



# President's Thoughts

*Sue Millman*

This issue I would like to speak about being a foster home volunteer. For those of you who have contemplated being one, the two basic requirements to be a good volunteer is a spirit of adventure and a little time. You don't have to possess any special talent, just love these dogs, have a little common sense and be willing to take a chance.

Are you home most of the time? Do you work only part time? Do you love a challenge and are not easily discouraged? Do you have a sense of humor? Do you get great satisfaction from knowing you have accomplished something special, something most others wouldn't dream of. Do you want to make a difference in the world? Do you love the challenge, the personality, the love of Siberian Huskies? Do you want to adopt them all, but know that isn't realistic. If so, you may be a good candidate for a foster home.

Whether you already have dogs or not, there is a Siberian waiting for a new home, that could benefit by either situation. Most dogs needing a foster home need some training before we can place them comfortably in a new home. Most often it is about a dog with a dynamite personality, a sweet love bug, but one that has never had any limits set on it. One that needs to be taken to obedience classes and just trained that he is a dog and not the one in charge! Sometimes a dog just needs a little time to be assessed before being placed into a permanent home. We do require that there not be any small children living in the foster home, as most of our foster dogs come from shelters and their pasts are unknown. Until they are fully evaluated we feel it is best if they are not exposed to small children on a full time basis.

One question I am asked most often is.....how do you keep from becoming so attached and wanting to keep them all? There is no denying it, it is hard to say good-bye, especially if you have worked hard with training and see the noticeable difference you have made. You do get to choose and stay in touch with the new family. Realizing you can't adopt them all, you have the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference and gave a dog a second chance that they may not have had otherwise. You might even choose to do it again!

If you would like more info or simply to discuss the possibility without obligation, please contact me.

## Inside this issue:

President's Thoughts	1
Barktoberfest 2005	2
Rainbow Bridge	3
Disaster Readiness	4
Husky Hike	4
This Issue's Husky	5
Donations	5
Happy Tails	6
Health Corner	7
Newsletter name	8



This Issue's Husky - Nikita

# Poundhounds Barktoberfest 2005



Willow with Deb, Ken, Claire & Marco



Moose (left) & Alaska with Pattie



Aspen with Katrina & Paul



Joan's Mimi

**A big Thank You  
to everyone who  
participated in  
Barktoberfest  
and made it such  
a great success!**



Bosco with Steve



Nakita (right) and her 3 sisters with  
Amanda & Mom



Stoli (left) & Cadence with Fran & Dan



Shelby (left) & Aurora with  
Karen, Karen, Bridget, Jim, & James

# Rainbow Bridge



## Ivan

My family came and rescued me in March 1992. I had been abandoned and taken in by the pound and then Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue League. They saved my life. After spending six months with them recovering from the abuse and neglect from my previous owner I finally got a permanent home.

The Cowie's came from far away to take me into their home and become an adopted brother for their other Siberian named Czar. We were a

happy family immediately. Czar was glad to have a buddy and I was too. My new family gave me great toys and let me sleep in bed with them. We had a fenced yard to run and play in. We took rides in the truck and I could even stick my head out of the window when I was in the front seat. It was heavenly. I was grateful for my new chance at life and would give them as many happy years in return as I could.

We ended up spending just over 13 years together. That gave us time to go on many hikes on trails along the Kancamangus. I can't count how many cookies and treats I got. We went for walks on the beach at the ocean. We had Christmas presents every year. I suppose it was because we were so good for mom when she would take our photo for the annual Cowie



Christmas card to send to family and friends.

I got more brothers and sisters and even a cat in my 13 years with my family. Eventually there were four of us. There was me, Sasha, Isabella and Duke plus Little Mister the cat. We moved to the North Country. We had over 27 acres and went on walks almost every day. We did some recreational dog sledding. I was the old guy so I got spoiled. I wouldn't hook up to the team until they were on the way back all tired.

Mom would take me in the truck and meet up with them. I was the oldest and all the others in "our" pack treated me like a king.

In my later years I did a lot of sleeping. I had my own bed and nobody ever went into it. Sometimes the rest of the pack would be in the yard and I would decide to join in. It seems like they all stopped and gazed at me and treated me like royalty when I came out. I was too old to play much but I would certainly give it a try and they all respected my quitting when I got too tired.

In my golden years I got sick a couple of times. Mom and dad were quick to my rescue. I had a great team of vets to help me. They gave me the nick-name (along with many others) of miracle dog. I sort of had nine lives like a cat. They got me the best food and the best medicine to

give me the best life they could. I will always love them for that. I am glad we had such a great bond. They would always know when I wasn't feeling well. They would pamper me. I even got to lick the cat food bowl after he ate what he wanted. It was my daily treat.

In the end I couldn't get up by myself. They would pick me up and I would walk around the yard and hold my own. I gave all I had my last few weeks. I was going on 17 in 2005 and by now I was getting pretty worn out. My last days got pretty hard but I was determined to try to hold on.

On August 22, 2005 I finally got too tired and sick. I had to leave my wonderful family. I wish I could have stayed as much as they wish the same. I will be waiting in heaven for them, though. My champion spirit will live on there and in their hearts.

Until I see you again, may you always remember my happy funny quirks, my determination, our many years together and my joy of being your Ivan.



*If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man. - Mark Twain*

# Disaster Readiness / Husky Hike



## Disaster Readiness

*John Foye*

Every animal owner should have a plan in place in case of an emergency, whether it's a natural disaster or a house that's caught fire. When you need to take your pets out your home for an extended period of time, you should be able to take care of them, at the very least in the short term. Michelle and I have the cat carriers, cat and dog food (enough for at least two days), a couple of litter boxes, Jaxsun's leash and harness and the pets' vet info secured close to the back door of our house. This will make for a quick exit, if the need arises.

The following is information that I hope will help you to be prepared for a possible emergency.

- If you evacuate your home, do not leave your pets behind. You may be forced to stay away longer than anticipated, leaving animals defenseless.
- For health reasons, most emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Ask your veterinarian or local animal shelter if they provide emergency care for animals during a disaster. Find out in advance which nearby motels and hotels allow pets.
- Be sure your pets are properly identified, ideally with both microchips and identifi-

cation tags. A microchip under the skin can be "read" by scanners and the owners traced.

Include your phone number on identification tags securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site, whether it's a public shelter or a friend's home, and a separate emergency contact number.

-- Assemble an emergency kit in a waterproof bag. Include pet food, bottled water, medications, vaccination records, and a current photo of your pet. Also include your veterinarian's phone number in case you need immediate medical advice.

-- Always have a pet carrier and leash readily accessible.

-- If you have no other choice but to leave your pets at home, keep dogs and cats in separate rooms, preferably without a window, such as a garage, bathroom, or utility room that can be easily cleaned. Leave enough food and water to last at least 48 hours. Post a notice advising what pets are inside the house and your evacuation site/phone number.

\*The above came from a press release by the California Veterinary Medical Association. More information can be found at <http://www.cvma.net>

## Husky Hike

*Sue Millman*

Make new friends and enjoy the outdoors! On October 29th (rain date October 30th) our first Husky Hike will take place on Mount Watatic in Ashburnham Mass. Start time on Saturday the 29th is at 1:30pm.

Please be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks for you and your Husky(s), sturdy hiking shoes or boots, first aid kit, and camera.

The views from the top of Watatic are 360 degrees allowing unobstructed views of the Wachusett and Monadnock valleys. Mount Watatic is part of the Wapack and the Mid State Trail. See links below.

Mount Watatic has several trails to the top; we'll be taking the major one off Rte 119. The main trail is moderate and can even be accomplished by grandparents! We'll take the leisurely longer route back down just for variety.

As with all hiking, if you have any heart condition, check with your doctor first. This hike is about 30-45 minutes to the top and can be steep at times. The only thing that will stop us is a steady rain. If it is raining both days, the hike will be skipped to November.

**Continued on Page 5**

# This Issue's Husky - Nikita

## Looking for a Home Sweet Home



Nikita is a black and white, blue-eyed cutey. She has a sweet disposition but is full of spunk and ready for a walk or play whenever given the opportunity. She is approximately 5 years old. She was originally a stray but has been in a home for 2 years. She is spayed and up to date on her shots, weighs 45 lbs. Not good with cats. She does better with male dogs than females. She is being fostered in Greenfield MA.



### (Hike) Continued from Page 4

Please send an email to Steve and Bosco at [wychor@comcast.net](mailto:wychor@comcast.net) or leave a message at 413-498-4455 for more details and directions. See you at the trailhead!

If you can't make this hike we are going to try to squeeze in a couple of more before the fall is over. And maybe do some snow shoeing after that. If you would like to be on our notification list, please call or e-mail and ask to be put on the "hike notification list".

<http://www.midstatetrail.org/>  
<http://www.wapack.org/>



## Donations

Name:

Amount Donating:

Please make checks payable to PSHR and send to:

**Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue**  
**c/o 107 Tyler Road**  
**Tewksbury, Massachusetts**  
**01876**

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous donation and support. Please consider volunteering.

Also, a special thank you goes out to all who contributed to the Kira Fund.



Please note that we are now capable of online donations at our web page.

**www.pshr.org**



# Happy Tails

## Jax, Jinx, Sasha, and Toby

*Lori Johnson*

We welcomed Jax into our family late last summer and we couldn't be happier. He now has a big brother, our first siberian Neko, and they spend most of their time playing. His favorite game is Hide & Seek (in the snow!) and napping together, usually on the same doggie bed. Jax has learned his place



in the family, outgrowing his "rebellious teenage attitude" (for the most part) and has become quite the cuddle bug, warming our feet at night. He loves hanging out with his people, and follows us from room to room, including the bathroom, where he likes to hide--and sleeps in the tub during naptime.

Jax has made friends with the other neighborhood dogs, socializing during walks with a beagle, boxer, and 2 black labs. He has the most vibrant personality, has a weakness for carrots, and keeps Neko active. He is always smiling and is very affectionate and we love him very, very much. We're so happy we found him!

Here's a picture of Jax (right, posing proudly, true to form) in front of the Christmas Tree this year with his dad, Justin, and brother Neko. As for me, Lori, I usually spend more time behind the camera adoring my boys!

*Eileen Clare*

This past February I adopted Jinx. After having two litters with her previous owner, she is now spayed and has retired from giving birth. Jinx has gained a healthy 8 pounds in the months since she has been at her new home. She gets along well with her sister Pepper and the cat Bliss --although she likes to tease and chase Bliss. She is truly a joy and a wonderful pet. I thank you for the opportunity to have her in my life.



*Sue Snelling*

Sasha, who came into our home in February, is up to 48 pounds from her mere 33 when we adopted her. Her health is excellent and she has not had a seizure since September 23, 2003!



Sasha is very playful and continues to seem more happy and content with her new family. She enjoys playing with her favorite toy, the tennis ball while she and the cats, Tiger and Woods, have become best buds often snoozing on their favorite spots, the couch.

*Amy Day*

Toby was our first foster dog, a 3 month old Husky puppy. He was so adorable, but very shy and terrified of most things. He had not been socialized with people much and was going to need a lot of love and patience to be able to place in a permanent home.

The first night we brought him home he ran into the farthest corner of the fence in our yard and hid under a bush. I thought "oh, what did I get myself into?" My husband said that I was crazy and that it was going to take a lot of work to get this dog to warm up to people. Luckily Toby loved other dogs and became best buds with our Rottweiler Amber. She was like a mom to him and guided him to trust us. As

the weeks went by he slowly warmed up to us. I even came in the kitchen one night to find my husband



lying on the kitchen floor patting him. Toby had won him over too!

He was very obedient with his commands, not like your typical Husky, and even came in whenever he was called. Amazing!

I finally knew we had made some real progress when I was eating on the couch and he crawled up into my lap and begged! He was very sweet and wanted so badly to feel part of the family. With lots of love, patience and the help of my dogs,

**Continued on Page 7**



# Health Corner

## Ask Dr. Christine

*Dr. Christine Johnston, DVM*

**Dear Dr. Christine,**

**My Sibe keeps getting “crystals” in his urine. What are they and how can I prevent them from returning?**

**-Crystal**

Dear Crystal,

There are several different types of canine urinary crystals, all caused by different metabolic and/or medical conditions which are treated differently. As it is beyond the scope of this article to discuss the physiology and chemistry involved in the formation, treatment, and prevention of the various types of crystals, I will stick to generalities.

Crystals form in urine when their component elements, which are excreted by the kidneys, are in sufficient concentration that they precipitate out of solution; sometimes crystals further aggregate into stones, known as calculi. Various factors contribute to the formation of crystals: the acidity and concentration of the urine, the presence of bacteria, and the metabolic tendencies of certain breeds.

In and of themselves, crystals are not considered to be harmful, however, they may indicate the presence of stones, which can cause pain and potentially obstruct the urinary tracts, making your Sibe, and you, very unhappy.

Treatment and prevention of urinary calculi can be a bit complicated and depends on the spe-

cific type involved. Some stones must be surgically removed. If there is a urinary tract infection (UTI) present, it must be treated with antibiotics. The appropriate drug must be determined by your vet.

Some stones are amenable to dietary management and there is a wide selection of prescription diets available to handle the different types of crystals calculi that can form.

There are a couple of rules of thumb applicable to treat and prevent all urinary calculi. They are:

1. The more diluted the urine and the less time it is stored in the bladder reduces the chance that crystals will form. In other words, let your dog out often to pee and reduce the amount of time he has to “hold it.” Put a doggie door and fence around your yard, stop by your house during lunch, employ a dog sitter or neighborhood kid to come and let your pooch out at regular intervals.

2. Always provide plenty of fresh water for Fido. The more s/he drinks, the more s/he pees, and the less time urine spends in her/his bladder.

3. Add water to your Sibes food, feed her/him canned food, and maybe even a pinch of salt to make Sparky thirstier.

---

### **(Toby) Continued from Page 6**

he slowly came around. He began to seek affection when he was ready, always cautious but getting better each day.

After three months he had made great progress, I knew it was time

to place him. A great family came along with a situation almost identical to ours, they had two other dogs, no kids and a large fenced in yard, they were a perfect fit. The day I brought him to his new home was really hard. I became so attached to him and him to me. We thought about keeping him, but when this family came along, I knew it was right. I did keep in touch over the next few months, even going for a visit with Amber, and Toby has adjusted very well to his new home.

---

### **To the Editor of the PSHR newsletter:**

Thank you for the recipe for "skunk wash/de-odorizer" in your last newsletter. I got to test it out one night this summer, as our Siberian Keana was sprayed by a skunk in our back yard. I am usually vigilant in checking the yard before letting her out in the evenings because she has been sprayed in the past. But for some reason this night I didn't pay attention, and of course she cornered a skunk! Not having any store bought solution on hand I remembered reading the article in the newsletter. Luckily I still had it handy, mixed up a batch and it actually worked better than the store bought stuff.

Thanks for the info,

Eva and Keana.

# Help us decide on a name for our newsletter!

Names for the newsletter have been coming in at a steady pace and here are the top five. Please visit the webpage or return this ticket by Oct. 1 to vote for your favorite.

- Husky Herald
- Husky Howler\*
- Husky Voice
- Sibe Scribe
- Siberian Sentinel



\*Submitted by Steve and Laurel

This newsletter created by  
McFoye Schemes  
Bad Influence Division  
For info please contact [McFoye@yahoo.com](mailto:McFoye@yahoo.com)

**Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue**  
**c/o 107 Tyler Road**  
**Tewksbury, Massachusetts**  
**01876**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## Help us SAVE:

In an effort to cut costs we will start sending the newsletter via e-mail. Please send us your current e-mail address, use Newsletter as the subject, to [patriotrescue@verizon.net](mailto:patriotrescue@verizon.net). If we do not hear from you, we will continue to mail your copy.