



TAMR TAILS

1.0

End of Year Newsletter for TAMR Volunteers & Friends

2008

In 2008, did you know?

Intake: 25

Adopted: 30

Avg # of days in rescue: 83

rescued from shelters: 14

of owner surrenders: 6

of foster homes: 9

Save the Date!

Feb 1: Pack Hike

Feb 22: Mardi Paws

Mar 7: SPCA Mutt Strut

Mar 12: March Mal Madness

Yappy Hour

Mar 21: Rescue Rally West

Mar 28: Paws in the Park

Apr 25: Hound Hustle

Jul 16 – 19: Reliant Dog Show

For more info and future events, visit our events blog at:

<http://tamrevents.blogspot.com/>

A Rescue Animal's Poem

When you look into my eyes I
know what you will see.

There is only love and trust
where fear once used to be.

For I was an abandoned animal a
cold and hungry stray.

But you reached out your gentle
hands

And took me home to stay.

I've eagerly accepted the
compassion you have shown.

I soon forgot the times

When I was frightened and alone.

You opened up your heart to me
And taught me how to trust.

You've given me a loving home
where kindness is a must.

So when you gaze into my face I
hope you'll realize,

That "love without condition" is
reflected in my eyes.

By Carole Preble

President's Message

Happy New Year to all our Mally friends!

The past year brought us changes and challenges, as well as a lot of fun.

We participated in more events, enjoyed social gatherings and activities, gathered more supporters, and helped more dogs than in our prior year. We are also blogging now, with our events and "dog blogs". None of this could have been accomplished without all our volunteers, adopters, and friends. We simply can't thank everyone enough and, with your help, have even more great things planned for 2009!

Sadly, we also said goodbye to some furry friends whose time was cut too short through age or illness. We will miss them and they will always be in our hearts. And we weathered Hurricane Ike, recent economic changes, and a resulting influx of more needy dogs. The latter part of 2008 was certainly rough at times, but we survived and still going strong.

This coming year we plan to add weight-pull to our events, as well as continuing our pack hikes and park socials. Another "Bacchus & Barks" fundraiser is planned as that was such a great success last year. And of course, there will be the usual favorites such as our annual rescue calendar, Mardi Paws Parade, Hound Hustle, Pet Fest, Reliant Dog Show, holiday photos, just to name a few. We also have a couple of new things planned for our website and it's even rumored some of our rescue dogs are thinking of starting a Mally band!?

Thank you to everyone who has joined the TAMR family and helped make our rescue a success! I hope everyone has a great 2009!

Margie Serage

President, TAMR

2009 TAMR Board Members

President:	Margie Serage (HOU)
Vice President:	Delilah Hymas (HOU)
Secretary:	Debbie McSherry (DFW)
Treasurer:	Penny Lindley (SAT)
Officers:	Rick Hymas (HOU)
	Lynn McConnell (AUS)

Many thanks to Matt Schreiner for his valued service on the Board through 2008.

Yappy Tails

TAMR had 30 adoptions in 2008, including three assisted private adoptions.



Event Recap

TAMR had a busy year participating in various local dog events, hosting a few fundraisers as well as a few hikes and play dates. The year started out with a group hike at Brazos Bend State Park and ended with Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at a couple of the bookstores.

- Brazos Bend State Park Group Hike (Jan)
- Mardi Paws Parade (Feb)
- WPD Hike (Feb)
- Dog Socialization Classes (Feb)
- Paws in the Park - Pearland (Mar)
- Pearland "Call of the Wild" School Event (Mar)
- Easter Pictures (Mar)
- Happy Tails Mal Hike (Mar)
- Dog Day at Deer Park (Apr)
- Dallas Hound Hustle (Apr)
- Bark & Play (May)
- Reliant Dog Show (Jul)
- Bacchus & Barks (Aug)
- Houston Rockets Take Your Dog to Work Event (Aug)
- Adoption Dayz (Sep and Oct)
- PetFest (Oct)
- San Antonio Mutt Strut (Nov)
- Meet & Greet @ Cooper Clinic (Nov and Dec)
- Holiday Sled Dog Pictures (Dec)
- Holiday Hike (Dec)
- Gift Wrap Fundraising (Dec)

Pack Hikes



Hiking is a great activity to do with your Malamute!

There were several organized pack hikes in 2008 with varying lengths of 3 to 10 miles at a couple of the state parks. One included in an overnight stay which is required for the Working Pack Dog certificate. Many of the Malamutes who went hiking also carried their own back pack with their food and water.

The Happy Tails Mal Hike was more of a leisurely hike and a great chance for a small reunion with several fosters and adopters. On hikes, you never know what

will happen. One of the new guys, Loki, slipped his collar and led us on a merry chase! He was lured with a tasty tidbit

and then suddenly out of nowhere; Delilah does a “flying tackle” and catches him! Whew!

Fundraising Events

TAMR hosted two picture fundraisers, one in the Spring with the Easter Bunny and one at Christmas with Santa and the sled dogs. Both events were graciously hosted at Different Strokes Pet Boutique in Old Town Spring and pictures were taken by Becky Romo of Posh Pet Portraits.



In addition, TAMR participated in their first gift wrap fundraising event at local Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores around Houston in December. We wrapped at four different dates/times, including a last minute Christmas Eve. These three fundraising events raised approximately \$700 in donations for TAMR!

Weight Pull

Does your dog pull you down the street on walks? If so, you might consider seeing if s/he will pull a cart full of weight in a friendly competition with other breeds in the same weight class for about a minute down a 16 foot lane. There are both large breeds and small breeds (Jack Russells, Italian Greyhounds) that have pulled an incredible amount of weight for their body weight!

These competitions are organized and sponsored by the International Weight Pull Association (IWPA), an organization that promotes this sport as well as the working heritage. For more information about IWPA and weight pulling, visit their website, <http://www.iwpa.net/>.

The weight pull competition provides physical activity and builds a dog's self-confidence. Also provides an outlet for socialization and bonding with their owner. It is best to have a dog that responds to the “come” or recall command and have some basic control.

TAMR will be hosting a weight pull competition at the 2009 Reliant Dog Show in Houston, July 16 -19th. We are very excited for the opportunity to share this fun sport with others! For more information, please contact Rick Hymas at malsleddog@yahoo.com.

Q&A with Miki Hymas

Miki, Alaskan Malamute owned by Rick and Delilah Hymas, participated in two weight pulls in Austin late 2008 and early 2009. She is half-way through getting her weight pulling certificate. We conducted a brief interview with her and her parents translated for us.

Interviewer: What peaked your interest in doing a weight pull?

Miki: I wanted some more of those letters behind my name. You know like the ones a doctor gets.

I: Were you nervous on your first one?

M: Nervous, what's nervous?

I: Was it hard?

M: Excuse me, can you pull 2000+ pounds?

I: Were you tired and sore afterwards?

M: I don't really remember. I slept for a long time.

I: Obviously you liked it, but what was the best part?

M: The cheese I got when I finished each pull. I like cheese!!

I: Do you have a goal with the weight pulls?

M: Gotta beat all the boys. I am the boss you know.

I: How do you train for them?

M: I don't. It's just natural talent.

I: Do you recommend it for other Mals and dogs?

M: Sure, just as long as they don't mind getting beat. Those blue ribbons are mine!! We do need more Mals to show up. We keep getting outnumbered by those Pit Bulls and Swiss dogs.



I: Do you have any pre-pull rituals?

M: Not really, although I sometimes take a nap between pulls. I know it's time to get busy when my daddy starts hopping around acting funny.

I: It looks so hard, why do you continue to do the pulls?

M: I love that cheese.....LOL

I: What's the most you've pulled?

M: 2550 as a novice, even though my daddy made me follow the Pro rules in my novice pulls. All the other novice dogs get treats in the chute and the break man even pushes the sled a little to help. Daddy made me do it myself.

I: What dog surprised you the most with his/her pull? Why?

M: There were two. During my novice pulls there was this Pit Bull that pulled 3000 lbs. and was ready for more. I think he was on steroids! The second was this Pit Bull/Boxer mix. I think he was confused. Every time he got hooked up to the cart he would spin and jump and tangle himself up. I think he thought it was "So you think you can dance?" competition instead of a weight pull.

I: Do you get any good rewards for working so hard?

M: Cheeeseeeeeee. Did I mention that I love cheese? You know maybe I might pull more if mommy brought me a few sticks of butter instead. I love cheese but butter is the bomb!! You wouldn't happen to have any butter wrappers on you, would you?

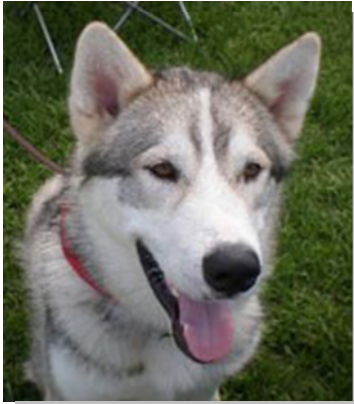
I: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

M: Yeah, my mommy and daddy ordered me a custom harness with my name on it. Now I'm not just gonna beat all the other dogs, I'm gonna be stylin' too.

Meekah's Big Adventure

Editor's Note: Originally submitted on rescue group by Heather in January 2009. We included this story to emphasize the dangers of dogs chewing things in the house that can be harmful to them and the correct thing to do in this situation is not to panic and check with your vet, as Heather did. Don't assume your dog will be ok after eating candy, chocolate

or gum with Xylitol because of its size.



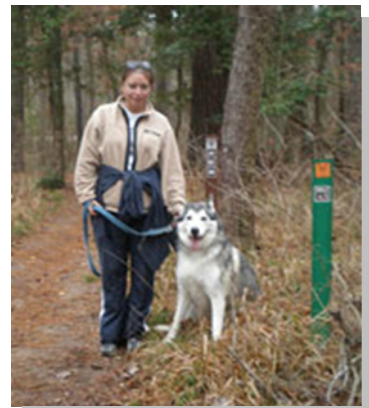
"I had started keeping Meekah in a new room in my house since it was bigger and better for him. The room is right off of the garage so he is there to greet me when I come home. On Thursday when I came home, I opened the garage door and he wasn't there. I turn the corner and he is sitting in the middle of the floor surrounded by candy wrappers, some of my shoes, and all of my soccer gear. I yell at him, tell him no numerous times and send him outside so I can sift through all the wrappers on the floor to see what he actually got into. It turns out he ate a bag of M&M's, a couple of bags of mini M&M's, a chocolate Easter bunny, some blue robin eggs (which left blue spots everywhere around the carpet as he licked them and pushed them around), and a pack of gum. He pulled all of my soccer socks out of my bag, destroyed my soccer bag, destroyed my ball (I think ate some of the leather off of it), chewed some of my shoelaces in half, and moved my cleats around the house.

I called the vet to see if I need to take him in and they weren't too worried about all the chocolate because of his size but they were more concerned about the gum because it is sugar free and has the ingredient Xylitol which is apparently really bad for dogs. So, on the way to the vet, he gets sick in the back seat of my car which is good, I guess, since he got rid of a lot of the food but I had to clean it all up (which is how I found out he ate the mini M&M's and some other random pieces of candy). The doctors gave him charcoal which was supposed to counteract the toxins. They said that most dogs get their first taste of the charcoal and hate it so it takes a couple of them to hold the dog down and force feed them. They gave Meekah back to me and said they had no problem giving it to him. He drank most of it by himself. I told them that's because he eats everything, which is what brought me there in the first place. The whole time we were there, he was really excited to see everyone and said hi to all the dogs that came in. He never let on that he just destroyed part of my house. On the way home he decides to get sick again in the back seat of my car. So by the time I got home, I had black chocolate smelling grossness in the back of my car that took me all night to clean up (I'll spare you the details but it took me forever!). In the end, it took a couple of days but I think he feels fine now so everything turned out alright...except for my Easter candy."

Volunteer Spotlight

TAMR could not exist without all of the wonderful volunteers that contribute to saving malamutes' lives! Our volunteers do everything from fostering; dog transports near and far; going to a shelter to ID or evaluate a dog; working or attending events; donating food, time, money, supplies, etc.; answering email inquiries and many other generous offers of help.

Our Event Coordinator, Delilah Hymas, does all of this plus a lot more! She started with TAMR in 2007 by visiting Shadow at the Pasadena shelter on the weekends. Of course, that progressed into fostering Shadow and others, and it snowballed from there. Then she joined the Board of Directors and was later named the Event Coordinator, and then Vice President in 2009 as well as taking on more and more things. Over the 2008 year, she drove 4600+ miles going to events, transports and shelters.



As Event Coordinator, she has coordinated TAMR's participation in the various dog events with many times she, Rick (her husband and also TAMR volunteer and Board member) and Miki are at events from setup to tear down. This year, she decided to enter quite a few of the costume contests as Little Red Riding Hood with Miki as the "big bad wolf". As you might've seen, she got a little crazy and actually had Miki's grandma gown made by Miki's new seamstress! She won first place in three out of four contests!

In addition, this year she organized a "Pet Rescue Can" at work where her co-workers would donate their change over the year. The Can raised \$1000 and donated half of it to TAMR in memory of Max, the malamute puppy who passed away from distemper last year despite all the medical efforts.

Delilah has two human kids, Rachel and Ricco, and four furry kids, Bessie, Buck, Miki, and Arnold the cat. She is also affectionately known as the "crackberry queen" as she always has her Blackberry with her (she even sleeps with it!) and is always texting or replying to emails even when she's on a hike or camping!! She is continuously thinking and planning something to help save more malamutes at TAMR so watch out, as I'm sure it will be just as crazy in 2009. **Thanks Delilah for all your work and dedication to TAMR!**

In Memory

It's never easy to say goodbye to a furry friend who has given so much love! Some are here for a short time while others are here a little longer. Their passing always leaves "paw prints on our heart" and lives, and they will never be forgotten. May you run free wearing your silver harness with pride!

We lost Baldo and Max while they were waiting for new forever homes. The TAMR family also lost **Bear, Delta** and **Rowan** in 2008.



Baldo was a senior gentleman who passed from one person to another until he found his way to rescue. He was a friendly and happy boy who loved his foster family and playing with friends. Sadly his body began to give out and he could not be helped by medication. Baldo is missed by the many friends he left behind.



Max was a puppy bred by a backyard breeder, who dumped him at a shelter when he did not "sell". He became very ill shortly after coming into rescue. Max caught distemper while at the shelter only ONE day because he was emaciated, full of internal and external parasites, and not properly vaccinated by his breeder. A simple and inexpensive vaccination would have prevented his suffering this horrible disease. Max was a very sweet and loving boy who deserved a better life and is now mourned by those who cared for him.

THANKS to everyone who helped make TAMR a success in 2008!!

Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR) is a volunteer organization and relies on the generosity of their volunteers and **donations**, public support, gift sales and special fundraisers to help our rescued dogs. Your donations help with medical costs, rehabilitation, housing, training, grooming, basic supplies, and much more for our Alaskan Malamutes. We know you're stretched very thin, especially in this economy, but please consider making a donation to help the Alaskan Malamutes currently in rescue as well as ones we will save in the future. Adoption fees simply **do not** cover the high cost of rescue.

TAMR is a 501(c)(3) charity and contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. All funds directly benefit rescued dogs and donations of any size are greatly appreciated. We have several ways to donate and you can find more information about each of these on our website: <http://www.texalmal.org/donate.html> **Or mail your donation check or international money order (US dollars only) to: Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association -- P.O.Box 79561 -- Houston, TX 77279**

_____ \$15 for heartworm test
_____ \$65 for 1 week boarding
_____ Other: \$ _____

_____ \$25 for vet exam or heartworm preventative
_____ \$100 for spay/neuter

If you'd like, designate a dog to sponsor: _____

Thank You for Helping Alaskan Malamutes!