

December 10, 2008

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paige Hill and when I was a kindergartner, my grandma Shirley came to Alaska to spend Easter with my family. Since I was a kindergartner she came and spent the day with my class at Polaris K-12 School.

You see, my grandma Shirley teaches second grade in North Carolina and she wanted to teach us about things from where she came from. One of the first things she taught us about was her state's symbols. We learned that their state dog is a plott hound. She wanted to know what Alaska's state dog was and we all looked at each other. Nobody knew for sure what it was! Later, we found out we didn't even have a state dog and this is where it all began.

My teacher, Terry Powers, decided to help us do some investigating. We wanted to figure out how our state could get a state dog. We found out that two other symbols, the willow ptarmigan in 1955 and the four-spotted dragon fly in 1995 both became state symbols because of the efforts of school children just like us.

After lots of discussion, we narrowed our choice down to two types of dogs, the husky and the Alaskan malamute. We finally voted for the Alaskan Malamute. One of the reasons we picked the Alaskan malamute is because it's big like Alaska and because it's a hard working dog like the people of Alaska.

The next school year our class asked two older classes, Jamie Rodriguez's 4/5 and Carol Bartholomew's 2/3, to join us and help research more about the Alaska malamute's history to show that it's the very best choice to be Alaska's official state dog.

Sincerely,  
Paige Hill, 2nd grader  
Polaris K-12 School



POLARIS K-12 SCHOOL

6200 Ashwood Street, Anchorage, AK 99507-1911  
Denise Greene-Wilkinson, Principal  
(907) 742-8700 fax: (907) 742-8777

---

April 30, 2008

Representative Berta Gardner  
AK State Capitol, Room # 422  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gardner,

My name is Florence Boots and I am in the fifth grade in Jamie's class at Polaris K-12 School. My class along with two others is working together to make the Alaskan Malamute the Alaska state dog.

The Alaskan Malamute has a deep connection with Alaskan history. Their origins reach back to the early days of Alaska with the Mahlemut people. The Mahlemut People, now known as the Inuits, lived in Northwestern Alaska. They lived and worked closely with their dogs, using them to haul loads and even to help watch children. Also, the Alaskan Malamutes were a very popular breed during the Klondike Gold Rush when they were used to help haul supplies. The Alaskan Malamute dogs were so valued back then that one person would pay \$500 dollars for one good dog and \$1500 for a small team! The Alaskan Malamute also assisted with Admiral Richard Byrd's expedition to the South Pole. The Alaskan Malamute also proved useful in World War II, as a helping and hauling dog. So the Alaskan Malamute would be a very good choice as the official Alaska state dog.

Please add your voice to ours by writing a letter to support making the Alaskan Malamute our official state dog. We will add it to our legislative packet along with our bill and informational presentation. We would greatly value the opportunity to add your voice to our growing number of supporters. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Florence S. Boots



**ALASKA KENNEL CLUB, INC.**

P.O. BOX 232151  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
99523

May 24, 2008

Ryan M. Terry  
Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1911

Dear Mr. Terry:

Reference is made to your letter of April 30, 2008, regarding a bill to make the Alaskan Malamute the official state dog.

Your letter arrived after our May meeting so it had to wait for the Board Meeting for action. The Board of the Alaska Kennel Club has voted to support your effort to make the Alaskan Malamute the official state dog of Alaska. Please feel free to include this letter in your legislative packet.

Good luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

ALASKA KENNEL CLUB

By: Corresponding Secretary



May 15, 2008

Polaris Elementary School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

To: Christopher Gray;

This is a letter to support your class campaign to make the Alaskan Malamute the State Dog of Alaska. The Alaskan Malamute has played an important role in the history of our state and nation. It is an icon of Alaska in the legends and visual imagery of our state. In addition, it continues to be a highly valued companion and working dog in our modern society. Granting this honor to the breed would be an appropriate recognition of one of Alaska's native treasures.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathleen Stephenson'.

Kathleen Stephenson  
President  
Alyeska Canine Trainers



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

**Daisy L. Okas**  
Assistant Vice President,  
Communications

April 15, 2007

Jessica Husa  
Carols Family Group  
Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1911

Dear Jessica:

Thank you for contacting the American Kennel Club. The Alaskan Malamute is a wonderful breed and we support your efforts to make it the state dog of Alaska.

There are currently nine state dogs in the United States. We have included a magazine article that appeared in the *AKC Gazette* in July 2006 that explains how these dogs became state symbols. In Wisconsin, a group of students wanted to make the American Water Spaniel their state dog. They contacted their representative and a bill was created and eventually passed!

Your class should contact your local state representative with your proposal. They will have to write and introduce legislation. For information on how a bill goes through the legislative process, visit [http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kidspages/how\\_a\\_bill\\_becomes\\_law .htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kidspages/how_a_bill_becomes_law.htm)

This is an example from the state of Kentucky. It is in coloring book format and titled "How the Beagle Could Become Kentucky's State Dog."

If you need more information about the Alaskan Malamute, you can visit our web site at [http://www.akc.org/breeds/alaskan\\_malamute/](http://www.akc.org/breeds/alaskan_malamute/)

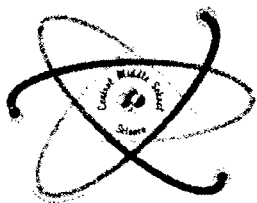
You can also contact local dog clubs in your area (<http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm>) or the Alaskan Malamute Club of America for more information and for support of your proposal:

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.  
Corresponding Secretary: Leneia Rogowski  
Address: 640 E 50 N, Hyrum, UT 84319-1454  
Website: [www.alaskanmalamute.org](http://www.alaskanmalamute.org)  
Email: [leneia.rogowski@ihc.com](mailto:leneia.rogowski@ihc.com)

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Daisy Okas  
AVP of Communications



Central Middle School of Science  
1405 E Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Ph. 907/742-5100 Fax 907/742-5125

April 3, 2008

Carol Bartholomew's Classroom  
Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1911

Dear Carol's Class:

It has been brought to my attention by a well-written letter from Khaner Smith that your classroom is trying to pass a law to make the Alaska Malamute our official state dog. I understand how much research you have been doing and the reasons you are trying to make a difference on a state-wide issue such as an official state dog. Some of your research has me intrigued such as:

They were bred in Alaska.  
They sniffed bombs during WWII.  
They carried airplane parts.

Although Central Middle School of Science's mascot is the Husky, I can support your efforts in making the official state dog the Malamute. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to your classroom and thank you for inviting my support! Your classroom is filled with a beautiful group of motivated, intelligent, civic-minded students who are responsible for their learning - how could I not support your cause?

Sincerely,

Lisa Zelenkov,  
Principal of Central Middle School of Science

# **COFFEY CONSULTING, LLC**

**3606 RHONE CIRCLE  
SUITE 100  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508**

**Telephone: (907) 646-7855**

**Facsimile: (907) 274-4258**

**E mail: [dancoffey@gci.net](mailto:dancoffey@gci.net)**

Carol's Family Group  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Katie:

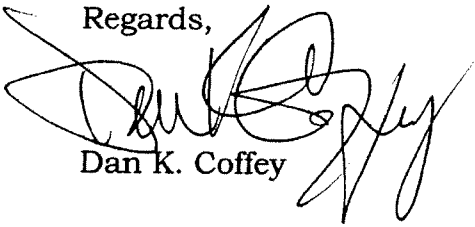
I received your letter concerning your efforts to have the Alaska Malamute named the official state dog.

From reading your letter it is clear that you have done your homework. You have learned a lot about Malamutes and how they have served the First People and those who came after them. Well done! I applaud your efforts to have this fine animal and friend to man named the state dog.

If this letter can help you achieve your goal, then please feel free to send copies to the legislature and the governor.

Good luck on your project.

Regards,

  
Dan K. Coffey

Carol's Family Group

4-3-08

I'd Like To Thank you For The Letter  
I recieved, From your group, and  
my granddaughter, Desiree, regarding  
Alaska's official state dog. IT was very  
ThoughtFUL and imFormitive. I Learned  
many Things From your Letter, but Two  
That stand out are, That we didn't  
have a official state dog, and The  
Long and important history The malamute  
has had in Alaska. I agree with you, That  
The malamute would be The best pick  
For our state dog, and support your  
motion. I also Think it's really nice  
That your group is doing Things To help  
The community. Keep up The good work.

Thankyou

Jim Whitaker

*Jim Whitaker*





April 8, 2008

Miss Jessica Husa  
Carol's Family Group  
Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1911

Dear Miss Husa:

We are pleased to send this letter of support for your class's proposal to make the Alaska Malamute the official dog of the State of Alaska. We were very interested to learn about all the ways that these dogs have helped throughout the history of our great state. They are a unique breed and we agree that they should be recognized for their contributions. Our official education dogs Lucy and Maverick are pleased to add their support!

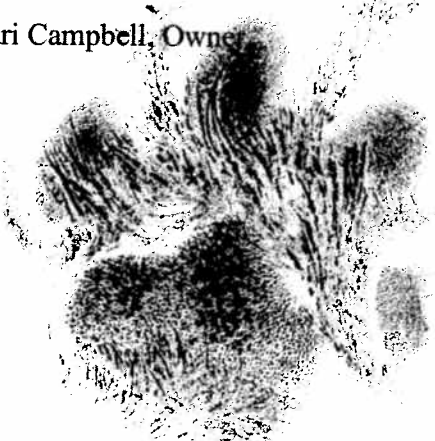
We wish you well in your efforts!

Sincerely,

DOG TIRED DOGGIE DAYCARE

Kari Campbell, Owner

Peg Banks, Daycare Manager



'Lucy' LaRose, Classroom Outreach



'Maverick' Bandle, Classroom Outreach



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Office of the Chancellor

May 16, 2008

Taylor J. Seitz  
c/o Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1911

Dear Taylor,

Until I received your letter I did not know the origin of the Alaskan Malamute and its rich historical connection to the Inuit people and to Alaska. I also did not know that it is one of the 12 ancient breeds. Thank you for providing such a wealth of information about the Alaskan Malamute – including that this breed of dog was vital to miners during the Gold Rush; that Alaskan Malamutes helped during Admiral Byrd's expedition to the South Pole; and that Alaskan Malamutes were part of the dog team that made the historical Serum Run to Nome. The Alaskan Malamute truly is a wonderful dog that is hard working and loyal. I agree that these are the kind of attributes that Alaskans would consider important in naming an Alaska state dog.

I wish you and your class much success in your efforts to have the Alaska Malamute named Alaska state dog.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Fran Ulmer'.

Fran Ulmer  
Chancellor

Gary Drew  
3760 Amber Bay Loop  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
8 April 2008

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to make the Alaskan Malamute the official State dog of Alaska. I have been impressed with the job that the students at Polaris k-12 in Anchorage have done in making the case for the Malamute. I for one was educated by the class and felt they had done an exceptional job researching the topic. Given the importance of dogs in the history and culture of Alaska, I can think of no better way to honor this contribution than to select a true working dog, the Alaskan Malamute, as the official State dog

Sincerely,



Gary Dew

3/31/08

DEAR JACOB,

THANK YOU FOR THE INTERESTING LETTER.  
I WOULD BE GLAD TO SUPPORT YOUR IDEA  
FOR PROMOTING THE ALASKAN MALEMUTE TO  
BE THE ALASKAN STATE DOG.

YOU HAVE DONE A LOT OF RESEARCH ON  
THE HISTORY OF THE DOG AND HAVE FOUND OUT  
HOW PEOPLE WANTED THEM TO BE PART OF  
THEIR FAMILY.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RESEARCH, I AM SURE  
YOU WILL FIND MORE INTERESTING FACTS  
THAT WILL CONVINCEN YOU, EVEN MORE, THAT  
THE MALEMUTE WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT  
CHOICE TO REPRESENT ALASKA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER AND I  
WILL TELL MY FRIENDS ABOUT YOUR  
PROJECT.

LOVE YOU,

GRANDMA ELAINE.

March 28, 2008

Gwyneth Meek  
Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Gwyneth,

Thank you for your letter asking for support to make the Malamute the Alaska State Dog. I learned several things about Malamutes that I did not know before.

I think your project to have the Malamute named as the state dog is a wonderful idea, and I fully support this effort. I encourage the Alaska Legislature to learn more about the Alaska Malamute and make it our official state dog.

I wish you success with your project,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Friedman  
Anchorage School Board Member  
1534 D Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501



# Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4431 • Fax: (907) 343-4499 <http://www.muni.org>

Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

May 13, 2008

Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1911  
Attn: Sarah Bartholomew

Dear Ms. Bartholomew:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Malamutes and how helpful they have been to people in the Arctic region. Your letter was very insightful and had a lot of information that I was unaware of pertaining to this breed of dog. I agree this is one of the oldest and toughest dogs to come out of this region, probably even one of the first dogs to be domesticated here in Alaska being able to withstand the Northern Arctic's harsh climate.

Passage of a bill would be special recognition for an animal that has done so much for the people living in Alaska and other Arctic regions. I would love to support you and your school on this bill, and I believe the community would agree the Malamute should be our state dog. Having this breed originate from our own state should be more than a good enough reason to consider it as our state dog.

Good Luck with your school project to get this bill passed.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich  
Mayor

*Community, Security, Prosperity*

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Labor and Commerce  
Committee, Chair

•  
Legislative Budget and Audit  
Committee

•  
Senate Rules Committee

•  
Committee on Committees



*While in Session*  
State Capitol, Rm. 9  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-3704  
Fax: (907) 465-2529

*While in Anchorage*  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste. 440  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-0169  
Fax: (907) 269-0172

SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

March 31, 2008

Carol's Family Group  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Kaya,

Thank you very much for your delightful letter about making the Alaska Malamute the official State dog for Alaska. I am very impressed with the research you and your class did to learn more about the Malamute and its historical contribution to Alaska and its people.

I am very supportive of your efforts to work toward achieving this very important goal and you have very clearly justified why the Alaska Malamute is an excellent choice for our State. This process will be an excellent learning opportunity for you, and I am most appreciative of your class for selecting this very worthwhile project.

Please feel free to call on me for any further assistance I may provide on behalf of your mission. The Alaska Malamute has proven its value to the State and, now, should be honored for its contributions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ellis".

Johnny Ellis

cc: Representative Berta Gardner

April 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support officially declaring the Alaska Malamute as the State Dog.


As the result of the wonderful work of a second grade class at Polaris K-12 in Anchorage I was made aware of the tremendous role the Alaska Malamute has played in Alaska history.

At the top of the list:

- They helped gold miners dig for gold.
- They are strong workers and are used to pull heavy burdens.
- Their role in the Iditarod is obvious.

Please accept these brief words as my support. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



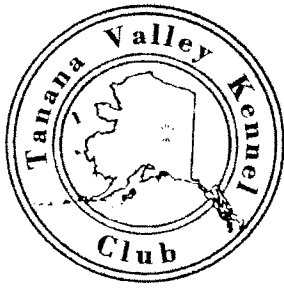
Troy J. Bowler

[tbowler@tanainachildren.org](mailto:tbowler@tanainachildren.org)

786-1339

**Alaska's State Dog**  
**the**  
**Alaska Malamute**





# TANANA VALLEY KENNEL CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 72019  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-2019

May 18, 2008

Polaris K-12 School  
6200 Ashwood Street  
Anchorage, AK 99507

To Whom It May Concern,

We at the Tanana Valley Kennel Club wish to add our support in the effort to make the Alaskan Malamute Alaska's official state dog. The Alaskan Malamute has played a very important role in Alaska's history. It would be a well deserved honor for this breed to be recognized as Alaska's state dog.

Sincerely,

Becky Fuller  
Correspondence Secretary  
Tanana Valley Kennel Club

April 7, 2008

Dear Robby,

I received your letter requesting support for the Alaska Malamute to be the official dog for the state of Alaska. You made a very strong case for the Alaska Malamute. You presented many facts to support your position. I did not know Alaska Malamutes had such important jobs in World War II. From the reasons you presented, I understand why you think the Alaska Malamute should be the state dog.

Please know you have my support. Good luck!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Patka". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Teresa A. Patka



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

College of Business and Public Policy

3211 Providence Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8180

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE**

April 29, 2008

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I am writing in support of making the Alaska malamute the official state dog of Alaska. The arguments supporting this proposal, as articulated by the students of Polaris, have convinced me that the Alaska malamute is an appropriate symbol for our state. The breed represents the best of our unique state, as a strong, beautiful animal that has contributed greatly to the survival of peoples in this tough region for thousands of years.

I also think it is exciting to see young people get engaged in thinking about, and making public policy and history.

I urge you to support this effort.

Thank you.

Diane Hirshberg  
Assistant Professor of Education Policy  
Hirshberg@uaa.alaska.edu  
907/786-5413