

**HB**

**14**



Telephone Introduction to the Polaris K-12 School's Malamute Project  
Given by Paige Hill, student,  
To the House State Affairs Committee in support of  
HB 14: "An Act designating the Alaskan Malamute as the official state dog."  
February 26, 2009

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Paige Hill and I'm in the second grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage.

When I was in kindergarten, 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.

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. That's what made me ask, what's our state dog? 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 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 kids working hard, 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 to join us and help research more about the Alaska Malamute's history. We learned that this great dog has been in Alaska for thousands of years. It's one of the twelve ancient breeds and the only dog native to the United States. The Alaskan malamute is a working dog who worked right alongside people all through Alaska's history and helped make Alaska what it is today.

We know that once people understand the Alaska Malamute's long and loyal history, they will realize that this is the dog to be our official state dog.

Thank you for taking our bill seriously and for helping to have the Alaskan malamute declared the official state dog.

Telephone Testimony by Polaris K-12 Students to the  
House State Affairs Committee in support of  
HB 14: "An Act designating the Alaskan Malamute as the official state dog."  
February 26, 2009

I. Overview

**CIARA BRADY:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Ciara Brady. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. We know that some people, and possibly some of you listening to us today, feel that the Alaska husky should be recognized as the official state dog. Some of us felt that way, too, when we first started our research, but what we found convinced all of us that the Alaskan Malamute is the right choice for Alaska's official state dog.

**RAIA STAMM:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Raia Stamm. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute is a fine example of a breed of dog developed for a particular purpose. They helped early Arctic settlers hunt and pull heavy sledges loaded with supplies. They assisted Arctic explorers and were able to work for weeks on end without negative effects of the daily strain. They helped during the Gold Rush and later before statehood when Alaska was not as easily traveled as it is today. Throughout history people needed an animal who could help them and they got all that and more from the Alaskan Malamute. They also got a dog who was smart and loyal, and who worked well with people. Sometimes they even helped to raise the kids!

**KAI ROBERTS:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Kai Roberts. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute, as you know, is still around today and its characteristics have been preserved so that, theoretically, today's Alaskan Malamutes are able to do the same job as that of their forefathers. In other words, they continue to be the same amazing dog that they were throughout Alaska's history.

II. The Alaskan Malamute Breed

**SANNE CASSEE:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Sanne Cassee. I'm in the 2nd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute, one of the oldest Arctic sled dogs, was named after the native Inuit tribe called Mahlemuts, who settled along the shores of Kotzebue Sound in the upper western part of Alaska, within the Arctic Circle.

**CALEENA SHAFER:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Caleena Shafer. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamutes have been in Alaska for over 5000 years; some people claim for up to 10,000-15,000 years, and even up to 20,000 years, as evidenced by bone and ivory carvings found by archeologists. They show ancient Alaskan Malamutes almost identical to today's breed. Recent DNA analysis confirms that the Alaskan Malamute is one of the oldest breeds of dog. The Alaskan Malamute is known to be one of the twelve ancient breeds.

**THOMAS TUNNELL:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Thomas Tunnell. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Mahlemut Eskimos originated the breed. Original Alaskan Malamutes were 120-180 lb. (Today's Alaskan Malamute is smaller, approximately 85 lb.)

**ATTICUS MADLAND:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Atticus Madland. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute is the native Alaskan Arctic breed, close cousins to the Eskimo dogs of Canada, Greenland and Labrador, cousin to the Samoyed of Russia and to the Siberian Husky. Also in this group are dogs from Japan, Norway, Finland, Holland, and many others. The Alaskan Malamute is the ONLY breed, out of over 150 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club, that is native to the United States.

**ADELINE WRIGHT:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Adeline Wright. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute can stand severe cold weather and they were easy to care for. They have a low metabolism so only eat as much as a smaller dog, making them easier to feed and care for. They love people, especially children, and work as partners with their humans. They are often mistaken for huskies.

**WALKER PLATZEK:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Walker Platzek. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute was never destined to be a racing sled dog; it was a working dog. It is not built for speed, it was built for heavy draft work. It is a heavy-boned dog, with powerfully built, strong shoulders. When working, the Alaskan Malamute shows a steady and tireless gait. It was used for heavy freighting, pulling thousands of pounds of supplies to villages and camps. They are very strong, able to pull very heavy loads. They were also used in hunting seals, were set loose in packs to track polar bears, to haul heavy sledges, and to pack in supplies.

**CHRIS GRAY:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Chris Gray. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamutes' ability was so amazing and widely respected, that Eskimos who lived inland traveled to the Kotzebue Sound to trade furs for dogs and supplies. This is how the Alaskan Malamutes found their way to other regions of Alaska and even to parts of the Yukon in Canada during the Gold Rush, where the gold diggers and some of the dogs that came with them to the Yukon made the Alaskan Malamutes' acquaintance some one hundred years ago.

### III. Alaska's State Symbols

**ROSEMARY FLESHER:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Rosemary Flesher. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage.

During our research, we discovered that Dog Mushing is Alaska's official sport. Of course, the husky is known to be the best sled dog racer and a very important part of the sport. To the people who feel that the husky should be our official state dog, we respectfully point out that they already are. Alaskan dog mushing would not be what it is today without the contributions of the husky. They are dog mushing!

**KAITLAN McLALLEN**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Kaitlan McLallen I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute has the very long history and were a very important part of the earliest cultures of Alaska. By designating the Alaskan Malamute as the official state dog, we are honoring that long history. We're also honoring the first Alaskans who worked in partnership with this amazing dog and who also deserve to be honored.

### IV. Inuit History (3000 BC to present)

**ABBIGALE SEITZ:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Abbigale Seitz. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage.

Alaskan Malamutes baby-sat the Inuit children while parents were out on hunts which is one reason they make very good family pets. They were so gentle that they allowed the human babies to crawl in and snuggle up with their puppies. Their use of dogs was a partnership for survival.

**ONNI ENNIS-COCHRAN:**

Hello, Mr. Chair. My name is Onni Ennis-Cochran. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. In summer, the Mahlemut people fished and hunted inland. In winter, they hunted sea mammals on the coast. Their dogs, the Alaskan Malamute, assisted in hauling their possessions between spots, tracking polar bears and other quarry, hunting seals, moving meat from the hunt back to their base, and with the hunt itself, as well as lookouts for bears and guarding caribou herds.

## V. Early Explorers (1700-1800s)

**JASMINE RISKI:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Jasmine Riski. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. In the 1700 and 1800s, European explorers to Alaska were impressed with the breed. They were impressed not only by the hardy dog, but also by their owners' obvious attachment to them. Early writings indicate that the dogs kept by the Mahlemut people were better cared for than was usual for Arctic sled dogs, and this seemingly accounts for the breeds affectionate disposition.

## VI. Russian Alaska (1731-1867)

**KENJI MATSUOKA:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Kenji Matsuoka. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Travel logs of the early Russian and English explorers often reported a superior and better kept type of work dog kept by the Mahlemut people. They wrote about them being less "wild", more friendly and easy going, and capable of an enormous amount of work, both hunting and hauling.

## VII. Captain Cook (1776-1779)

**CLARA VEELMAN:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Clara Veelman. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Captain Cook came to Alaska in 1776 to find the fabled Northwest Passage, a trading route across the top of North America, from Europe to Asia. His journals and logs showed that he was VERY impressed by the big, strong, hardworking Alaskan Malamute who got along and worked so well with humans.

## VIII. The Gold Rush (1896-1906+/-)

**SABRINA URBAN:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Sabrina Urban. I'm in the 2nd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. By the time of the Gold Rush, Alaskan Malamutes, with their ability to haul equipment and people, were in high demand. They were so highly valued that a prospector would pay \$500 dollars for one good dog and \$1500 for a small team!

**RALEIGH PIGG:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Raleigh Pigg. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Many dogs were being transported to Alaska during the Gold Rush, and used for travel to the furthest reaches of the wilderness, in search of fortune. Irish and English Setters, Siberian Huskies from Russia, canines of every type; the demand for big, strong dogs outweighed their supply in this northernmost state.

**OCEANA GAMEL-HOWES:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Oceana Gamel Howes. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in

Anchorage. Many people crossed their dogs with Alaskan Malamutes to try to make them bigger and stronger and better suited to the climate. The Alaska Alaskan Malamute breed was almost lost during the Gold Rush era, but a few dedicated Alaskan Malamute enthusiasts did their best to save the breed.

## IX. Alaska's Purchase & Statehood (1867-1959)

### DESIREE ARMSTRONG:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Desiree Armstrong. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Long after the Gold Rush, Alaskan Malamutes continued to be valuable freight dogs. They were easy to care for and could pull very heavy loads to areas that were otherwise not accessible.

### RYAN TERRY:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Ryan Terry. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaska Alaskan Malamute helped haul the mail and freight supplies in Bush Alaska. After the Gold Rush, Alaskans, both native and white, continued to make good use of sled dogs, for travel, hunting and trap lines, and most important, for mail delivery. During the frozen months, when ships couldn't reach Alaska's harbors, dog team mail carriers, in relays of 300 miles each, transported mail over 1000 miles of Alaskan terrain. Alaskan Malamutes played a huge part in this. They were the Big Mac Trucks of their day! Often, they were carrying a thousand pounds of mail at one time, and it is said they would arrive in Nome, frisky and ready to run again.

### WILL ROBERSON:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Will Roberson. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. By 1908, a new sport also began to take shape. Racing your dog team was soon a big social event. Dog sled races popped up all over the remote communities of Alaska. The Siberian Husky was also first imported in 1908 in an effort to get a faster sled dog for racing. People continued to mix their dogs and this is the time when the concept of "Alaska husky," the beginnings of today's sled dogs, began to emerge and why it has so many different looks today. As you know, dog mushing, starring the "Alaska husky," went on to become the official state sport in 1972.

## X. The 1925 Serum Run

### JOEY AIST:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Joey Aist. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. During the 1925 Serum Run to Nome, about 150 sled dogs relayed diphtheria antitoxin 674 miles by dog sled in a record-breaking five and a half days, saving the small city of Nome and the surrounding communities from an incipient epidemic. The Alaskan Malamute played a role in this important event doing their part to carry the badly needed medicine to Nome.

## XI. Peary, Amundsen, & Byrd Expeditions

### TRENT DEVEREUX:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Trent Devereux. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Alaskan Malamutes contributed to the polar expeditions of Perry, Amundsen, and Byrd to the South Pole. They were employed to pull the heavy supply sleds. The successful exploration of this vast continent could not have been accomplished without the help of the Alaskan Malamute.

## XII. World War II.

### GWYNETH MEEK:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Gwyneth Meek. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute was important to America's efforts during World War II. They pulled sleds in snow-covered areas that were not accessible to other, more mechanical means of transportation.

TAYLOR BAGDON :

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Taylor Bagdon. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. During World War II., Alaskan Malamutes were also used as pack animals to carry weaponry and ammunition across the frozen ground. They served as search-and-rescue dogs and they sniffed for mines.

JESSICA HUSA:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Jessica Husa. I'm in the 3rd grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. During World War II., the military tried to make the Alaskan Malamute guard dogs, but they failed the test because they just liked people too much to attack a person.

### XIII. Additional Notes for the Record

DUNCAN WRIGHT:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Duncan Wright. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. We would like you to consider the following points of grammar. The "M" in "Alaskan Malamute" needs to be changed to a capital letter. We believe that the word "Alaskan Malamute" in "Alaskan Malamute" is a proper noun because it names a specific dog and so it should be capitalized.

We learned that historically, the Alaskan Malamute was so respected for its ability to haul loads that people began to use the word "malamute" to indicate *any* freight-pulling dog. This common use makes it a *common noun*. A common noun is not capitalized because it doesn't name anything specific. (For example, the words *man*, *city*, *dog*, are common nouns. The general use of the word *malamute* to describe any freight hauling dog is also a common noun.)

A proper noun names a specific noun, so is capitalized (for example, Mr. Jones is a specific name, Juneau is a specific city, and Alaskan Malamute is a specific dog or breed of dog). We researched the American Kennel Club web site and found that they capitalize all dog names. Alaskan Malamute, Afghan Hound, and Siberian Husky are all examples of capitalized names of dog breeds. They are all proper nouns because they're all specific breeds.

In House Bill 14, we are talking about a very specific malamute, namely the "*Alaskan Malamute*," the dog who has been an Alaskan since the very beginning and so feel that it needs to be capitalized.

YUNGSHU WONG:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Yungshu Wong. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. I'm going to give you an important argument against using the terms "sled dog," "mutt," or "Alaska husky" as our state dog. We've researched the state symbols of Alaska and other states, too. All of the symbols we found name something very specific. For example, our state marine mammal is not the *whale*, it's the *Bowhead Whale*. Our state insect is not the *dragon fly*, it's the *Four Spotted Skimmer Dragon Fly*. It's the same for all of the other states, too. Everything is very specific. The nine states who have an official state dog, name a specific breed. The terms "sled dog," "mutt," and "Alaska husky" are not just general names. The Alaskan Malamute, however, is a very specific breed.

### XIV. Wrap Up

SAMUEL BROWN:

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Samuel Brown. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. During our work we came across some minor opposition. This included an article written by Craig Medred in the *Anchorage Daily News*, a person commenting on Dermot Cole's article in the *Daily News Miner*, and a couple of other people we've heard of along the way. We recognize that the Alaska Husky has made a great contribution to Alaskans and Alaska, both as a light working dog and as a recreational sled dog. However, the husky does

NOT have the extremely long history of the Alaskan Malamute.

**KAYA PORTER:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Kaya Porter. I'm in the 4th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The history of the Alaska husky began with the Gold Rush of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Siberian Husky was imported to Alaska in 1908. In comparison, the Alaskan Malamute has been in Alaska for at least 5,000 years!!!

**OWEN MCGEE:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Owen McGee. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Our official state sport is Dog Mushing. The "Alaska husky," bred for and known to all as a racing dog, is already been recognized by the adoption of dog mushing as the official Alaska state sport. Without the husky, there would be no dog mushing!

**MAEVE WILEY:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Raia Stamm. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. The Alaskan Malamute represents the Alaskan character: proud, independent, and sometimes even stubborn. The Alaskan Malamute is friendly and fun-loving, just like Alaskans. And the Alaskan Malamute is HUGE, just like Alaska!

**MADLINE FLORES:**

Good Morning, Mr. Chair. My name is Madeline Flores. I'm in the 5th grade at Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage. Alaskans love dogs and the Alaskan Malamute is Alaska's oldest dog. It arrived with the very first people 5,000 years ago, maybe even earlier. With its very long and distinguished history, the Alaskan Malamute has always been an intelligent, hardworking, and loyal partner. By honoring the Alaskan Malamute, we are also honoring the very first people of Alaska. Alaska's entire history will also be honored because this brave hearted dog was there and actively involved every step of the way. The Alaskan Malamute is an amazing dog that helped to open up the state and make Alaska what it is today. The Alaskan Malamute deserves to be recognized as our official state dog. Thank you for helping to make that possible.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
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STATE OF ALASKA

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
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2009

**SUBJECT:** CSHB 14(STA) relating to the state dog  
(Work Order No. 26-LS0079\R)

**TO:** Representative Bob Lynn  
Chair of the House State Affairs Committee  
Attn: Nancy Manly

**FROM:**  Theresa Bannister  
Legislative Counsel

This memo accompanies the bill described above.

Capitalization. Please be aware that capitalizing "malamute" does not follow the Manual of Legislative Drafting. AS 24.08.060(a) states that bills and resolutions are to be prepared and introduced in the manner and form prescribed in the uniform rules and the legislative style manual. Rule 10 of the Uniform Rules requires that the manual be followed by all officers and employees of the legislature in the preparation, processing, and disposition of all legislative documents and records. The manual states at page 60 that capitals are to be used sparingly and directs, as a general rule, using the lower case. As can be seen by a review of the statutes, references to animals are not capitalized (e.g., "black bear"). However, if you want to consider placing this matter in a resolution, the manual also states at page 60 that capitals may be used more generously in resolutions.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:plm  
09-124.plm

Enclosure

# Alaska State Legislature



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*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

**E-Mail:** Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us  
**"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog"** RepBobLynnBlog.com

## FAX

To: Legal Services

Fax #: 465-2029

From: Nancy Manly 465-2794  
Alaska State Capitol, room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

# of Pages (including cover): 1

Phone: 907-465-4931  
Fax: 907-465-4316

Re HB 14 – Alaskan Malamute as State Dog

2/26/09

HB 14 passed out of House State Affairs Committee amended.

Representative Wilson offered a conceptual amendment to Line 1 and Line 4 that would capitalize the "M" in Malamute.

Please draft a final CS to HB 14 that reflects this conceptual amendment. Thanks..

**Nancy Manly**

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**From:** Noah Hanson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2009 11:20 AM

**To:** Nancy Manly

Nancy, not sure if you need this but I will give it to you anyway. Here are the names of the student who will be testifying tomorrow:

Paige Hill  
Ciara Brady  
Raia Stamm  
Kai Roberts  
Sanne Cassee  
Cally Shafer  
Thomas Tunnell  
Atticus Madland  
Adeline Wright  
Walker Platzek  
Chris Gray  
Rosemary Flesher  
Kaitlan McLanlen  
Abbigale Seitz  
Onni Ennis-Cochran  
Jasmine Riski  
Kenji Matsuoka  
Clara Veelman  
Sabrina Urban  
Raleigh Pigg  
Oceana Gamel-Howes  
Desiree Armstrong  
Ryan Terry  
Will Roberson  
Joey Aist  
Trent Devereux  
Gwyneth Meek  
Taylor Bagdon  
Jessica Husa  
Duncan Wright  
Yungshu Wong  
Sam Brown  
Kaya Porter  
Owen McGee  
Maeve Wiley  
Madeline Flores

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Juneau

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## **Representative Berta Gardner**

*House District 24*

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### HB 14

*"An Act designating the Alaskan malamute as the Alaska State Dog"*

The Alaskan malamute has played an important role in Alaska's history for at least four thousand years. Considered to be one of the twelve ancient breeds, the Alaskan malamute evolved from the ancient dogs that accompanied prehistoric man in his migrations from Asia, reaching back to the earliest days of prehistory Alaska with the Mahlemut people, now known as the Inuits, in Northwestern Alaska. They lived and worked closely with their dogs, depending on them as partners in hunting large game, hauling heavy loads, and even helping to watch children.

Eighteenth and nineteenth century European explorers to Alaska were impressed with the breed and by the time of the gold rush, Alaskan malamutes, with their ability to haul equipment and people, were in high demand. They were so highly valued that a prospector would pay \$500 dollars for one good dog and \$1500 for a small team! Long after the Gold Rush, Alaskan malamutes continued to be valuable freight dogs. They were easy to care for and could pull heavy loads to areas that were otherwise inaccessible.

During the 1925 Serum Run to Nome, about 150 sled dogs relayed diphtheria antitoxin 674 miles by dog sled in a record-breaking five and a half days, saving the small city of Nome and the surrounding communities from an incipient epidemic. The Alaskan malamute played a role in this important event.

The Alaskan malamute assisted with Admiral Richard Byrd's expeditions to the South Pole in 1928 and 1934. The successful exploration of this vast continent could not have been accomplished without these dogs.

Additionally, the Alaskan malamute contributed to America's efforts during WWII, pulling sleds in snow-covered areas that were inaccessible to other, more mechanical means of transportation. They were also used as pack animals to carry weaponry and ammunition across the frozen ground, and they served as search-and-rescue dogs.

With its long and distinguished history, the Alaskan malamute has always been an intelligent, hardworking, and loyal partner. This amazing breed helped to make Alaska what it is today and deserves to be recognized.

Please join us in supporting the appointment of the Alaskan malamute as the official Alaska state dog.



AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: HB 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYNN

- 1 Page 1, line 1:
- 2 Delete "**malamute**"
- 3 Insert "**husky**"
- 4
- 5 Page 1, line 4:
- 6 Delete "malamute"
- 7 Insert "husky"

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: HB 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYNN

- 1 Page 1, line 1:
- 2 Delete "**malamute**"
- 3 Insert "**sled dog**"
- 4
- 5 Page 1, line 4:
- 6 Delete "**malamute**"
- 7 Insert "**sled dog**"

**Nancy Manly**

---

**From:** mush@matnet.com on behalf of Fred Agree [mush@matnet.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 10:43 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** Re: HB 14 ALASKAN MALAMUTE AS STATE DOG

Esteemed members of the Alaska House:

I am writing this to show my opposition to HB14, naming the Alaska Malamute as the Alaska State Dog. I write, as I am currently recovering from pneumonia and my telephone voice is rough. My name is Fred Agree and I am a member of the Iditarod Official Finishers Club, a former State Veterinary Examiner Board member and owner of Petersville Kennels for 30 years.

The history presented by the American Kennel Club on Alaskan Malamutes is full of errors and exaggerations. The history portrayed by the AKC has little to do with the current breed, called Alaska Malamutes.

Mrs. Eva Seeley of New Hampshire, came to Nome in 1927, and bought a dog from Arthur Walden, well known Alaskan musher. He told her it had belonged to one of the Malamute family on the Seward Peninsula. We all know that a musher is not going to sell a good dog to a woman tourist from New Hampshire! The origin of the second dog she bought, is lost to history.

Mrs. Seeley took these dogs back to New Hampshire, where she began to breed them, fathers to daughters, sons to mothers and brothers to sisters. This line breeding produced the desired look, but produced bad hips, nasty attitudes with other dogs, and clunky bodies. Somewhere in those years Mrs. Seeley named them Alaskan Malamutes and began to market them throughout America. They eventually made their way to Alaska as pets. Today, they can be seen, at Alaska Kennel Club shows being trotted around a show ring by a woman in a dress, being observed by a judge in a Brooks Brothers suit. There is only one team of them running in Alaska, at Knik. They are a horror to try to pass on the trail, and their 4mph pace makes them a nuisance to follow. Jimmy Malamute won the Anchorage Fur Rondy race in 1957. If you look at a picture of his team it is hardly the 100lb behemoths called Malamutes today!

The real Alaska State Dog is the Alaska Husky. These were bred for performance and attitude. They include Seppala's TOGO, Scotty Allen's BALDY OF NOME,

Gareth Wright's JENNY, George Attla's LINGO, Joe Redington's FEETS, Susan Butcher's GRANITE, Rick Swenson's ANDY, Dan Seavey's SUNNY, Earl Norris' NIKOLI. and my Iditarod leader, a white dog named BLACKIE.

I ask you legislators to consider the ALASKA HUSKY as the State Dog and let New Hampshire have the "Malamute" as theirs.

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Con Bunde  
District P

Member: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

During Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4843



During Interim:  
716 W. Fourth Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133  
(907) 269-0181

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2009

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senator Con Bunde

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Con Bunde".

RE: Alaska's State Dog

---

*As a former dog musher, mushing instructor and past president of the Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA), I immediately thought that House Bill 14 was honoring the "wrong dog" and the attached article supports my sentiments.*

*While I support Rep. Gardner's efforts to involve the children at Polaris K-12 in the political process, it is my hope that they reconsider the focus of the bill to instead be the Alaskan Husky as Alaska's State Dog.*

*Sincerely,*

*Con*

**adn.com**

Anchorage Daily News

Print Page

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## Malamute promoters barking up wrong tree

CRAIG MEDRED  
OUTDOORS

(01/26/09 22:26:06)

In no state in the nation has the common canine played a more important role than in Alaska, and for that reason the students at Anchorage Polaris K-12 school and Rep. Berta Gardner, D-Anchorage, deserve a heap of praise for their efforts to make the malamute the state dog.

The only problem is they've got the wrong pup.

Not that there is anything wrong with the malamute, an historic Alaska breed believed to trace its roots back to the first wolves domesticated by Natives of the Arctic Coast. It's just that there's a much better candidate:

The sled dog.

Yeah, that's right. The basic, generic, unpretentious sled dog.

He or she might be a malamute or part malamute, or a Siberian husky or part Siberian husky, or a German shorthair or part German shorthair, or an Irish setter or part Irish setter, or a Targhee hound or part Targhee hound, or a cross between a black-and-white dog and a mongrel.

Whatever the case, this dog is the essence of all that is best about the 49th state:

- We don't care where you came from.
- We don't care what you look like.
- All that matters is that you can perform.

For the Mahlemut Inuits of Kotzebue Sound back in the days before the white people arrived in Alaska, the malamute was that dog.

For the adventurers and prospectors who first opened Alaska up to the rest of the world, the "Esquimax" dog or the "Indian" dog was that dog.

For the men who hauled the freight that helped build the early gold mines that were Alaska's economy before the oil began to flow, the "big dog" -- be it a mixed breed of Saint Bernard, husky, Newfoundland, or what-have-you -- was that dog.

Over the years, almost any breed of dog more than 20 pounds or so seems to have served time as an Alaska sled dog.

"Gillie Jacko had a bunch of Airedales," wrote the late Gus Jensen, an Athabascan elder from

Iliamna Lake. Jensen once hauled the mail by dog team from Iliamna to Pile Bay Village, Pedro Bay, Chekok and Goose Bay. Bill Vaudrin, a writer and Iditarod veteran who died tragically at the age of 32 in a 1976 car accident, got Jensen and a bunch of others to detail their memories for a book titled "Racing Alaskan Sled Dogs." Jensen lived through the period when the sled dog was to Alaska what the horse was to the West.

The sled dog, in all shapes and sizes, opened the frontier.

"I remember old Charlie Dennison from up at Lake Clark was trying to haul a 1,200-pound boiler home from Roadhouse (Iliamna) for his sawmill," Jensen wrote. "He son, Floyd, had 13 big dogs that time. He used to brag he threw away 80- and 90-pounders. But he got stuck."

Dennison called for help. A massive towline was lashed together. Other dog teams were called in for muscle. Thirty-five canines of all sorts ended up harnessed to the stuck sled.

"Young Harvey Drew had great big, mixed-breed dogs -- Saint Bernard, husky, malamute, German shepherds -- and I was running nine big mail dogs," Jensen wrote, "(and) those Airedales of Gillie's were up front barking and yapping, and that sled mowed down everything in its path, snapped dry trees 8 and 10 inches through like they were kindling."

The sled dog was the workhorse of the historic early Alaska.

Eventually, of course, the internal-combustion engine came to replace man's best friend as the power of the North, but the sled dog had by then earned such a prominent place in our history that it will never go away. The sled dog is still out there today running for competition or for fun, and he or she remains very much the any-dog that made Alaska.

"The best cross I ever had was a springer (spaniel) with a Johnny Allen (husky) bitch," Gareth Wright, the legendary dog breeder from Fairbanks, wrote in *Racing*. Wright's Aurora huskies -- a cross between Irish setters, wolves and Siberian huskies with some hound and only-Gareth-knows-what-else rolled in -- helped him win the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous World Championship Sled Dog Race and the Open North American Championship in Fairbanks back in the day. But the reign of the Aurora husky didn't end there.

Aurora huskies helped power Wright's daughter, Roxie Wright, to the first Fur Rendezvous win by a woman and towed grandson Ramy Brooks to victory in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The Wrights were a dominant force for a long time in Alaska sled-dog racing, and who knows, but that they might not have been more so if Gareth had bred more of those springer-spaniel crosses.

Unfortunately, he wrote, that "was an accidental breeding, and before I found out how good the pups were, I sold the female. There were six (pups) in the litter, and I ran them in 1947 when they were 15 months old and came in second by 4 seconds in the North American. ... Those were the toughest and fastest dogs I ever saw."

They were special dogs, but of no special breed.

They were simply sled dogs of the sort you'll see line up on Fourth Avenue in downtown Anchorage for the start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March.

Look at these dogs closely, and you can see the blood of just about any dog you want to imagine in the mix somewhere: Huskies, hounds, retrievers, pointers and even, occasionally, what appears as if it might be some hint of the malamute or even the wolf. Here is the great melting pot of the canine world.

America, as President Barack Obama so well illustrates, might be the world's greatest racial and ethnic melting pot, but Alaska clearly holds the distinction in the canine world. The grand stage for man's best friend in Alaska doesn't revolve around Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show prettiness, where judges fret over whether a dog is true to its ancestor's breed.

No, the grand stage of Alaska centers on the sled dog trails where it really doesn't matter who your ancestors were; it matters only that you perform like Paul Gebhardt's "red dog," the 2000 winner of the Iditarod's Golden Harness award for the best lead dog.

Like so many others, red dog was a mix, a mongrel, a cross breed. But all of that became irrelevant because he was a first-class sled dog with a big heart, a powerful body and an overwhelming determination to please.

Alaska was, in part, built on the hard work of dogs like this.

They are the dogs that deserve our recognition for their role in our history.

Not this breed or that breed over which the fans of each could no doubt argue for days or weeks, but that easily defined dog that could be yours or mine or anybody's in almost any shape or size -- the sled dog.

*Find Craig Medred online at [adn.com/contact/cmedred](http://adn.com/contact/cmedred) or call 257-4588.*



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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: HB 14  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): HB014-GOV-OMB-2-20-09 Dept. Affected: All  
Title Designating the Alaskan malamute as the official state dog RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
Component \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Rep. Gardner Component Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Requester House State Affairs Committee

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will not have any doggone fiscal impact on any State agency.

Prepared by: Jack Kreinheder, Senior Analyst  
Division: Office of Management and Budget  
Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

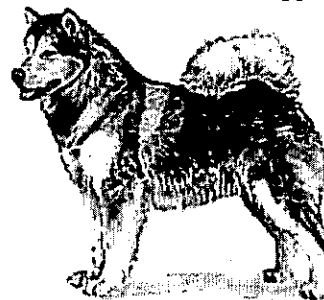
Phone 465-4676  
Date/Time 2/20/09 1:00 PM  
Date 2/20/2009



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

Information on AKC Alaskan Malamute Puppies

## Alaskan Malamute Breed Standard



### Working Group

#### General Appearance

The Alaskan Malamute, one of the oldest Arctic sled dogs, is a powerful and substantially built dog with a deep chest and strong, well-muscled body. The Malamute stands well over the pads, and this stance gives the appearance of much activity and a proud carriage, with head erect and eyes alert showing interest and curiosity. The head is broad. Ears are triangular and erect when alerted. The muzzle is bulky, only slight diminishing in width from root to nose. The muzzle is not pointed or long, yet not stubby. The coat is thick with a coarse guard coat of sufficient length to protect a woolly undercoat. Malamutes are of various colors. Face markings are a distinguishing feature. These consist of a cap over the head, the face either all white or marked with a bar and/or mask. The tail is well furred, carried over the back, and has the appearance of a waving plume.

The Malamute must be a heavy boned dog with sound legs, good feet, deep chest and powerful shoulders, and have all of the other physical attributes necessary for the efficient performance of his job. The gait must be steady, balanced, tireless and totally efficient. He is not intended as a racing sled dog designed to compete in speed trials. The Malamute is structured for strength and endurance, and any characteristic of the individual specimen, including temperament, which interferes with the accomplishment of this purpose, is to be considered the most serious of faults.

#### Size, Proportion, Substance

There is a natural range in size in the breed. The desirable freighting sizes are males, 25 inches at the shoulders, 85 pounds; females, 23 inches at the shoulders, 75 pounds. However, size consideration should not outweigh that of type, proportion, movement and other functional attributes. When dogs are judged equal in type, proportion, movement, the dog nearest the desirable freighting size is to be preferred. The depth of chest is approximately one half the height of the dog at the shoulders, the deepest point being just behind the forelegs. The length of the body from point of shoulder to the rear point of pelvis is longer than the height of the body from ground to top of the withers. The body carries no excess weight, and bone is in proportion to size.

#### Head

The head is broad and deep, not coarse or clumsy, but in proportion to the size of the dog. The expression is soft and indicates an affectionate disposition. The eyes are obliquely placed in the skull. Eyes are brown, almond shaped and of medium size. Dark eyes are preferred. *Blue Eyes are a Disqualifying Fault.* The ears are of medium size, but small in proportion to the head. The ears are triangular in shape and slightly rounded at the tips. They are set wide apart on the outside back edges of the skull on line with the upper corner of the eye, giving ears the appearance, when erect, of standing off from the skull. Erect ears point slightly forward, but when the dog is at work, the ears are sometimes folded against the skull. High set ears are a fault.

The *skull* is broad and moderately rounded between the ears, gradually narrowing and flattening on top as it approaches the eyes, rounding off to cheeks that are moderately flat. There is a slight furrow between the eyes. The topline of the skull and the topline of the muzzle show a slight break downward from a straight line as they join. The *muzzle* is large and bulky in proportion to the size of the skull, diminishing slightly in width and depth from junction with the skull to the nose. In all coat colors, except reds, the *nose, lips, and eye rims' pigmentation* is black. Brown is permitted in red dogs. The lighter streaked "snow nose" is acceptable. The lips are close fitting. The upper and lower jaws are broad with large teeth. The incisors meet with a scissors grip. Overshot or undershot is a fault.

### **Neck, Topline, Body**

The neck is strong and moderately arched. The chest is well developed. The body is compactly built but not short coupled. The back is straight and gently sloping to the hips. The loins are hard and well muscled. A long loin that may weaken the back is a fault. The *tail* is moderately set and follows the line of the spine at the base. The tail is carried over the back when not working. It is not a snap tail or curled tight against the back, nor is it short furred like a fox brush. The Malamute tail is well furred and has the appearance of a waving plume.

### **Forequarters**

The shoulders are moderately sloping; forelegs heavily boned and muscled, straight to the pasterns when viewed from the front. Pasterns are short and strong and slightly sloping when viewed from the side. The feet are of the snowshoe type, tight and deep, with well-cushioned pads, giving a firm, compact appearance. The feet are large, toes tight fitting and well arched. There is a protective growth of hair between the toes. The pads are thick and tough; toenails short and strong.

### **Hindquarters**

The rear legs are broad and heavily muscled through the thighs; stifles moderately bent; hock joints are moderately bent and well let down. When viewed from the rear, the legs stand and move true in line with the movement of the front legs, not too close or too wide. Dewclaws on the rear legs are undesirable and should be removed shortly after puppies are whelped.

### **Coat**

The Malamute has a thick, coarse guard coat, never long and soft. The undercoat is dense, from one to two inches in depth, oily and woolly. The coarse guard coat varies in length as does the undercoat. The coat is relatively short to medium along the sides of the body, with the length of the coat increasing around the shoulders and neck, down the back, over the rump, and in the breeching and plume. Malamutes usually have a shorter and less dense coat during the summer months. The Malamute is shown naturally. Trimming is not acceptable except to provide a clean cut appearance of feet.

### **Color**

The usual colors range from light gray through intermediate shadings to black, sable, and shadings of sable to red. Color combinations are acceptable in undercoats, points, and trimmings. The only solid color allowable is all white. White is always the predominant color on underbody, parts of legs, feet, and part of face markings. A white blaze on the forehead and/or collar or a spot on the nape is attractive and acceptable. The Malamute is mantled, and broken colors extending over the body or uneven splashing are undesirable.

### **Gait**

The gait of the Malamute is steady, balanced, and powerful. He is agile for his size and build. When viewed from the side, the hindquarters exhibit strong rear drive that is transmitted through a well-muscled loin to the forequarters. The forequarters receive the drive from the rear with a smooth reaching stride. When viewed from the front or from the rear, the legs move true in line, not too close or too wide. At a fast trot, the feet will converge toward the centerline of the body. A stilted gait, or any gait that is not completely efficient and tireless, is to be penalized.

**Temperament**

The Alaskan Malamute is an affectionate, friendly dog, not a "one man" dog. He is a loyal, devoted companion, playful in invitation, but generally impressive by his dignity after maturity.

**Summary**

**IMPORTANT:** In judging Malamutes, their function as a sledge dog for heavy freighting in the Arctic must be given consideration above all else. The degree to which a dog is penalized should depend upon the extent to which the dog deviates from the description of the ideal Malamute and the extent to which the particular fault would actually affect the working ability of the dog. The legs of the Malamute must indicate unusual strength and tremendous propelling power. Any indication of unsoundness in legs and feet, front or rear, standing or moving, is to be considered a serious fault. Faults under this provision would be splay-footedness, cowhocks, bad pasterns, straight shoulders, lack of angulation, stilted gait (or any gait that isn't balanced, strong and steady), ranginess, shallowness, ponderousness, lightness of bone, and poor overall proportion.

**Disqualifications**

*Blue Eyes*

**Approved April 12, 1994**

**Effective May 31, 1994**

**Alaskan Malamute Links**

[Club Flier](#) | [Colors and Markings](#) | [Did You Know?](#) | [History](#) | [Photos](#) | [Puppies](#) | [Shop For Your Breed](#) | [Video](#)

# Alaskan Arctic Expeditions



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## Malamute History

The Alaskan Malamute originated at least four-thousand years ago with a group of Eskimos called Mahlemuit Inuits. Malamutes were probably among the first breeds to be domesticated. Their reputation for great strength, courage, endurance, and loyalty made them great family pets and fantastic freighting dogs. They were capable of pulling a tremendous amount of weight over long distances at a steady pace, even in extreme conditions.



Alaskan Malamutes have played a critical role in the endeavors of humankind for centuries. Just a few examples of their contributions to society include:

### The Klondike Gold Rush



With the onset of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1896, prospectors began to realize the need for hardy dog teams that could pull heavy freight. The Alaskan Malamute became the most prized dog. Not only could malamutes pull heavy loads, but they required very small quantities of food for their size compared to other breeds of sled dogs. Even at that time, a good malamute would cost a prospector about \$500.

Dog teams became the primary method of hauling freight. The teams even proved themselves useful for freighting in the summer months when they were hitched to small trams or teams.

### U.S. Postal Service

From the 1890's to 1963, Alaskan Malamutes were important to the mail service in Alaska and remote regions of Canada as the only reliable transportation. They were so important that a federal law required all other sled dog drivers to yield right-of-way to any mail-carrying team encountered.

The peak of mail service dog teams was from around 1910 into the late 1930's. As the postal service began replacing dog teams with airlines, sled dog carriers were phased out. In 1963, the last U.S. Postal Service mail driver retired with his dog team.



**Military Service**

During WWII, malamutes were used to pull sleds in snow covered areas that were inaccessible to other means of transportation. They freighted weapons and ammunition and were also used as search and rescue dogs.



**Expeditions**



Alaskan Malamutes have played a key role in countless expeditions. For example, a century ago Ernest de Koven Leffingwell harnessed the power of the Alaskan Malamute to map and explore Alaska's Arctic coast and what is known today as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Hudson Stuck used malamutes to explore the remote areas of western Alaska in the 1920's. But the malamute certainly wasn't limited to Alaska! Admiral Richard Byrd had malamutes in his dog team when he explored Antarctica on various expeditions from the 1930's through the 1950's.

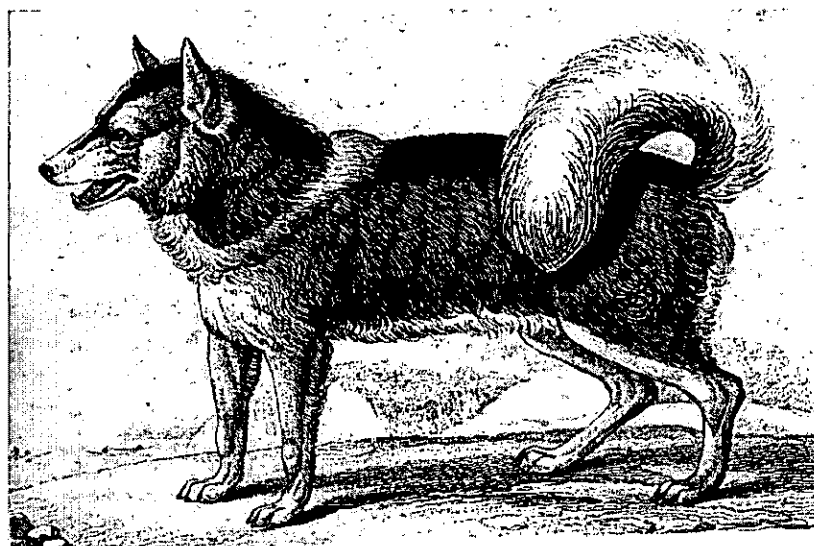
In the 1960's, Roger Burggraf used malamute teams to haul freight to climbers and explorers in Mount McKinley National Park in interior Alaska. He also used his malamutes to patrol the park during the winter months.

Today, Joe Henderson (Alaskan Arctic Expeditions) uses malamutes to their full potential on remote expeditions in the Arctic and interior Alaska. He may very well have one of the largest working Alaskan Malamute kennels in the world. He strives to maintain an outstanding working breed of malamutes that truly exemplifies their inherent strength, courage, and loyalty.



## ALASKAN MALAMUTE HISTORY

Alaska and Siberia, separated only by 55 miles of Bering Sea, with some of the smaller islands in the straits as close to each other as only 2 miles, have all through the ages shared their ancestry, a way of living and their life preserving dogs.



A Northern dog quite different from our Northern breeds of today

Some 35,000 years ago the people of Central Asia migrated farther and farther north to the extreme most regions of Siberia and the Arctic, and brought with them their jackal-type dogs (*Canis aureus*). Cross-bred with the Arctic wolves (*Canis lupus*), these animals developed over the centuries into what later came to be referred to as the Northern breeds, including the Malamute, Samoyeds, the Spitz, Keeshonds, Elkhounds, the Nootka dogs of Iceland and the Russian Laikas.

By the Neolithic age, 3500 to 2000 B.C., the Northern dogs had become established with their own type and characteristics which, with periodic breedings to the wolf, managed to endure down through the ages. All of these were referred to as "huskies". The term husky is a corruption of "esky", a slang word for Eskimo; it covered all the sled-pulling breeds that had rough, shaggy coats, pointed faces and plumey tails. Their coats were thick and woolly to protect them from the elements, and they came in almost every color; solids, brindles, white with spots, black with white, white with black patches, reds, yellow, yellow spotted, red spotted, etc. Today the term husky applies only to the Siberian Husky breed.



An Arctic expedition prepares for its sledge journey over the ice. (Courtesy Virginia Devaney)

From the first days of the Eskimos' existence on earth the dogs had been there at their sides, living with them and hunting with them, thousands of years before sleds were thought of or necessary to their existence. As far back as Mesolithic times men traveled on skis, and there are also evidences that they used the travois for ages before they got around to building sleds.

As the wilderness opened up before them, and as their numbers grew, they began to develop a dog bred to meet the requirements of their specific needs, a dog with the necessary conformation to provide endurance over great distances with the least expenditure of energy.

And so the Mahlemut Indians in the vast Alaskan territory, with their settlement along the Kotzebue Sound in upper Western Alaska, took the husky dog and began by process of elimination to develop what we have come to know as the Alaskan Malamute breed. It was almost a case of the survival of the fittest, since only the strongest of the litters came to survive the elements and the work schedule given to them by their owners. Through this continuous culling program we now have the distinctive, strong, powerful working dog that is hailed as the king of the working dogs.



**Malemut Men and Women with Lip Labrets - 1881**

**In the twentieth century the Malamutes came of age:**

**1909 brought about the Commander Robert Peary -Dr. Frederick Cook controversy on who reached the North Pole first. This remarkable exploration was made possible by the sled dogs, and nobody argues this point. Regardless of which man got to the North Pole first, history bears out the fact that the sled dogs were truly the first ones there.**

**The great serum run in 1925 when a group of drivers and their stalwart dogs fought their way through fifty below zero weather and an 80 mile an hour blizzard to get serum to the inhabitants of Nome to halt the march of diphtheria.**

**Later brought the two Admiral Richard Byrd expeditions on the Antarctic continent. To this day there stands a plaque in Little America, Antarctic dedicated to all the dogs whose lives were lost during these two expeditions to Little America, 1928-1930 & 1933-1935.**

**Milton and Eve Seeley, the pinnacles in the breed, received their first Malamute from Arthur Walden in 1924. Walden was a well respected Malamute owner and trainer. Walden was responsible for the training and preparation of the Antarctic expeditions for Admiral Byrd. The Seeley's were responsible for the Alaskan Malamute receiving AKC recognition in 1935. On April 17, 1935 the Alaskan Malamute Club was organized, it later became the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, as we know it today.**



Eva "Short" Seeley

There are 2 original strains of Malamutes, the M'Loots and the Kotzebues. The M'Loots tend to be larger sized than the Kotzebue, but some were rangy, some considerably lacking in substance. Their fronts were generally better than the Kotzebues, who tended to be somewhat wide in the chest and sometimes out at the elbows. The M'Loots were lacking in rear angulation, and this led to stilted gait. The Kotzebues had a broader head, more compact body and more rear angulation. The M'Loots also tended to have long ears and long muzzles.

The Kotzebues were gray dogs with white trim. The M'Loots had a wider range from gray to black and white. Dispositions differed somewhat. The Kotzebues were less aggressive and easier to control. The M'Loots were often aggressive with other dogs, prone to fighting, and sometimes difficult to handle.

It was the Kotzebue size which became a proven factor in all of the Byrd expeditions that this was the size most desired to endure the pace and elements. This is where the size in the breed standard came from. It was the Kotzebue line which was first recognized by AKC as a breed, and later the M'Loots were allowed to be included. Both strains are named for the Eskimos (Mahlemiut), of their region, the M'Loot, and the Kotzebue tribes.



A team of AKC registered Alaskan Malamutes

Today, Malamutes are seen in most areas of the world. They are tremendous companions, they are shown in every state, and many foreign countries. They still work performing weight pulls, back packing, and sledding. They perform in the obedience rings, provide care to elderly folks as service dogs and on occasion they have been known to sit on your lap.

Malamutes are very smart, loving, devious and still the most powerful working dog in the world. All they ask for in return is love, a safe environment, and maybe, a pat on the head.

## THE AKC APPROVED BREED STANDARD



## General Appearance

The Alaskan Malamute, one of the oldest Arctic sled dogs, is a powerful and substantially built dog with a deep chest and strong, well-muscled body. The Malamute stands well over the pads, and this stance gives the appearance of much activity and a proud carriage, with head erect and eyes alert showing interest and curiosity. The head is broad. Ears are triangular and erect when alerted. The muzzle is bulky, only slight diminishing in width from root to nose. The muzzle is not pointed or long, yet not stubby. The coat is thick with a coarse guard coat of sufficient length to protect a woolly undercoat. Malamutes are of various colors. Face markings are a distinguishing feature. These consist of a cap over the head, the face either all white or marked with a bar and/or mask. The tail is well furred, carried over the back, and has the appearance of a waving plume. The Malamute must be a heavy boned dog with sound legs, good feet, deep chest and powerful shoulders, and have all of the other physical attributes necessary for the efficient performance of his job. The gait must be steady, balanced, tireless and totally efficient. He is not intended as a racing sled dog designed to compete in speed trials. The Malamute is structured for strength and endurance, and any characteristic of the individual specimen, including temperament, which interferes with the accomplishment of this purpose, is to be considered the most serious of faults.

## Size, Proportion, Substance

There is a natural range in size in the breed. The desirable freighting sizes are males, 25 inches at the shoulders, 85 pounds; females, 23 inches at the shoulders, 75 pounds. However, size consideration should not outweigh that of type, proportion, movement and other functional attributes. When dogs are judged equal in type, proportion, movement, the dog nearest the desirable freighting size is to be preferred. The depth of chest is approximately one half the height of the dog at the shoulders, the deepest point being just behind the forelegs. The length of the body from point of shoulder to the rear point of pelvis is longer than the height of the body from ground to top of the withers. The body carries no excess weight, and bone is in proportion to size.

## Head

The head is broad and deep, not coarse or clumsy, but in proportion to the size of the dog. The expression is soft and indicates an affectionate disposition. The eyes are obliquely placed in the skull. Eyes are brown, almond shaped and of medium size. Dark eyes are preferred. Blue Eyes are a Disqualifying Fault.- The ears -are of medium size, but small in proportion to the head. The ears are triangular in shape and slightly rounded at the tips. They are set wide apart on the outside back edges of the skull on line with the upper corner of the eye, giving ears the appearance, when erect, of standing off from the skull. Erect ears point slightly forward, but when the dog is at work, the ears are sometimes folded against the skull. High set ears are a fault. The skull- is broad and moderately rounded between the ears, gradually narrowing and flattening on top as it approaches the eyes, rounding off to cheeks that are moderately flat. There is a slight furrow between the eyes. The topline of the skull and the topline of the muzzle show a slight break downward from a straight line as they join. The muzzle- is large and bulky in proportion to the size of the skull, diminishing slightly in width and depth from junction with the skull to the nose. In all coat colors, except reds, the nose, lips,- and eye rims' pigmentation -is black. Brown is permitted in red dogs. The lighter streaked "snow nose" is acceptable. The lips are close fitting. The upper and lower jaws are broad with large teeth. The incisors meet with a scissors grip. Overshot or undershot is a fault.

## Neck, Topline, Body

The neck is strong and moderately arched. The chest is well developed. The body is compactly built but not short coupled. The back is straight and gently sloping to the hips. The loins are hard and well muscled. A long loin that may weaken the back is a fault. The tail -is moderately set and follows the line of the spine at the base. The tail is carried over the back when not working. It is not a snap tail or curled tight against the back, nor is it short furred like a fox brush. The Malamute tail is well furred and has the appearance of a waving plume.

## Forequarters

The shoulders are moderately sloping; forelegs heavily boned and muscled, straight to the pasterns when viewed from the front. Pasterns are short and strong and slightly sloping when viewed from the side. The feet are of the snowshoe type, tight and deep, with well-cushioned pads, giving a firm, compact appearance. The feet are large, toes tight fitting and well arched. There is a protective growth of hair between the toes. The pads are thick and tough; toenails short and strong.

## Hindquarters

The rear legs are broad and heavily muscled through the thighs; stifles moderately bent; hock joints are moderately bent and well let down. When viewed from the rear, the legs stand and move true in line with the movement of the front legs, not too close or too wide. Dewclaws on the rear legs are undesirable and should be removed shortly after puppies are whelped.

## Coat

The Malamute has a thick, coarse guard coat, never long and soft. The undercoat is dense, from one to two inches in depth, oily and woolly. The coarse guard coat varies in length as does the undercoat. The coat is relatively short to medium along the sides of the body, with the length of

the coat increasing around the shoulders and neck, down the back, over the rump, and in the breeching and plume. Malamutes usually have a shorter and less dense coat during the summer months. The Malamute is shown naturally. Trimming is not acceptable except to provide a clean cut appearance of feet.

## Color

The usual colors range from light gray through intermediate shadings to black, sable, and shadings of sable to red. Color combinations are acceptable in undercoats, points, and trimmings. The only solid color allowable is all white. White is always the predominant color on underbody, parts of legs, feet, and part of face markings. A white blaze on the forehead and/or collar or a spot on the nape is attractive and acceptable. The Malamute is mantled, and broken colors extending over the body or uneven splashing are undesirable.

## Gait

The gait of the Malamute is steady, balanced, and powerful. He is agile for his size and build. When viewed from the side, the hindquarters exhibit strong rear drive that is transmitted through a well-muscled loin to the forequarters. The forequarters receive the drive from the rear with a smooth reaching stride. When viewed from the front or from the rear, the legs move true in line, not too close or too wide. At a fast trot, the feet will converge toward the centerline of the body. A stilted gait, or any gait that is not completely efficient and tireless, is to be penalized.

## Temperament

The Alaskan Malamute is an affectionate, friendly dog, not a "one man" dog. He is a loyal, devoted companion, playful in invitation, but generally impressive by his dignity after maturity.

## Summary

**IMPORTANT:** In judging Malamutes, their function as a sledge dog for heavy freighting in the Arctic must be given consideration above all else. The degree to which a dog is penalized should depend upon the extent to which the dog deviates from the description of the ideal Malamute and the extent to which the particular fault would actually affect the working ability of the dog. The legs of the Malamute must indicate unusual strength and tremendous propelling power. Any indication of unsoundness in legs and feet, front or rear, standing or moving, is to be considered a serious fault. Faults under this provision would be splay-footedness, cowhocks, bad pasterns, straight shoulders, lack of angulation, stilted gait (or any gait that isn't balanced, strong and steady), ranginess, shallowness, ponderousness, lightness of bone, and poor overall proportion.

## DISQUALIFICATION

### Blue Eyes

Approved April 12, 1994

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### Siberian Husky History

**🐾** As the name would suggest, Siberian Huskies are native to Siberia, where they have been trained for hundreds of years by the Chukchi people to pull sleds. The Chukchi are semi-nomadic people, and the Siberian Husky's ability to pull sleds with light loads for long distances made it a useful companion. Recent DNA analysis has shown the Siberian Husky to be one of the oldest breeds of dog.

A team of Siberian Huskies was brought to Alaska in 1909 to compete in the All Alaska Sweepstakes Race. Following their debut a large number were imported to Alaska, and a team of Siberian Huskies won the same race the following year. In subsequent years, Siberian Huskies went on to win many different races and gain fame for their speed and endurance.

Siberian Huskies were made even more famous in 1925, when the city of Nome, Alaska was struck by a diphtheria outbreak. Several different teams of sled dogs, most of them Siberian Huskies, relayed the necessary serum back to Nome. After this story became national news, Leonhard Seppala, a famous breeder of Siberian Huskies and a key figure in the Nome rescue, toured New England with his team. These events helped to popularize the breed, and in 1930 the Siberian Husky was recognized as a breed by the American Kennel Club. They are still used in various sledding, carting, and racing events, and are largely responsible for the popularization of these activities. In recent years, however, the Alaskan Husky, which is specially bred for speed, has largely replaced the Siberian in many races; in response, a movement has started to create races specifically for Siberian Huskies. Recently, the breed has found success as a hiking companion, therapy dog, and as a loving pet.


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# Alaskan Husky

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Alaskan Husky** is not so much a breed of dog as it is a type or a category. It falls short of being a breed in that there is no preferred type and no restriction as to ancestry; it is defined only by its purpose, which is that of a highly efficient sled dog. That said, dog drivers usually distinguish between the Alaskan Husky and "hound crosses", so perhaps there is informal recognition that the Alaskan Husky is expected to display a degree of northern dog type. Specializations in type exist within the breed, such as freighting dogs (Mackenzie River Husky), sprint Alaskans, and distance Alaskans. Most Alaskan Huskies have pointy ears, meaning they are in fact classified as a spitz-type dog.

The Alaskan is the sled dog of choice for world-class dog sled racing sprint competition. None of the purebred northern breeds can match it for sheer racing speed.

Demanding speed-racing events such as the Fairbanks, Alaska Open North American Championship and the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous are invariably won by teams of Alaskan huskies, or of Alaskans crossed with hounds or gun dogs. Hounds are valued for their toughness and endurance. Winning speeds often average more than 19 miles per hour (31 km/h) over three days' racing at 20 to 30 miles (32 to 48 km) each day.

Alaskan huskies that fulfill the demanding performance standards of world-class dogsled racing are extremely valuable. A top-level racing lead dog can be worth \$10-15,000. Alaskans that fail to meet the performance standards of the musher who bred them often go on to be sold to less competitive mushers, allowing them to continue to run.

**Alaskan Husky**



Six-year-old Alaskan Husky

**Country of origin** United States (Alaska)

**Traits** [hide]

**Classification & standards** [show]

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- 1 Description
  - 1.1 Appearance
  - 1.2 Temperament
- 2 Health
- 3 History
  - 3.1 Recent history

## Description

### Appearance

The Alaskan Husky is a heavily diluted wolfdog breed which has northern or husky-type ancestry, much like the Siberian Husky.

Alaskan Huskies (at least those used for speed racing) are moderate in size, averaging perhaps 46 to 60 pounds (21 to 25 kg) for males and 38 to 42 pounds (17 to 19 kg) for females. Some of them superficially resemble racing strains of the Siberian Husky breed (which is undeniably part of the Alaskan Husky genetic mix), but are usually taller and larger with more pronounced tuck-up.



Two Alaskan Huskies in the harness.

Color and markings are a matter of total indifference to racing drivers; Alaskans may be of any possible canine color and any pattern of markings. Eyes may be of any color and are often light blue. Coats are almost always short to medium in length, never long, and usually less dense than those of northern purebreds; the shorter coat length is governed by the need for effective heat dissipation while racing.

In very cold conditions, Alaskans often race in “dog coats” or belly protectors. Particularly in long distance races, these dogs often require “dog booties” to protect their feet from abrasion and cracking. Thus the considerations of hardiness and climate resistance prevalent in breeds such as the Siberian Husky and Canadian Inuit Dog are subordinated in

the Alaskan Husky to the overriding consideration of speed. On long distance races they require considerable care and attention on the trail at rest stops.

## Temperament

Racing sled dogs are bred for stamina, strength, speed, and endurance. A positive working attitude is essential. Sled dogs that come in contact with the public at races or in excursion businesses must not be aggressive toward humans.

Alaskan huskies are popular as pets in Alaska; older dogs that have outlived their usefulness as racing dogs make excellent pets for people willing to exercise them regularly. Older ex-racers tend to be very alert and well behaved, as well as somewhat less energetic than their younger counterparts.

Young huskies make good pets if given plenty of space to run and play, but their high demand for exercise and activity makes them a poor choice for urban residents.

Huskies are often healthier in drier climates such as that of interior Alaska. In the more humid regions, they are prone to develop ear and related infections.

If multiple huskies are kept in the same lot they tend to be vocal, howling and barking at each other and any other dogs in the vicinity unless they are trained to be quiet. In crowded neighborhoods this can be a very irritating nuisance to neighbors. They can be trained for silence, albeit with some effort. They are accomplished diggers and will tunnel underneath fences and houses to hunt burrowing animals or to escape their enclosures.

Huskies make relatively poor household dogs. They shed heavily during the Spring and Fall and may be considered hyperactive by sedate humans, running in circles inside a house when bored or cramped. If left alone in a dwelling for long periods they may engage in destructive behavior out of boredom, mischief or malice. They enjoy hunting small and large animals due to a deeply wired instinct known as SMAR or small mammal attack response. When they are hooked up to a sled, and will have to stay there for a while, they may get crazy and excited and start to chew the gang line.

In Alaska and other extreme northern regions they are occasionally killed by moose in the winter. Infrequently, moose in search of non-existent winter browse of willows and mountain ash during desperate times of long cold snaps and deep snow will enter human areas attracted by the scent of fresh straw used as bedding for the dogs. True to their wolf ancestors, huskies tend not to back down from such encounters and an angry moose can easily stomp and kick several dogs causing severe injuries. Most moose/husky encounters occur during runs when a musher accidentally startles a moose on a trail. Most of the time moose avoid fights, but in cases of deep snow when escape is difficult a moose may confuse a sled team for a wolf pack and cause some serious trouble.

Normally, moose are aware that huskies are domesticated, tethered and not a threat and will frequently bed down adjacent to sled dog kennels in order to use the huskies as sentries who will alert the sleeping moose of approaching wolves. Sled dogs tethered in far northern forests may be attacked and killed on their stakeouts by wolves when other prey is unavailable. However this is rare. Professional dog sled racers often surround their lots with high fences to prevent wildlife attacks. More important is a low fence to keep out diseased rodents which can infect dogs by carrying parasites.

## Health

The Alaskan Husky is generally a healthy dog. Some strains are prone to genetic health problems similar to those found in purebred dog breeds. These may include PRA, hypothyroidism, etc. Dogs with an esophagus disorder, termed "wheezers" sometimes occur. This disorder makes the dog unable to bark, but have the ability to produce a low-pitched howling noise. The defect is genetically linked and appears rarely. Theories of common exterior traits among "wheezers" abound, but are conflicting and undocumented. The life span of the Alaskan Husky is usually between 10 to 15 years.

## History

The Alaskan Husky is derived from a mix of northern types, most notably the Siberian Husky. The history of the Alaskan Husky really began with the Gold Rushes of the late nineteenth century; sled and draft dogs used by miners of that era were typically heavy draft dogs with obvious Saint Bernard ancestry. The importation into Alaska of dogs from across the Bering Strait in Siberia in 1908 and subsequent years changed Alaskan sled dogs radically and permanently towards a smaller dog with lighter weight and much greater speed. With the increasing prevalence of motorized winter transport in the mid twentieth century, working sled dogs became less common in the northern villages. The Alaskan sled dog experienced a revival in the 1970s. George Attla, a Native Alaskan from the village of Huslia, was largely responsible for this. Many successful racing dogs today trace their lineage back to Attla dogs.

### Recent history

Various attempts have been made in the past to organize breeders of Alaskan Huskies and to establish a registry for these dogs; such attempts have never received widespread support. Although racing sled dog kennels can be large, sometimes harboring well over a hundred dogs, and the breed population arguably in excess of one hundred thousand, this canine variety remains an informal and unregistered category of dog.

The Alaskan Husky, like its cousin the Border Collie, is a working large dog and defined by its ability to work. Serious aficionados of the breed are hesitant to cede the breed definition to "looks" (external appearance) in fear of losing the dog's defining working qualities and character by placing form over function, as has happened to many other breeds such as the Poodle (which was once regarded as an outstanding hunting dog rather than fashion accessory). This preference for form over function can be seen in other northern breeds such as the AKC Alaskan Malamute which is bred for a curly tail: the curly tail is a purely decorative standard, and results in a shorter back that is not beneficial to running.

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaskan\\_Husky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaskan_Husky)"

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## Bill seeks to name Alaskan Malamute as Alaska state dog

Mary Pemberton/The Associated Press  
Published Friday, January 23, 2009



ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- It's time to stop dissing the dog.

That's the message that an inquisitive kindergartner brought to her teacher more than two years ago when she wanted to know why

Alaska - the state that has

a fondness for most things canine - didn't have an official state dog.

She even offered up her personal choice: the Alaskan Malamute.

The youngster's idea, and the hard work of other students, inspired a bill that if passed would make the Alaskan Malamute the official state dog. The large, rugged dogs with super thick coats suited for Arctic climes would join the list of other official state symbols, including the state insect (four spot skimmer dragonfly), the state fish (the Chinook salmon), the state flower (Forget-Me-Not), state gem (jade), and the state fossil (Woolly Mammoth.)

Rep. Berta Gardner, D-Anchorage, is sponsoring the bill in the House. It got its first reading on the opening day of the Legislature on Tuesday and was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Gardner is asking for a quick hearing so that the children can see the rewards of their hard work soon, she said.

"To tell you the truth, I don't have a great passion for why the Malamute or why we should have the state dog," Gardner said. "This is their project and I am simply their tool."

Carol Bartholomew, a teacher at the Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage, said the school decided last year to forge ahead with the project, which was broken down into several segments. The youngest students researched what the dogs look like. The next older group looked into the connection between the dogs and the Mahlemut tribe. The oldest students put the dog in a historical context.

"I found out that the Alaskan Malamute originated in Alaska and the Mahlemut tribe

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used to use them to haul game, take care of children, and um, helped in World War II to haul stuff where people couldn't. They also helped in Arctic explorations," said 10-year-old Atticus Madland, a Polaris student.

"They are known to usually be nice to people and kind of take care of them. Sometimes, they are mean to other dogs but generally are really nice to people," he said.

The students came up with a PowerPoint presentation. They got letters from community and city leaders. They collected signatures of support. They got the American Kennel Club and the Student Government Association of Alaska to support the idea.

The students submitted a legislative packet before the Dec. 15 deadline.

Madland hopes lawmakers pass the bill.

"After all the hard work, I think we deserve it," he said.

The Alaskan Malamute would be a good choice for the state dog, said Lone Zeller, former president of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America whose has lived with and loved Malamutes for 35 years.

"I believe most Alaskans think for themselves. They seem to be rather independent. They are not the kind that fawns over people and things, and neither are these dogs," she said.

According to the AKC, the Alaskan Malamute is one of the oldest Arctic sled dogs. They were named after a native tribe, the Mahlemuts, that settled along the shores of Kotzebue Sound in northwestern Alaska. The dogs were used primarily to haul game, belongings and supplies. The breed was recognized by the AKC in 1935.

Nancy Russell, in charge of judges education for the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, said the Alaskan Malamute is the only AKC registered breed that is native to the United States. While other breeds were developed here, the dogs used to develop those breeds came from outside the United States.

The Alaskan Malamute was already here, Russell said.

"The Alaskan Malamute is basically the native dog of the United States," she said.

Russell had a team of her Malamutes in the 1994 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to see if the dogs, better at hauling freight than running marathons, could do it. Most of the dogs used in the 1,100-mile race are Alaskan huskies, a mixed-breed dog bred for speed.

The Malamute team made it 600 miles before scratching.

"They did just fine," she said. "They got to Ruby. That is not too bad for a Malamute team."

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## Daily News - Miner

# Anchorage students look to elevate malamute as Alaska's official top dog

By [Dermot Cole](#)

Published Saturday, January 10, 2009

We have an official state sport, which is dog mushing, as well as an official fish, land mammal, marine mammal, tree, flower, gem, mineral, bird, insect and fossil.

Somehow, with all of that, we have failed to crown an official canine.

Students at the Polaris K-12 school in Anchorage want to recognize the malamute as top dog.

The students put it this way: "The Alaskan malamute is an important part of Alaska history. They helped the Inuit hunt, carry food and watch over their children. They hauled supplies during the Gold Rush and World War II. They were part of the teams that brought medicine to Nome during the serum run."

"Their endurance, strength, loyalty and intelligence make the Alaskan malamute a great dog to represent Alaska."

Anchorage Rep. Berta Gardner has heard their call from the wild and prefiled a short bill that states, "The Alaskan malamute is the official state dog."

She said the students plan to present a case to the Legislature and answer questions about why the malamute should be elevated to official status.

"I think this is really going to be a very fun project. The kids and their teachers have done a fantastic job and have boundless enthusiasm," Gardner said.

The malamute breed won recognition from the American Kennel Club in 1935, "largely as a result of selective breeding programs by New England sled dog fanciers using original stock from Alaska," Russell Tabbert writes in the "Dictionary of Alaskan English."

The word has been spelled in different ways, he said, though the most common choices today are whether to use an "a" or an "e" in the second syllable, the latter option followed by the Lathrop Malemutes, for example.

...

**GROCERY ROUTE:** The shutdown of major highway routes into Seattle this week because of flooding will have some impact on Alaska grocery shipments.

But a spokeswoman for Safeway said the resumption of traffic on Interstate 5 on Friday means that it will "not be as great as it could have been."

Safeway usually ships to Alaska twice a week. The Tuesday shipment didn't happen, and the Thursday deliveries totaled about 35 containers, instead of the normal 50 to 60.

"The impact will hit in the middle of next week, yet we will have more than enough going up next week on regular containers," said Cherie Myers of Safeway's Seattle office.

...

**WARMING TREND:** The National Weather Service said Friday that a "dramatic" warming trend is expected by Tuesday or Wednesday.

The temperatures were 30 below to 50 below Friday, but there is some discussion that the hills might see readings near freezing or warmer by late next week.

During the past two weeks, the coldest weather has been on the Yukon Flats and between Tok and Eagle, with readings from 45 below to 65 below. The coldest spot was Chicken at 68 below Thursday.

For this weekend, the forecast is for warming of a "few degrees," with a more sizable increase in the hills.

...

**NO FIREWORKS:** The fireworks display to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood will not be held this weekend.

Michelle Roberts of Festival Fairbanks says the aerial display awaits warmer weather. She

## Students think Alaska needs state dog

### Bill introduced to make malamute the official pooch

By MARY PEMBERTON  
The Associated Press  
(01/25/09 21:39:40)

It's time to stop dissing the dog.

That's the message that an inquisitive kindergartner brought to her teacher more than two years ago when she wanted to know why Alaska -- the state that has a fondness for most things canine - didn't have an official state dog.

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class act

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The Alaskan malamute would be a good choice for the state dog, said Ione Zeller, former president of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, who has lived with and loved malamutes for 35 years.

"I believe most Alaskans think for themselves. They seem to be rather independent. They are not the kind that fawns over people and things, and neither are these dogs," she said.

According to the AKC, the Alaskan malamute is one of the oldest Arctic sled dogs. They were named after a native tribe, the Mahlemuts, that settled along the shores of Kotzebue Sound in northwestern Alaska. The dogs were used primarily to haul game, belongings and supplies. The breed was recognized by the AKC in 1935.

Nancy Russell, in charge of judges education for the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, said the Alaskan malamute is the only AKC registered breed that is native to the United States. While other breeds were developed here, the dogs used to develop those breeds came from outside the United States.

The Alaskan malamute was already here, Russell said.

"The Alaskan malamute is basically the native dog of the United States," she said.

Russell had a team of her malamutes in the 1994 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to see if the dogs, better at hauling freight than running marathons, could do it. Most of the dogs used in the 1,100-mile race are Alaska huskies, a mixed-breed dog bred for speed.

The malamute team made it 600 miles before scratching.

"They did just fine," she said. "They got to Ruby. That is not too bad for a malamute team."

Print Page

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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.irc.ky.gov/kidspages/how\\_a\\_bill\\_becomes\\_law.htm](http://www.irc.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)

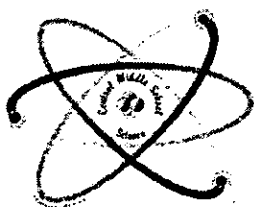
Good luck!

Sincerely,

Daisy Okas  
AVP of Communications

---

260 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016 Tel 212 696-8342 Fax 212 696-8345 E-Mail [dlo@akc.org](mailto:dlo@akc.org)



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!

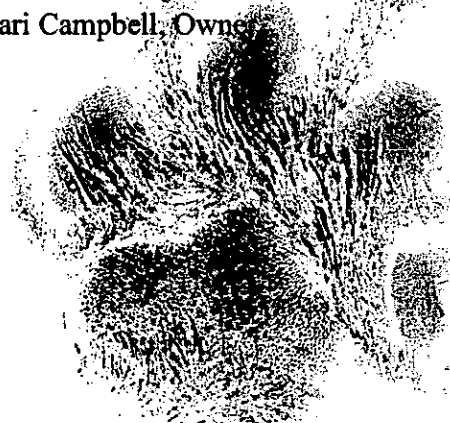
We wish you well in your efforts!

Sincerely,

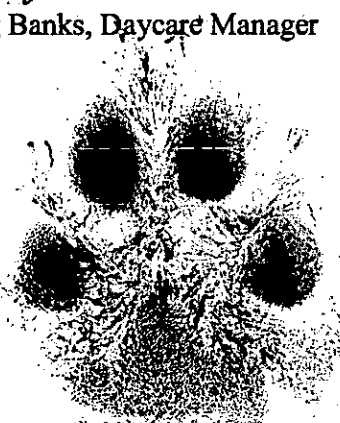
DOG TIRED DOGGIE DAYCARE

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,

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,



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.

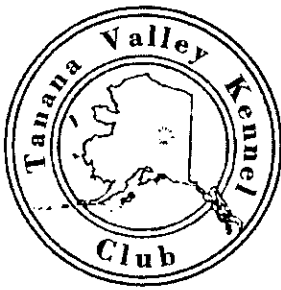
Please accept these brief words as my support. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Troy J. Bowler  
[tbowler@tanainachildren.org](mailto:tbowler@tanainachildren.org)  
786-1339

**Alaska's State Dog**  
**the**  
**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,



Teresa A. Patka



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

College of Business and Public Policy

3211 Providence Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8180

April 29, 2008

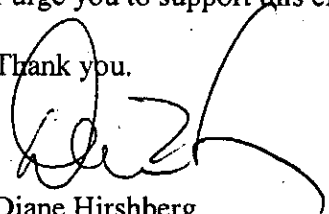
Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

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

# Alaska State Legislature



**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Labor & Commerce Committee  
Health & Social Services Committee  
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Labor and Workforce Development  
Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Public Safety

*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

**E-Mail:** Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us  
**"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog"** RepBobLynnBlog.com

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol, #104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931  
Fax: (907) 465-4316  
Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

**Interim:**  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205  
Fax: (907) 269-0207

## FAX

To: Legal Services

Fax #: 465-2029

From: Nancy Manly 465-2794  
Alaska State Capitol, room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

# of Pages (including cover): 1

Phone: 907-465-4931

Fax: 907-465-4316

Re Amendments to HB 14 Alaskan Malamute as State Dog

Please draft two separate amendments to this bill:

Amendment #1

Delete "Alaskan Malamute" and replace with the Alaska Sled Dog

Amendment #2

Delete "Alaskan Malamute" and replace with Alaska Husky

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Juneau

State Capitol Bldg. Rm 422  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-4930  
Fax (907) 465-3834  
1-800-331-4930



## Anchorage

716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone (907) 269-0174  
Fax (907) 269-0177

## **Representative Berta Gardner**

*House District 24*

### Memorandum

Date: January 22, 2009

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Berta Gardner

Re: Hearing request for HB 14

---

I am requesting that House Bill 14, "An Act designating the Alaskan malamute as the Alaska State Dog" be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

The Alaskan malamute has played a crucial role in Alaska's history for at least four thousand years. Considered to be one of the twelve ancient breeds, it's believed that the malamute originated with the ancient Mahlemut people, now known as the Inuits, with whom they lived and worked side by side. They played crucial roles in the Alaska gold rush and beyond as a valuable freight dog, and they played a role during the 1925 Serum Run to Nome. The Alaskan malamute assisted with Admiral Richard Byrd's expeditions to the South Pole in 1928 and 1934, and contributed to America's efforts during WWII. With its long and distinguished history, the Alaskan malamute has always been an intelligent, hardworking and loyal partner and deserves to be recognized as the Alaska's official state dog.

Included in this packet:

- A Current Version of HB 14
- Sponsor Statement
- Backup Information
- Letters of Support

If necessary, other backup will be forthcoming. Please contact my staffer Noah Hanson at 465-4068 or [Noah\\_Hanson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Noah_Hanson@legis.state.ak.us) with any questions.

Thank you,

Representative Berta Gardner

**Nancy Manly**

**From:** Noah Hanson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2009 11:20 AM

**To:** Nancy Manly

Nancy, not sure if you need this but I will give it to you anyway. Here are the names of the student who will be testifying tomorrow:

- Paige Hill —
- Ciara Brady —
- Raia Stamm —
- Kai Roberts —
- Sanne Cassee —
- Cally Shafer — DNA
- Thomas Tunnell —
- Atticus Madland —
- Adeline Wright —
- Walker Platzek —
- Chris Gray —
- Rosemary Flesher — ?
- Kaitlan McLanlen —
- Abbigale Seitz —
- Onni Ennis-Cochran —
- Jasmine Riski —
- Kenji Matsuoka —
- Clara Veelman —
- Sabrina Urban —
- Raleigh Pigg —
- Oceana Gamel-Howes —
- Desiree Armstrong —
- Ryan Terry —
- Will Roberson — Apologize
- Joey Aist —
- Trent Devereux —
- Gwyneth Meek —
- Taylor Bagdon —
- Jessica Husa —
- Duncan Wright —
- Yungshu Wong —
- Sam Brown —
- Kaya Porter —
- Owen McGee —
- Maeve Wiley —
- Madeline Flores —

Bob —  
 Gardner's office  
 promises the  
 testimony will  
 be short — NO  
 longer than  
 15-20 min for  
 all kids to  
 testify. They  
 have been  
 practicing &  
 timing themselves.

Teachers?

Thanks,

**Noah Hanson**

Office of Rep. Berta Gardner

Legislative Staff

Ph: 907-465-4068

Fax: 907-465-3834