmet natural dog treat business which is very important to me, as so many dogs are overweight and are being feed junk food for treats. Health is inside and out, just like us. We need to look after our pets and work together to make this breed the best it can be.

It is the best life to have; I wouldn't change a thing, except maybe get more dogs! They keep us entertained and show us unconditional love every day. It is a crazy household we live in, but the memories we make every day, makes it worth it. 🐾



The Last Place On Earth

Book review

By Roland Huntford

Huntford was for many years a journalist based in Helsinki and Stockholm. This book was first published in 1979 under the name "Scott and Amundsen".

Within the pages of this fascinating book, Huntford re-examines the details, organisation, funding and equipping of the race to the South Pole- the 1911-1912 Antarctic Expeditions of the renown Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and the British legend of Antarctic exploration, Robert Falcon Scott.

More than that, he compares and contrasts every aspect of the two expeditions, from the ships used, the diets for man and beast, clothing, through to leadership styles.

The book charts the lives of the two Expedition leaders from young adulthood through to the sad and bitter ends both met. We learn of Amundsen's life time obsession with exploration, his adventures and learning curves, and his practical approach to achieving success. And we learn of Scott's journey, driven by an inability to achieve promotion through regular service in the Navy, arriving at the rank of Captain only through support of a well-positioned sponsor, and as reward for his earlier expedition to the Great White South. But we also learn of his failings, crashing the first ship he was given command of, an unwavering habit of judging by appearances only, and an equally unwavering belief that dogs could not assist in polar exploration, notwithstanding a towering amount of evidence to the contrary.

Huntford examines the decision making processes of each man that lead to their attempts on the South Pole, lauding Amundsen, while at his kindest, describing Scott as "inept".

The value of sledge dogs to early polar exploration is highlighted time and again. Of the small number of dogs that survived the "cruel" journey, Amundsen donated a number to Mawson's fateful expedition, sealing a connection with Australia, which was Amundsen's immediate destination after leaving Antarctica triumphantly.

This book turns the history of polar exploration into an easy and fascinating read.

Thank you to Ian Luke for writing this book review.





2013 Show Point Score Final Results



Most Successful Alaskan Malamute	Points
CH NILTARAN KARUZR SHIIVA (AI)	47
CH NILTARAN ERNACE TUNGULRA	41
GR SNOWSTEEDS RUSTIC RISING	32
CH SIARNAK ZELKIE ALIEANA	26
CH SOUTHRNWOLF CATCH ME IFU CAN	19
CH NILTARAN KARUZR BLAZER (AI)	15
CH TANOME KING OF THE MOUNTAIN	13
CH NILTARAN ERNACE SAKARI	11
WHITEWARRIOR RED KLOUDS WAS (AI)	9
ICEPURE RISING AUSSIE LEGEND	9
NILTARAN KARUZR LAYLA (AI)	8
SNOWSTEEDS HARVEST SUNRISE	2
Top Alaskan Malamute Dog	
CH NILTARAN ERNACE TUNGULRA	18
CH SOUTHRNWOLF CATCH ME IFU CAN	15
GR SNOWSTEEDS RUSTIC RISING	15
CH TANOME KING OF THE MOUNTAIN	12
WHITEWARRIOR RED KLOUDS WAS (AI)	6
Top Alaskan Malamute Bitch	
CH NILTARAN KARUZR SHIIVA (AI)	34
CH SIARNAK ZELKIE ALIEANA	18
CH NILTARAN KARUZR BLAZER (AI)	14
CH NILTARAN ERNACE SAKARI	10
NILTARAN KARUZR LAYLA (AI)	8
ICEPURE RISING AUSSIE LEGEND	9
SNOWSTEEDS HARVEST SUNRISE	2
Baby Puppy Dog	
SNOWSTEEDS TRAIL BREAKER (AI)	1
Baby Puppy Bitch	
ICEPURE RISING AUSSIE LEGEND	3
Minor Puppy Dog	
SNOWSTEEDS GAME BREAKER (AI)	4
WHITEWARRIOR RED KLOUDS WAS (AI)	2
SNOWSTEEDS TRAIL BREAKER (AI)	1
Minor Puppy Bitch	
ICEPURE RISING AUSSIE LEGEND	10

Puppy Dog	Points
SNOWSTEEDS GAME BREAKER (AI)	1
WHITEWARRIOR RED KLOUDS WAS (AI)	1
SNOWSTEEDS TRAIL BREAKER (AI)	1
Puppy Bitch	
ICEPURE RISING AUSSIE LEGEND	6
SNOWSTEEDS HARVEST SUNRISE	3
TANOME DIVINE INTERVENTION (AI)	1
Junior Dog	
TANOME LEGEND OF THE KNIGHT (AI)	5
WHITEWARRIOR RED KLOUDS WAS (AI)	2
Junior Bitch	
TANOME DIVINE INTERVENTION (AI)	2
Intermediate Dog	
TANOME LEGEND OF THE KNIGHT (AI)	1
Intermediate Bitch	
CH SIARNAK ZELKIE ALIEANA	12
CH NILTARAN KARUZR BLAZER (AI)	12
CH NILTARAN KARUZR SHIIVA (AI)	9
NILTARAN KARUZR LAYLA (AI)	4
Australian Bred Dog	
CH NILTARAN ERNACE TUNGULRA	16
GR SNOWSTEEDS RUSTIC RISING	8
CH TANOME KING OF THE MOUNTAIN	7
Australian Bred Bitch	
CH NILTARAN KARUZR SHIIVA (AI)	14
NILTARAN KARUZR LAYLA (AI)	6
Open Dog	
CH NILTARAN ERNACE TUNGULRA	11
CH SOUTHRNWOLF CATCH ME IFU CAN	11
CH TANOME KING OF THE MOUNTAIN	8
GR SNOWSTEEDS RUSTIC RISING	1
Open Bitch	
NILTARAN KARUZR LAYLA (AI)	11
CH NILTARAN ERNACE SAKARI	5
CH NILTARAN KARUZR SHIIVA (AI)	5
CH NILTARAN ERNACE ZUBERI	2



2013 Show Point Score Awards Presentation

The 2013 Show Point Score Awards Presentation is being held in conjunction with the General Meeting on Thursday 27 March at the Bulla Exhibition Centre, commencing at 7.30 pm:

It would be much appreciated if the recipients of these awards could either attend the presentation or nominate a member to receive the award on their behalf.

2014 Show Point Score Competition Rules

The competition shall run from 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2014.

1. All Championship shows held in Victoria shall count (**except the Melbourne Royal & AMCV Championship Show**) and the winners will be awarded from the ten (10) best results submitted.
To be eligible for an award in the Show Point Score Competition, all registered owners of the exhibit must be current AMCV Members. Points will only be allocated if all registered owners are financial members of the AMCV at the time of the show for which results are being submitted.
2. The onus is on exhibitors to send their results to the Show Secretary, no later than one (1) month after the event together with a marked catalogue, (front cover and Judge's page along with the Alaskan Malamutes fully marked) including the best of classes in breed marked with a circle or asterisk. The exhibitor submitting the results must also sign on the front of the catalogue.
3. One exhibitor may send in the results for all those at a show, but all exhibitors who wish their results to be submitted for the competition must sign the front of the catalogue as some people may not wish to be included in the Point Score Competition.
4. There is no limit to the number of results that can be submitted, however only a competitor's ten (10) best results submitted will be published as the year progresses. Once a competitor has reached the ten (10) shows the Show Secretary will automatically adjust the points accordingly.
5. A complete record of shows submitted together with catalogues will be kept by the Show Secretary in the event of any dispute arising.
6. Trophies will be awarded to the registered owner/s of the winners at the time of submitting their dog's last results.
7. The competition will consist of Most Successful Alaskan Malamute, Most Successful Dog, Most Successful Bitch and Class awards.
 - 7.1 **Most Successful Alaskan Malamute Dog and Bitch**
Most Successful Dog and Bitch will be awarded to the dog and bitch which has the most points from the ten (10) best shows submitted.
Points will be awarded to Challenge winners on the basis of one (1) point for each dog or bitch beaten including one (1) for your dog or bitch, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) points per show
 - 7.2 **Most Successful Alaskan Malamute**
Most Successful Alaskan Malamute will be awarded to the Dog or Bitch which has the highest number of points from their ten (10) best shows submitted.
Points will be awarded to Best of Breed and Challenge winners on the basis of one (1) point for every dog or bitch beaten including one (1) for your own dog, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) points per show.

7.3 Class awards

Awards will also be given for:

- Best Baby Puppy - Dog and Bitch
- Best Minor Puppy – Dog and Bitch
- Best Puppy – Dog and Bitch
- Best Junior – Dog and Bitch
- Best Intermediate – Dog and Bitch
- Best Australian Bred - Dog and Bitch
- Best Open – Dog and Bitch

Class points will be allocated as follows: 1 point for every dog or bitch beaten in your class 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings including one (1) for your exhibit, also one (1) point for every exhibit of the opposite sex if you take your class of breed, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) points per show. Example: If there are 6 exhibits shown in a class, 1st wins six (6) points, 2nd five (5) points, 3rd four (4) points. If this 1st place winner then wins its class of breed and four (4) of the opposite sex were shown, it gains a total of ten (10) points.

Delivery
Aust wide!



GOURMET NATURAL DOG TREATS
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Obedience Sessions

Held by the Rottweiler Club of Victoria – Malamutes welcome!

- What to Bring:** Your dog, appropriate collar and lead, water & treats for your dog.
- Restrictions:** Puppies must be at least 13 weeks of age.
- Costs:** \$5 per session, or \$20 for 5 sessions.
- Where & When:** Obedience practice sessions are scheduled weekly as follows:



Date	Register	Starting	Venue / Directions
Tuesdays	7.00 pm	7.30 pm	Bulla: Calabria Club, 5 Uniting Lane, Bulla <i>Melways Map Ref. 177 F8</i>
Wednesdays	7.00 pm	7.30 pm	KCC Park, Westernport Highway, Skye (1.5 km south of Thompsons Rd) <i>Melways Map Ref. 128 H 12</i>

Check the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Website for further details and to confirm session dates www.rottwweilerclubofvictoria.com
– click on the "Training Venues" link on the left side of the homepage.

MALAMUTE PUZZLE PAGE



Help the dog find the newspaper!

Dog Trivia Questions

1. How long have dogs and humans shared a close relationship?
 - A. 5,000 years
 - B. 10,000 years
 - C. 15,000 years
2. What is the smallest breed of dog?
 - a. Shih Tzu
 - b. Chihuahua
 - c. Toy Poodle
3. How many toes do dogs have on their hind feet?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
4. What is the tallest breed of dog?
 - a. Irish Wolfhound
 - b. Great Dane
 - c. St Bernard
5. Which spectrum of colors can dogs not perceive?
 - a. Green to red
 - b. Blue to green
 - c. Red to yellow
6. Toto was played by what breed of dog in the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz"?
 - a. Border Terrier
 - b. Yorkshire Terrier
 - c. Cairn Terrier

Answers below



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Doggy Don'ts

Reprinted from www.paws.org

Tummy aches

Some foods might taste good to us, but can be very dangerous for your dogs. Make sure you don't feed your dogs these foods:

- Chocolate and other candy, cocoa and coffee.
- Grapes and raisins.
- Cooked bones from human meals.
- Milk.
- Avocado, garlic, onions.
- Moldy or spoiled food.

It's too hot

Never leave your dog in a car on a warm day. A car heats up very quickly on a sunny day. Your dog can suffer dehydration or heat stroke, and get very sick or even die.

Don't be rough

Always remember to play gently and not scare your dog. Dogs usually feel safer if all four paws are on the ground.

Don't try to pick up bigger dogs.

Be calm and gentle when playing with any dog, even your own. Dogs like to chase and use their teeth when they play with other dogs and might try to do the same with you if you are too rough.

Danger at home

Many common things found in your house can be very dangerous to dogs. For example, household cleaners, slug bait and antifreeze are all poisonous to dogs.

Dogs can choke or get an upset stomach from chewing on or eating things like decorations, string, electrical cords, plastic, rocks and sticks.

Candle flames can burn their fur and whiskers.

Trivia Answers: 1c. 15,000 years, 2b. Chihuahua, 3b. 4 toes, 4a. Irish Wolfhound, 5a. Green to red, 6c. Cairn Terrier



The Underdog Training "So Your Dog" Series

So Your Dog Pulls on the Lead

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We have all had those familiar walks. The walk that turns into a run, or leaves you with a sore shoulder at the conclusion of what was supposed to be a fun outing! Do you put off walking your dog because they pull on the lead? Do you find yourself driving to off lead areas to exercise your dog instead of enjoying a pleasant walk around your neighbourhood? Get started teaching your dog to walk well on lead- and start to enjoy your mutual exercise once again!

Why do dogs pull on the lead?

- To get to where they want to go! Many dogs have learned that the fastest way to get to their favourite places is to pull on the lead.
- The dog becomes over excited when in the presence of other dogs or people.
- The dog has not been trained to walk nicely on the lead without distractions first. The dog is too distracted when out and about to learn effectively and their behaviour deteriorates further.
- The dog is not on the most effective piece of training equipment to help them learn the loose lead walking skill
- The dog is handled inconsistently
- The dog is handled by a number of different people who all train the dog differently
- The dog does not have any reward history for walking well on lead and has plenty of reward history for pulling on the lead
- The dog is anxious, reactive or aggressive. In these cases professional assistance is required.

How to Stop the Dog Pulling on the Lead

- Desensitise your dog to their walking collar/ harness and lead. If your dog becomes extremely excited whenever they see or hear their lead, this will hinder your teaching of their loose lead walking (LLW). Move the lead around the house many times throughout the day without taking your dog for a walk each time. You will find your dog's level of excitement reduces. The more excited your dog is, the harder it is for them to process information and learn new skills.
- Practice walking at home. Yes that's right- practicing walking at home is the perfect way to start to teach your dog to walk well. Whenever a new skill is taught we like to start with low levels of distraction. Only once the dog can perform the behaviour without distraction do we start to gradually increase the difficulty. Can your dog loose lead walk from your back door to your front door? Around your back or front yard? If the answer is no, they are unlikely to be able to walk well on the street or at the park.
- Loosen your grip! Sometimes in our effort to teach the dog to walk well, WE are the ones that put tension on the lead and give the dog something to pull against. Give the dog full length of the leash- Heel is a separate exercise that we can teach once the dog can walk well with the full length of the lead available to them.
- Reward, Reward, Reward!! Have a good supply of small food rewards or your dog's kibble to use on your dog's walks. You may want to reduce their meals in the short term to prevent weight gain. Does your dog play with toys? Take a toy along that you can play tug of war with for those times when your dog ignores an exciting distraction to instead walk politely with you. Make it worth their while!!
- Use life rewards- When your dog wants to sniff a favourite tree, greet a person or dog, insist that they are walking on a loose lead before they do so. Every reward they receive for walking well will help to cement this new behaviour and it will quickly become habit, just as pulling on the lead had become habit!

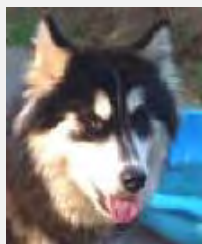
- Encourage the dog to walk on one side of your body by only providing rewards in that area. Use your left hand to place a food reward on the left side of your body. Wait for the dog to return to the area for the reward- this becomes the reward zone. Be patient- they don't know the reward is there so it may take them a moment to realise what you are doing.
- Stop and be stationary before your dog puts tension on the lead. As soon as you can see the loop in your lead is disappearing (i.e. - the dog is about to pull) STOP abruptly. Do not move forward again until the dog is back in your reward zone.
- Change direction- walking straight lines tends to encourage pulling as the dog sets their sight on something in the distance. Changes of direction and zig-zag type movements encourage the dog to check in with you as they never know which way you're going to turn. Never be afraid to do a complete 180 when walking to help get your dog's attention.
- Different family members handling differently? All the family should attend training so that they can consistently apply the same techniques to teach the dog to walk well. However, if someone in the family runs with the dog or for some reason cannot or will not carry out the training but still wishes to walk the dog- put a regular harness on the dog on these occasions while the dog is engaged in the process of learning LLW. The dog will learn that when the harness is on- they may run or pull but when their training collar is on- they must walk well. Once the dog is consistently walking well- the harness may no longer be required. This is a better option than being inconsistent with the dog from day to day
- Be Consistent! Teaching a dog to LLW is like giving up smoking- one drag and you're back to the beginning again! Whether moving towards their favourite dog friend or an interesting smell - if they attempt to pull STOP and don't move forward until the lead is loose.
- Choose the right training equipment to help your dog's training. Have you considered a Sensible (front attaching) Harness or martingale collar? Choosing the right training equipment is difficult with so many available options- it's important to choose something you can easily learn to use as well as something that suits your dog.
- Go to training! The best way to learn how to teach your dog the skill of LLW is to get some professional help. Group or private training can help to teach you the techniques needed as well as choose the best equipment for you and your dog.



The information provided in the So Your Dog Series is general in nature. We recommend seeing a qualified dog trainer and having a veterinary examination completed for the best results in resolving your dog's problems. For further information or training options, go to www.underdogtraining.com.au.

Dogs for Adoption

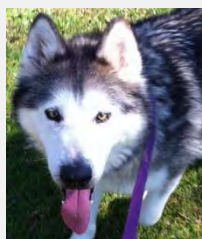
For current information about dogs for adoption in Victoria and other States please go to the AMCV website "Dogs for Adoption" page at www.amcv.org.au/AdoptionList.html or visit www.amraa.org.au



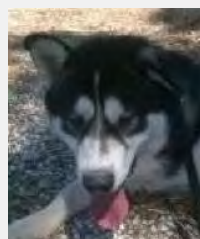
VICTORIA – Listed with AMRAA
Name: **DAKOTA**
Sex: Female - desexed
Breed: Malamute x Husky
Age: 10 months



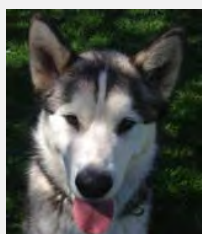
VICTORIA – Listed with AMRAA
Name: **KEESHA**
Sex: Female - desexed
Breed: Alaskan Malamute
Age: 10 years



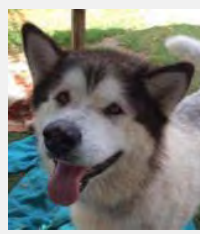
VICTORIA – Listed with AMRAA
Name: **SASHA**
Sex: Female - desexed
Breed: Alaskan Malamute
Age: 10 years



VICTORIA – Listed with AMRAA
Name: **KHAN**
Sex: Male - desexed
Breed: Alaskan Malamute
Age: 2 years



VICTORIA – Listed with AMRAA
Name: **SABRE**
Sex: Male - desexed
Breed: Alaskan Malamute
Age: 18 months



VICTORIA - AAPS Keysborough
(Australian Animal Protection Society)
Name: **MAYA**
Sex: Female - desexed
Breed: Alaskan Malamute
Age: 7 years

About AMRAA...



Alaskan Malamute Rehoming Aid Australia [AMRAA] is a not for profit group of volunteers dedicated to the rescue and rehoming of this beautiful breed.

AMRAA operates in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. Currently there are 27 dogs in care in NSW who are in need of loving, committed homes. January has seen the usual influx – we have rehomed 12 dogs in Victoria, NSW and SA but we have also had 10 come into care and another 3 come on as private rehoming.

Daisy (*top right*) has been with us longest, waiting for her new home since December 2012. She is a lovely, dog-friendly, 5 year old girl. Daisy is rather people focused, adoring cuddles and pats. She is currently in foster care with a Staffordshire Terrier and they love zooming around the yard together or having a friendly wrestle.

Hobo (*bottom right*) is another of our long term dogs, joining us in April 2013. He is a very athletic 2 year old male Malamute cross and would make a fantastic addition to any sledding team or running crew. Hobo is in foster care with an active family and it would be ideal to find him a permanent home with a similar family who will provide an outlet for all his youthful energy.

Maybe you are not prepared to adopt, but have room for another Malamute in your life, so you might consider fostering. We look for people who have breed experience, a commitment to ongoing training and those who are prepared to let the dog become a member of the family.

As Malamutes have a high prey drive, we prefer homes that have no pocket pets, small dogs or cats.

To view all of our dogs available for adoption, visit our website www.amraa.org.au , or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AMRAA.Inc> and Like our page to keep up to date on our Malamutes and events.



Can you help?

Thank you to Barb Trytko of AMRAA for sending in this AMRAA update

Reprinted from National Geographic Magazine January 2002 - <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com>



By Angus Phillips

Roddy MacDiarmid, 57, lifelong shepherd and son of a shepherd, surveys the Scottish Highlands from a ridge overlooking Loch Fyne and the little valley town of Cairndow. On one hand lies the estate of John Noble, where MacDiarmid has worked much of his life, on the other the estate of the Duke of Argyll. Black-faced lambs and ewes by the hundreds dot the green hillsides below. His Border collies, Mirk and Dot, trot faithfully behind. It's familiar turf.

"Everywhere you see," says MacDiarmid, sweeping his shepherd's crook in an all-encompassing arc, "I have gathered sheep. And I can tell you this: You cannot gather sheep from these hills without dogs. Never could and never will; never, never, ever!"

That ringing endorsement is a comfort to those of us who keep dogs but sometimes wonder why. It's good to know that somewhere dogs remain absolutely, undeniably essential to man's work while we happily wander about with our furry friends, feeding them, walking them, scooping their droppings, showering them with affection, taking them to the vet at the first glimmer of trouble. We occasionally get nipped or barked at in return, but more frequently we are rewarded with a lick on the hand or a wagging tail or a rapt willingness to listen to our most banal statements, as if they are something profound.

Dogs and people, people and dogs: It's a love story so old no one knows how it started. "The human beings who participated in the earliest domestic relationships [with dogs] thousands of years ago are all dead," says zooarchaeologist Darcy F. Morey with refreshing candour. "They cannot tell us what was in their minds or what they sought to accomplish."

And since no one had yet begun to write things down, we are left to speculate, as did the British writer Rudyard Kipling in 1912 when he offered this theory in *Just So Stories*:

"Then the Woman picked up a roasted mutton-bone and threw it to Wild Dog, and said, 'Wild Thing out of the Wild Woods, taste and try.' Wild Dog gnawed the bone, and it was more delicious than anything he had ever tasted, and he said, 'O my Enemy and Wife of my Enemy, give me another.'

"The Woman said, 'Wild Thing out of the Wild Woods, help my Man to hunt through the day and guard this Cave at night, and I will give you as many roast bones as you need.'"

That scenario (minus the talking dog, of course, of which there are none even today) would have played out about 14,000 years ago if you follow the archaeological trail to the origins of dogs, much further back if you favour DNA evidence suggesting dogs existed well before the earliest traces of their bones. Either way, this is clear: Dogs are not just our proverbial best friends in the animal world but probably our oldest. They evolved from

wolves long ago, found a home alongside humans before history makes a record, and never left.

And why would they? Dogs profited handsomely from the association. As their closest kin, wolves, dwindled to scarcity, sociable, hardworking, malleable, adaptable, lovable dogs in myriad shapes and sizes proliferated alongside humans in the globe's every corner. Today there are about 68 million in the United States alone, one for every four people. And while a few still work for their daily cup of kibble, most get free rides.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent

of them do nothing but lie around the house, bark, and eat," says contemporary writer Stephen Budiansky, grossly overstating the case to make a point. His book *The Truth About Dogs* suggests dogs get a lot more from the relationship than humans get back.

Well, they certainly aren't chewing many leftover mutton bones any more. In her Park Avenue apartment on New York's Upper East Side, Nancy Jane Loewy feeds Tiffy, her fluffy, eight-pound Maltese, twice a day from an enviable larder. Along with her dog food, says Loewy, "I'll give her a little chicken for breakfast, some steamed baby carrots, steamed broccoli, and some sweet potato - a balanced diet. For dinner I might add lamb or steak or poached salmon or tuna with steamed vegetables. And for dessert some low-fat yogurt with no sugar, may be just a teaspoon of strawberry or apricot yogurt to sweeten it, and a couple of red grapes sliced in half. Then I'll give her one or two Teddy Grahams, she likes those, and may be some Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers for snacks."

Loewy, whose husband is an investment adviser and whose two sons are away at school, has the time and wherewithal to treat Tiffy as she might royalty and delights in doing so. "I want to give her the healthiest, most wonderful life possible for as long as possible," says the slender New Yorker as the fluff-ball curls up alongside.

To that end Tiffy has a professional walker to take her to Central Park daily, is shampooed and groomed once every few weeks at Karen's, a pet emporium on Lexington Avenue, and belongs to a leashless and cageless indoor Manhattan dog club and day-care facility, Biscuits and Bath, where she can go for a few hours to exercise with peers under an attendant's eye.

Tiffy has a boyfriend, Bucky, who lives a few blocks away. "He's a handsome, fabulous male, and she's a beautiful, sensitive female," says Loewy of the happy canine couple. "We get together at least once a week for play days. Sometimes we go to the Stanhope Hotel for lunch," on a terrace where pets are permitted" or we go to Bistro du Nord on 93rd Street and share a cheese-and-fruit plate with the dogs."

Not all today's dogs are as pampered, of course. Billy Dodson, huntsman for the Thornton Hill Hounds near Sperryville, Virginia, keeps a pack of 90 mostly Penn-Marydel fox hounds in an old cattle barn and fenced yard in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the hounds sleep rough in unpainted wooden barracks and live on a spartan diet. Dodson, who has worked with hounds for 40 of his 55 years, assembled the pack over a two-year span and "never paid anything for any of them," instead accepting donations and trades from other huntsmen, as is the custom in the fox hunting world. He subsequently crossbred some Penn-Marydels with American fox hounds to create his own unique subtype.

Dodson has a name for each of his charges and can pick them all out on sight, though they look much alike to the unpracticed eye. He even can identify them by voice. As we stand outside the barn one bright spring morning, a dog barks. "Shut up, Sarge," shouts Dodson, adding in an aside, "I won't keep a

mouthy hound." Sarge, wherever he is behind those walls, dutifully pipes down.

Dodson takes pride in feeding his dogs for just a dollar a week apiece, though in winter he sometimes has to boost rations and it gets costlier. Once a day the ravenous, 60-pound hounds devour a heap of fatty scraps from an abattoir that processes buffalo meat, and Dodson augments the scraps with dry food he buys wholesale in 50-gallon drums.

As doted on, by contrast, as Tiffy is, she seems no more content nor fit than any of the hounds. They get to chase after foxes through dappled woods and fields three times a week with horseback riders in keen pursuit during the hunting season from August to March and are exercised twice a week in the off-season. They are lean athletes that take confinement in stride, waiting for the next chance to run.

I tag along for an exercise session with Dodson, who brings whippers-in to keep the hounds in check. A walk with his pack is as much an exercise in discipline as a physical exercise. The whippers-in snap their leather at dawdlers to keep the pack tight and focused on the huntsman, who with his horn and bag of kibble looks every bit the Pied Piper in overalls.

The whippers-in are Dave Ingram, a retired banker from Culpeper, and Beth Opitz, a housewife, fox hunter, mother, and hound lover from Berryville, who drives a couple of hours round-trip twice a week to help Dodson. Ingram says listening to the hounds chase a fox along a ridgetop on an autumn day "makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck." Opitz, who grew up with a pack of hounds her veterinarian father still keeps in Pennsylvania, loves fox hunting so much, she says, "If I got a second life and could choose how to live it, I'd live it as a hound." Short of that she keeps a pack of 17 beagles in a pen behind her house and uses them to chase rabbits twice a week with her husband and two children.

If Loewy, Dodson, and Opitz seem extreme in their affection for dogs, they are hardly alone. Dogs are kept in 40 million U.S. homes these days, and Americans spend billions of dollars a year on dog food and dog health care. What then of this abiding affection of humans for dogs, and dogs of all stripes for humans? How and why did it start?

Genetic studies show that dogs evolved from wolves and remain as similar to the creatures from which they came as humans with different physical characteristics are to each other, which is to say not much different at all. "Even in the most changeable mitochondrial DNA markers [DNA handed down on the mother's side], dogs and wolves differ by not much more than one percent," says Robert Wayne, a geneticist at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Wolf-like species go back one to two million years, says Wayne, whose genetic work suggests dogs of some sort began breaking away about 100,000 years ago. Wolf and early human fossils have been found close together from as far back as 400,000 years ago, but dog and human fossils date back only about 14,000 years, all of which puts wolves and/or dogs in the company of man or his progenitors before the development of farming and permanent human settlements, at a time when both species survived on what they could scratch out hunting or scavenging.

Why would these competitors cooperate? The answer probably lies in the similar social structure and size of wolf packs and early human clans, the compatibility of their hunting objectives and range, and the willingness of humans to accept into camp the most suppliant wolves, the young or less threatening ones. Speculators suspect, as Kipling did, that certain wolves or protodogs worked their way close to the fire ring after smelling something good to eat, then into early human gatherings by proving helpful or unthreatening. As packs of 25 or 30 wolves and clans of like-numbered nomadic humans roamed the

landscape in tandem, hunting big game, the animals hung around campsites scavenging leftovers, and the humans might have keyed off the wolves, with their superior scenting ability and speed, to locate and track prospective kills. At night wolves with their keen senses could warn humans of danger approaching.

Times might not have been as hard back then as is commonly thought. In many instances food would have been plentiful, predators few, and the boundaries between humans and wildlife porous.

Through those pores and into our hearts slipped smaller or less threatening wolves, which from living in packs where alpha bosses reigned would know the tricks of subservience and could adapt to humans in charge. Puppies in particular would be hard to resist, as they are today. Thus was a union born and a process of domestication begun.

Over the millennia admission of certain wolves and protodogs into human camps and exclusion of larger, more threatening ones led to development of people-friendly breeds distinguishable from wolves by size, shape, coat, ears, and markings. Dogs were generally smaller than wolves, their snouts proportionally reduced. They would assist in the hunt, clean up camp by eating garbage, warn of danger, keep humans warm, and serve as food. Native Americans among others ate puppies, and in some societies it remains accepted practice.

By the fourth millennium B.C. Egyptian rock and pottery drawings show hounds hunting with men, driving game into nets. Then, as now, the relationship was not without drawbacks. Feral dogs roamed city streets, stealing food from people returning from market.

Thousands of years later dogs still can be trouble. From 1979 to 1998 more than 300 people in the United States were killed in dog attacks. Most were children. In 1994, the last year data were compiled, an estimated 4.7 million Americans were bitten, 6,000 of them hospitalized. Despite their penchant for misbehaviour, and sometimes because of it, dogs keep turning up at all the important junctures in human history.

In ancient Greece, 350 years before Christ, Aristotle described three types of domesticated dogs, including speedy Laonians used by the rich to chase and kill rabbits and deer. Three hundred years later Roman warriors trained large dogs for battle. The brutes could knock an armed man from his horse and dismember him.

Dogs won few friends in the Dark Ages, when they scavenged corpses of plague victims, but they were much in favour by the second millennium, chasing rabbits and stags for British royalty. In 17th-century England dogs still worked, pulling carts, sleds, and plows, herding livestock or working as turnspits, powering wheels that turned beef and venison roasts over open fires. But working dogs were not much loved and were usually hanged or drowned when they got old.

"Unnecessary" dogs meanwhile gained status among royalty. King James I was said to love his dogs more than his subjects; Charles II was famous for playing with his dog at Council table, and his brother James had dogs at sea in 1682 when his ship was caught in a storm. As sailors drowned, he allegedly cried out, "Save the dogs and Colonel Churchill!"

By the late 19th century the passion for breeding led to creation of private registries to protect prized bloodlines. The Kennel Club was formed in England in 1873, and 11 years later the American Kennel Club (AKC) was founded across the Atlantic. Today the AKC registers 150 breeds, the Kennel Club lists 196, and the Europe-based Federation Cynologique Internationale recognizes many more. Dog shows sprouted in the mid-1800s when unnecessary dogs began to vastly outnumber working ones, as they do to this day, unless you count companionship as a job.

Which many do. In a recent survey of U.S. dog owners 94 percent listed companionship as a key benefit while only 6 percent hunted with dogs and only 4 percent used them in farming.

People find ways to keep dogs even under the toughest conditions. In New York City almost 100,000 are registered, and officials believe unregistered dogs outnumber those three to one, putting the total at roughly 400,000. Caring for a dog in a city where apartments are tiny, streets and sidewalks are packed, and indoor and outdoor space is scarce is a challenge, but New Yorkers rise to it.

In Central Park regulations that require dogs to be leashed are unenforced from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m., giving dogs and masters a chance to run free on dewy hillsides under tall trees. Patrice Bertin, who restores fine artwork for a living, takes his Basenji named Filou (it means "naughty" in French) to a hillside behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art every morning, where Filou runs in a large and astonishingly varied crowd ranging from birdlike miniature Doberman pinschers to towering Great Danes.

How do you maintain a brace of Great Danes in New York? I shout the query to their owner, running along to keep up with them. "Separate apartment," he shouts back with a crooked grin. "Two saddles!"

Bertin, who likes having Filou underfoot during solitary working days, and his fellow owners chat amiably as the dogs romp. Most are women. "It's our breakfast social club," says Letitia Corcoran, a self-proclaimed "burned-out real estate agent" who once accumulated three dogs and twelve cats in her apartment, all rescued from shelters where they awaited euthanasia. She got in such trouble with her landlord that she was threatened with eviction. "I fought for them!" she says. Some dog lovers worry that city life and preoccupation with pedigree lead to dogs' being bred for looks rather than talent and to a general decline in their health and usefulness. It may be true, but dogs have not lost their most remarkable natural sense, smell, boosted by as many as 220 million olfactory receptors. (Humans have five to ten million.) My own background is with bird-hunting dogs, which continue to amaze the initiated and uninitiated with their ability to find game or anything else with even the faintest odour.

For reassurance that this skill hasn't been lost, I stop by the tiny town of Goldvein, Virginia, to see Jack Jagoda, co-founder and president of the North American Hunting Retriever Association. His best dog, Elvis, a yellow Labrador, lives in the house and sleeps on the bed, but turn Elvis loose in the field and he is transformed to higher purpose.

Jagoda drives to a hillside behind his kennels and leaves Elvis in the truck while we hike down a rutted track to a wooded creek. We cross it, go up the far bank, and walk to where the creek opens into a pond. Jagoda treks uphill and tosses a plastic training dummy the shape of a cucumber into a pile of leaves. We go back and fetch Elvis, who shakes the sleep from his eyes, relieves himself a few times, and comes to heel. Jagoda calms him, points a hand toward the training dummy some 250 yards away. The view is obscured, but when Jagoda barks "Elvis!" the dog is away.

Jagoda whistles him to a stop halfway down the hill, casts him right with a wave to circumvent a brush pile, then stops him at water's edge to reset the course. The Lab plows in, stops midway across to be redirected at an angle that puts him ashore downwind of the dummy. He romps out of the water, never stops to shake, runs by the dummy, comes back on command and catches its scent from several yards away, snuffles it from the shrubs, and races back to turn it over.

A half hour later he's collapsed across my feet in the living room as Jagoda sings his praises. "He doesn't conform to breed

standards," says Jagoda. "He's too big." Keepers of pedigree registries "would say that technically he's not even a Lab and shouldn't be bred. Isn't that ridiculous! He's a grand master hunter and makes more money than most people do. I get \$500 for stud fee and breed him twice a week!"

Pedigreed also-rans serve other worthy functions. I spent time with Lori O'Heron Rizzo, who lives in the Maryland suburbs outside Washington, D.C., with her husband, two sons, and service dog, Banjo, a black Labrador donated to and trained by the nonprofit Fidos For Freedom. Rizzo, 43, is a freelance graphic artist whose severe rheumatoid arthritis led to removal of one hip, one knee, and a shoulder. She spent three years on morphine just to cope with the pain but is better now and gets around in an electric wheelchair.

Dogs have been trained to find land mines in war zones, sniff out survivors after earthquakes or bombings, and locate drowning victims underwater. They serve as eyes for the blind, ears for the deaf and therapeutic companions to the unwell. They can detect signs of an epileptic fit before the sufferer knows it's coming. They find quail, ducks, grouse, and woodcock for sportsmen, and they defend the dwellings of worried urbanites in bad neighbourhoods.

But truth be told, dogs that work today are a minority, awash in a sea of village scavengers and those that make their way through life just being bits of fluff or bundles of fur to cuddle. Nowhere is that more evident than at the world's biggest dog show, Crufts, in England.

With kids Eric and Patric in school and husband Tony at work, she found home a nerve-racking place. If she fell, she couldn't get up; if she dropped something, she couldn't pick it up. Now gentle Banjo follows her, sleeps at her feet, and rides with her in a specially equipped van. "He does a lot of picking up," she says. "Keys, tissues - whatever I drop. With his harness on I can get myself up and walk, using him for balance. I'm happier with him, more confident, and not so afraid of what's in the future." Out at the U.S. Customs training centre for drug- and currency-sniffing dogs in Front Royal, Virginia, handlers fine-tune the noses of 85 recruits a year, mostly retrievers rescued from shelters. "Any place you can hide drugs, smugglers will find a way to," says agent Jeff Gabel, a strapping Chicagoan who started working with German shepherds in the Army more than 20 years ago and has been a canine specialist since. "These dogs find drugs inside propane tanks, in false-sided suitcases covered with fiberglass and Bondo, inside the wheels on roller suitcases, in drive shafts and oil pans on cars."

But in these technological times, couldn't a machine detect the odours? "I'm a dog man," says Gabel. "To say a machine is ever going to catch up to a dog's nose, it's unlikely."

"A machine has to be calibrated, directed at a target," says Carl Newcombe, former director of the centre. "A dog responds outside the parameters. He smells it wherever it is and responds. Half the time we're not even in search mode when the dog finds something."

Named for a 19th-century itinerant dog-food salesman and entrepreneur who never owned dogs himself, Crufts drew 20,780 dog entries and some 88,000 people to the 2001 show, which covered 250,000 square feet in five huge halls at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Far from being a gathering of tony toffs in tweed, it's a convention that crosses every social barrier, with competitors like tattooed, ear-ringed, crew-cut Marc Howard, who came to show Ice, his burly Chinese Sharpei, and proper ladies like Sue Pinkerton of Exeter, who shows Tcheria Hot in the Shade, a towering borzoi descended from the darlings of Russian royalty.

"It's called competing in breed, but really it's a beauty show," says Caroline Kisko, a Crufts spokesperson who herself keeps 21 Siberian huskies and four German shepherds (she races the

huskies from a wagon, sled dog style). "It's good fun, and the dogs love it," she says of Crufts. "Thousands of people are there all day petting them; the dogs go home exhausted because normally they sleep all day."

A roam around Crufts tires the feet as you make your way from showing to showing, navigating a seemingly endless trail of canine merchandise displays leading to green swaths of fake grass where Yorkshire terriers, English sheepdogs, puffy Bichons frises, dark Gordon setters, feisty wirehaired dachshunds, Rottweilers, hairless Chinese crested, and more than 150 other breeds strut and preen for the judges.

The trek starts me wondering how such an array of sizes and shapes, from Chihuahuas you can hold in your hand to hairy mastiffs two men can't budge, could evolve in the relatively short time since domestication began. If human beings mirrored the size range of dogs, the smallest of us might weigh 20 pounds and the largest a ton. How did dogs get so diverse?

Jeff Sampson, a molecular geneticist and the Kennel Club's genetics coordinator, reckons that since dogs have lots of chromosomes (78 to a human's 46), the opportunity to mix and match is enhanced. Man has been the great mixer and matcher. "Breeds haven't evolved; breeders have just selected for certain features. In the past 300 or 400 years they could ruthlessly select for features they wanted and very quickly get them," says Sampson.

By way of example he offers the work of a friend, Bruce Cattanach, a fellow geneticist who studies mice professionally but shows Boxers for a hobby. "Boxers are supposed to have docked tails," says Sampson, "but veterinarians don't like to do that sort of cosmetic surgery anymore, so Bruce decided to try to breed a tailless Boxer."

It didn't take long. To get his wish, Cattanach crossed a Boxer with a tailless Welsh corgi, then took the tailless offspring that looked most like a Boxer and mated it to other Boxers. Eight years and four generations later he had natural tailless boxers in the showing winning competitions.

"The size difference in dogs is more variable than any other species," says Cattanach, "and people since the beginning of time have been working hard to select for certainty types - big dogs as guards, speedy dogs for hunting, lapdogs for company. To go from a standard poodle to a toy, it's fairly easily done. But I don't know of any other species you'd want to do it with. I'm sure you couldn't do it with mice."

Such is the remarkable power dog breeders wield. All of which advances the belief that humans really are in charge, which brings us back to the original question: If we're so smart, why do we work so hard while dogs loiter around? Could it be that humans aren't the cleverest half of this ageless duet after all? After our long climb in the Scottish Highlands, Roddy MacDiarmid and I stop in a pasture in Glen Fyne so he can show off some of the manoeuvres with Mirk and Dot that have won him prizes in sheepdog trials, including the Scottish and British national brace championships. He has the sheepdogs round up a small flock of ewes, hector them around a barrel and across obstacles, bring them to us, circle us, and take them away, all with just a toot here and there on his shepherd's whistle. It's quite a show, with the dogs under complete control all the time. Afterward we load Dot and Mirk into the trunk of the car, and I treat MacDiarmid to a soda at the local pub, where he talks glowingly of his exceptional dogs.

Then we part, he to walk around the corner to his house in Cairndow, I to go 35 miles down the road to Colintrave, where I'm staying with friends in a cottage overlooking the Isle of Bute. We're pouring a wee dram of Scotch when the phone rings.

"It's Roddy," says my host. "He needs you."

"Is this Angus?" asks the shepherd, sounding drained and concerned. I answer that it is.

"Would you kindly look in the boot of your car?" he asks sheepishly. "I believe I left my dogs there."



Have you checked out the AMCV Website?

Membership forms, health forms & info, sledding & weight-pull results, AMCV show results, club rules, downloadable copies of the Malamute Mail (in full colour!), dogs for adoption, breeders' directory, working dog titles, event details, activity information, articles and a whole lot more...

www.amcv.org.au

Breeders' Directory

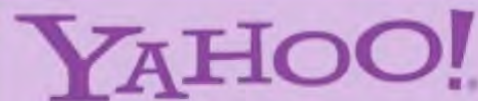


Kennel Name	Location	Contact Name	Phone No.	Other Contact Information
BELLTREES	Campbelltown, NSW	Cheryl Harrison	(02) 4631 1920	Email: belltree@ispdr.net.au
CHEKODY	Canberra ACT	Mark Titley & Melanie Saxinger	0448 389 970	Email: malamutes@chekody.com Website: www.chekody.com
HYKUP	Woodend, VIC	Ian Luke	0417 103 615	Email: guttervac-cv@cirruscomms.com.au Website: hykup.weebly.com
KATAKU	Pearcedale, VIC	Merv & Shelley Turner	(03) 5978 6001	Email: kataku@bigpond.net.au Website: www.dishlickers.com.au



We're off to see the Keeper, the wonderful Keeper of Treats

Kenjiast, ifunny.mobi



The AMCV has a well established AMCV members only Yahoo chat list. The purpose of the list is to encourage and assist communication between members, between the club and it's members, to give the ordinary members an opportunity to participate in discussions about the breed in general, and to pose questions about their dog in particular. If we have your current email address, you should have received an invitation to join. If you have not received an invitation and would like to join please email amcv@bigpond.com

Committee Updates

Sledding:

The calendar has been set for the year's sledding and is published in this issue of the Malamute Mail as well as on the AMCV website.

This year the AMCV will be conducting 2 sledding training weekends, one in April and one in October, 3 race weekends in May & July and a long distance come end of year fun weekend in late August. All events will be held at the You Yangs Western Plantation.

The sledding pointscore will be based on all AMCV race events as well as Goldseekers race on 28/29 June and 2 Northern Victorian Sled Dog Club single-heat races at Wellsford (just north of Bendigo) on 5 & 6 July. This makes a total of 8 race events that are eligible for the sledding point score with the best 5 results to count towards a team's final result.

If there are any questions about sledding or the point score, please let me know.

Happy sledding!

Ralph Koch

Backpacking:

Our first event of the year is a picnic fun walk at Westerfolds Park in Templestowe. We weren't very lucky with these last year, having to cancel both fun walks due to hot weather, so fingers crossed the weather will be better this time. The fun walk can be as short or long as you like, so pups over 6 months are welcome to join in.

Our first 16 km hike to the Working Pack Dog standard is being held on Saturday 5 April at Mt Macedon. Even if the temperature is warmer in Melbourne, Mt Macedon is generally a few degrees cooler so check the forecast for Macedon if you are planning to come along.

We ask that anyone interested in participating in either the fun walks or hikes contact me to let me know – no point me driving to a walk or hike venue only to find that no one has turned up. Having pre-registration also means that I can notify participants if there are any last minute changes.

We have tentatively scheduled a 3-day hike over Easter pending interest from members & dogs who have completed at least one 1-day hike to WPD standard over the past 12 months. If there are no expressions of interest by 1 March, the hike will not be going ahead.

Thank you,
Stuart Vanderpol



Got a cute or funny photo of your Mally?

Then why not share it with us?

We'd love to see your photos so please send them in to the Newsletter Editor by email to amcv@bigpond.com.au

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