

HB

14

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/14/09

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/19/09

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 14(STA)

HB 14 ALASKAN MALAMUTE AS STATE DOG

"An Act designating the Alaskan Malamute as the official state dog."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

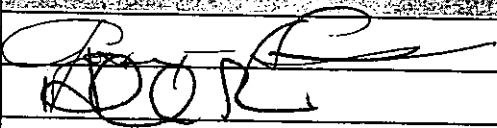
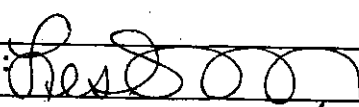

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet	Zero	FN#
GOV	2/20			✓	

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Fred Meyer			X	
CO-CHAIR: 	Fredson	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	wielechowski	✓			

HOUSE BILL NO. 14

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARDNER, Guttenberg

Introduced: 1/20/09

Referred: State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act designating the Alaskan malamute as the official state dog."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1. AS 44.09 is amended by adding a new section to read:**

4 **Sec. 44.09.140. State dog. The Alaskan malamute is the official state dog.**

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 14(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/27/09

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARDNER, Guttenberg, Seaton, Tuck

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act designating the Alaskan Malamute as the official state dog."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 44.09 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 44.09.140. State dog.** The Alaskan Malamute is the official state dog.

THE STATE SLED DOG. THE HUSKEY
IS THE OFFICIAL STATE SLED DOG.

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.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 14(STA)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/27/09

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
 Requester House State Affairs Committee Component Number _____

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
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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



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

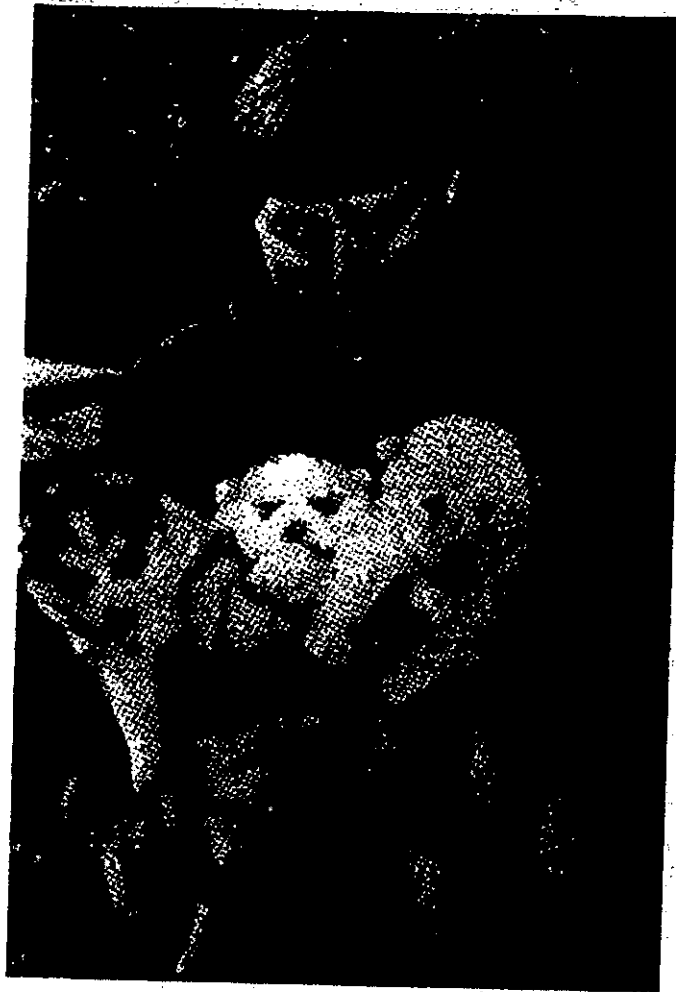
In the twentieth century the Malamutes came of age:

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

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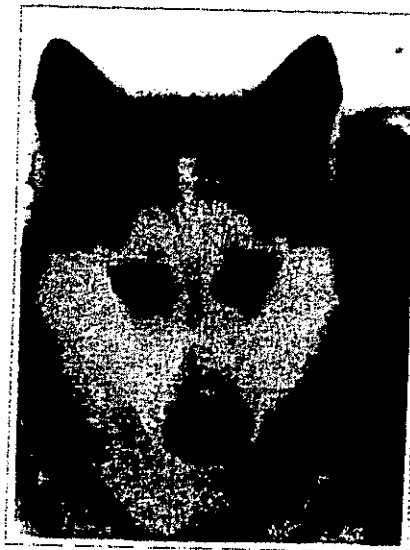
Siberian Husky History

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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Affection:



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.

Contents

- 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 Husky



Six-year-old Alaskan Husky

Country of origin United States (Alaska)

Traits

[hide]

Classification & standards

[show]

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.

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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 Ione 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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FAIRBANKS
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."

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

Barbara Coker

By: Corresponding Secretary

Organized in the Interest of Pure-Bred Dogs



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 CLUBSM

Daisy L. Okas
Assistant Vice President,
Communications

April 15, 2007

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

Dear Jessica:

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

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

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

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/

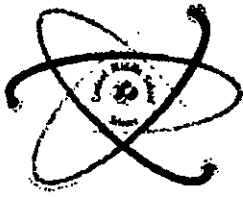
You can also contact local dog clubs in your area (<http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm>) or the Alaskan Malamute Club of America for more information and for support of your proposal:

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

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Daisy Okas
AVP of Communications



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

April 3, 2008

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

Dear Carol's Class:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Zelenkov,
Principal of Central Middle School of Science

COFFEY CONSULTING, LLC

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

Telephone: (907) 646-7855

Facsimile: (907) 274-4258

E mail: dancoffey@qcl.net

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

Dear Katie:

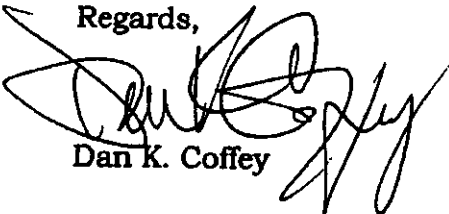
I received your letter concerning your efforts to have the Alaska Malamute named the official state dog.

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!

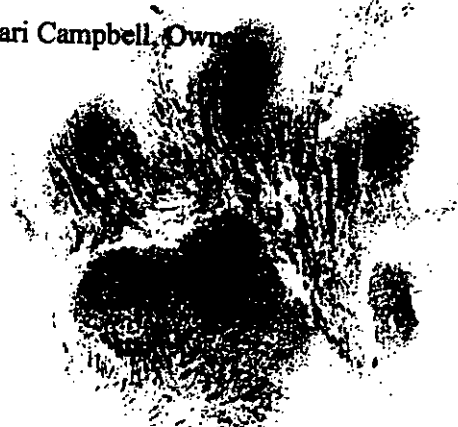
We wish you well in your efforts!

Sincerely,

DOG TIRED DOGGIE DAYCARE

Kari Campbell, Owner

Peg Banks, Daycare Manager



'Lucy' LaRose, Classroom Outreach



'Maverick' Bandle, Classroom Outreach

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 Drew
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 CONVINCCE 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

Senate Labor and Commerce
Committee, Chair

Legislative Budget and Audit
Committee

Senate Rules Committee

Committee on Committees

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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

While in Anchorage
716 W. 4th 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 that reads "Johnny Ellis". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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.

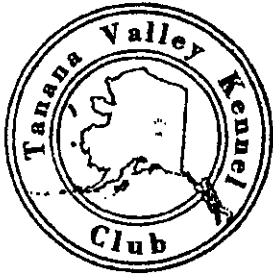
Please accept these brief words as my support. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Troy J. Bowler
tbowler@tanainachildren.org
786-1339

Alaska's State Dog
is
Alaska Malamute



TANANA VALLEY KENNEL CLUB, INC.

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

May 18, 2008

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

To Whom It May Concern,

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

Sincerely,

Becky Fuller
Correspondence Secretary
Tanana Valley Kennel Club

April 7, 2008

Dear Robby,

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

Please know you have my support. Good luck!

Very truly yours,



Teresa A. Patka



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH
College of Business and Public Policy
3211 Providence Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8180

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

April 29, 2008

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

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

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

I urge you to support this effort.

Thank you.

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

Telephone (907) 786-7710 • Fax (907) 786-7739 • E-mail: ayiser@uaa.alaska.edu