

## Adopt A Husky, Inc.

"Saving one dog won't change the world, but surely the world will change for that one dog."



# NEWS YOU CAN USE



January/February 2007

## What You Should Know About Spaying and Neutering

This information has been prepared as a service by the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#). July 2005

### The pet population problem

Every year, millions of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, are needlessly destroyed. The good news is that every pet owner can make a difference. By having your dog or cat surgically sterilized, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens and you will enhance your pet's health and quality of life.

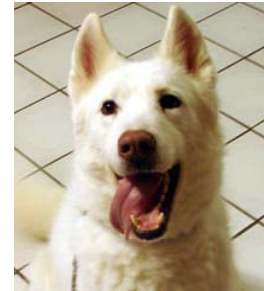
### Pet behavior and pet reproduction

Contrary to what some people believe, getting pregnant — even once — does not improve the behavior of female dogs and cats. In fact, the mating instinct may lead to undesirable behaviors and result in undue stress on both the owner and the animal. Also, while some pet-owners may have good intentions, few are prepared for the work involved in monitoring their pet's pregnancy, caring for the newborns and locating good homes for all the offspring.

### What is surgical altering?

During surgical altering, a veterinarian removes certain reproductive organs. If your cat or dog is a *female*, the veterinarian will usually remove her ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus. The medical name for this operation is an ovariohysterectomy, although it is commonly called "spaying." If your pet is a *male*, the testicles are removed and the operation is called an orchiectomy, commonly referred to as castration or simply "neutering."

While both spaying and neutering are major surgical procedures, they are also the most common surgeries performed by veterinarians on cats and dogs. Before the operation, your pet will be given a thorough physical examination to ensure that your pet is in good health. General anesthesia will be administered before the surgery making the procedure non-painful. You will be asked to keep your pet calm and quiet for a few days afterwards until the incision begins to heal.



Scout found his forever home for the new year.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### IL/WI EVENTS

**Jan. 20/21** The Iditarod - Experience the Adventure . . . Without the Frostbite, Lisle, IL

**Jan. 27** Palos Heights Winterfest and Dog Sledding Demos, Palos Heights, IL

**Feb. 10** Great Lakes Pet Expo, Franklin, WI

**Mar. 16-18** Chicagoland Family Pet Show, Schaumburg, IL

#### MN EVENTS

**Jan. 6/7** Land O Lakes Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show, St. Paul, MN

**Jan. 13** Fourth Annual Dog Sledding Festival, Forest Lake, MN

**What are the benefits of spaying and neutering?**

Both operations lead to improved long-term health, prevent unwanted litters, and eliminate many behavior problems associated with the mating instinct.

**Benefits to your female pet**

Female dogs experience a "heat" cycle approximately every six months, depending upon the breed. A female dog's heat cycle can last as long as 21 days, during which your dog will leave blood stains in the house and may become anxious, short-tempered and actively seek a mate.

Female cats can come into heat every two weeks during breeding season

until they become pregnant. During this time they may engage in behaviors such as frequent yowling and urination in unacceptable places.

Both female dogs and cats benefit from spaying, which eliminates their heatcycles and generally reduces the negative behaviors that may lead to owner frustration and, ultimately, a decision to relinquish the pet to a

shelter. Most importantly, early spaying of female dogs and cats helps protect them from serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections and breast cancer.

**Benefits to your male pet**

At maturity (on average, 6-9 months of age), male dogs and cats are capable of breeding. Both male dogs and cats are likely to begin "marking" their territories by spraying strong-smelling urine on your furniture, curtains, and in virtually any part of the house. Also, given the slightest chance, males may attempt to escape from home in search of a mate. Dogs seeking a female in heat can become aggressive and may injure themselves and people by engaging in fights.

Neutering male dogs and cats reduces the need to breed and can have a calming effect that makes them less inclined to roam and more content to stay at home. Neutering your male pet also improves his health by reducing the risk of prostate disease, testicular cancer and infections.

**What is the best age to spay or neuter my pet?**

A dog or cat can be surgically altered at almost any age. Your veterinarian can advise you on the most appropriate time for your particular pet based upon its breed, age and physical condition.

**Will the surgery affect my pet's disposition or metabolism?**

The procedure has no effect on a pet's intelligence or ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Most pets tend to be better behaved following the operation, making them more desirable companions. Contrary to popular belief, the surgery will not make your pet fat. A balanced diet and exercise will keep your pet from experiencing the health risks associated with obesity. Ask your veterinarian to advise you on the best diet and exercise plan for your pet for each stage of its life.

**Is the expense for the surgery really worth it?**

Yes! This is a one-time expense that can dramatically improve your pet's quality of life. If you are

**Feb. 17/18** Twin Cities  
Pet Expo, Minneapolis,  
MN

**HAPPY TAILS**

*Recent fosters that have found their forever homes.*

Camai (WA) 11/23  
Smokie (OH) 11/30  
Syracuse (WI) 12/2  
Scout (IL) 12/7  
Willo (IL) 12/7  
Macallister (MN) 12/7  
Agustana (WI) 12/10  
Aspen (WA) 12/10  
Bo (WA) 12/10  
Choctaw (MO) 12/22  
Lodgepole (IL) 12/28

still uncertain whether or not to proceed with the surgery, consider the expense to society of collecting and caring for all the unwanted, abused, or abandoned animals being housed in shelters — most with little chance of finding permanent homes.

Having your pet spayed or neutered is a part of responsible pet ownership and an important investment in your pet's long-term good health.

Article Courtesy of [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)



George (IL volunteer) and his team

## Dog Sledding - What It's All About

Who ever said, "sled dogs are like potato chips, you can never have just one," hit the nail right on the head. Dog sledding is very addictive!!!! Just ask any dog musher.

### What is Dog Sledding?

Dog sledding is one of several dog powered sports that has increased in popularity. It is a team of dogs pulling a sled across snow with a

driver/musher on the sled runners calling commands. Dog sledding originated as a means of transportation in the arctic where it was the only way people could travel and was used for hauling freight. It is still used as a means of transportation in some places, but has transformed into an addictive sport around the world. Some people dog sled recreationally, while others compete professionally.

### Racing

There are different types of sled dog racing. There are sprint, mid-distance and distance races. A typical sprint race has a 4 dog/4 mile class, 6 dog/6 mile class, 8 dog/8 mile class, and sometimes a 10 dog/10 mile class and/or an unlimited class (about 14 miles). Mid-Distance mileage depends on the race location and availability of trail, and the classes offered are usually 6-dog and 10-dog, while some races will offer an unlimited class, which means whatever number the musher has the guts to hook up. The Iditarod, Yukon Quest and Beargrease are just a few examples of distance races.

Unfortunately, in this day and age with global warming many areas have seen a decrease in snow fall, so many mushers are forced to use dryland equipment (carts, rigs, ATVs, bikes) that they use for Fall training into the winter months in order to run their dogs. This past Fall several clubs organized dryland races similar to the ones that take place in Europe. With the decrease in snow fall, more dryland races will probably be popping up across the country.

### The Dogs

There are many different breeds that can be used for dog sledding. Alaskan Malamutes are typically used for hauling freight as they are built more for heavy loads over long distances than for speed. Siberian Huskies can be used for freight and/or for racing. There are Alaskan Huskies. Alaskan Huskies are not a recognized breed by any of the kennel clubs, therefore, they can not run in the purebred classes, but Alaskan Huskies are known for their speed. Hounds are also used because of their ability to run at fast speeds. I've even witnessed Border Collies, German Shepherds and Irish

Setters pulling a sled. And the dogs love it!!!! It's quite a sight to see a musher putting harnesses on his dogs and hooking them up to the sled. The dogs are jumping and howling with excitement and are extremely eager to get on the trail.

### **A Basic Equipment List**

**Dogs** - 2 dogs can pull a sled, but that means the musher/driver has to do more work as he/she is a part of the team. Any dog can be taught to pull a sled. Several AAHI volunteers use their adopted Siberians on their sled teams.

**Harnesses** - need one for each dog, and each dog should be properly measured for the harness and have the harness made specifically for that particular dog. Proper fitting is extremely important in order to prevent injury and to ensure the dog can pull properly in the harness. We like to use x-back harnesses.

**Sled** - there are a variety of dog sleds out there from the wooden traditional to the aluminum and carbon fiber sleds. All of which vary in price. You can spend anywhere from \$400 to \$2000 plus on a sled depending on what you are interested in buying.

**Bungee** - some sleds come with a bungee attached to it, others need to have the bungee added. This absorbs the shock and makes for a smoother ride for the dogs and the driver.

**Gangline** - this is what is used to connect the dogs to the bungee. On the gangline each dog will have a tugline that connects to the dog's harness and then a neckline that connects to the dog's collar. Ganglines can come in 2 dog (lead section only), 4 dog (lead and wheel sections), with additional team/wheel sections to add on to create a longer line for more dogs.

**Sled bag** - is a bag that attaches to the basket of the sled and gives the musher a place to put an injured dog. The bag must be ventilated. A sled bag is a requirement for all races and should be carried on all recreational runs.

**Snub Line** - this is used to secure the sled to a non-movable object while hooking the dogs on to the sled.

**Bar Brake** - the driver steps on the bar brake to stop a team or to slow them down. If the driver has to get off the sled, the driver needs to use a snow hook to prevent the team from running off without him/her.

**Snow Hook** - this is a hook that is carried on the sled to use to hook the team down while running on the trail. Can be hooked into the ground/snow or around a non-movable object such as a tree.

**Dog Truck** or another vehicle that is capable of transporting all of the gear needed and dogs.

**Misc. Items** - dog booties for icy or rough trails, plenty of water for the dogs, water bowls, first aid kit for humans and canines

### **Some of the Basic Commands**

**Hike** - means to go, to run fast (the word mush is not used in real life only in the movies).

**Gee** - means to turn right

**Haw** - means to turn left

Gee over - to move to the right side of the trail

Haw over - to move to the left side of the trail

On by/Leave it - just what it means: ignore the oncoming distraction and keep moving.

### Upcoming Adopt A Husky Dog Sledding Demonstrations

Come see what dog sledding is all about at AAHI's upcoming sledding demonstrations. If there is no snow, we will be using carts/rigs for the demonstrations. This is a great opportunity to see the dogs in action, to ask questions, view the equipment and to meet our foster dogs that are looking for their forever homes.

**Jan. 13 - Fourth Annual Dog Sledding Festival** at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, MN from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a day of winter fun where people can discover the world of a dog sledder. There will be dog sledding, skijoring, winter camping, and dog nutrition presentations, a book signing by author, Scott Miller, Signs of Winning, and Red Paw dog food for sale.

**Jan. 20/21 - Iditarod - Experience the Adventure . . . Without the Frostbite** at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL from noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be an indoor presentation on the Iditarod, along with information videos and pictures. Outdoors there will be dog sledding and skijoring presentations and demonstrations ongoing throughout the day.

**Jan. 27 - Palos Heights Winterfest and Dog Sledding Demos** at Lake Catherine Nature Preserve in Palos Heights, IL from noon to 4:00 p.m. Adopt A Husky volunteers will be doing sledding demonstrations.

To learn more about these events please visit our [Calendar of Events Page](#).

### Recommended Books & Magazines

Dog Driver: A Guide for the Serious Musher by Miki Collins, Julie Collins

Mush: A Beginner's Manual to Sled Dog Training Edited by Bella Levorsen for the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers

[Mushing](#) - sledding magazine

The Speed Mushing Manual: How to Train Racing Sled Dogs by Jim Welch

[Team and Trail](#) - sledding newsletter

### Informational Web Sites

[Sled Dog Central](#) - An online sled dog advertising and information source. Find links to kennels, equipment retailers, discussion forums, interviews with mushers, sled race information, etc.

[SledDoggin.com](#) - Sledding articles, links to equipment retailers, kennels, race info, etc.

### Sled Dog Clubs

[Great Lakes Sled Dog Association](#)

[Mid Union Sled Haulers](#)

[North Star Sled Dog Club](#)

[Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers](#)

[Trailblazers Sled Dog Club](#)

- Jen, IL Volunteer



Jeff (IL volunteer) and his team racing in the Dirty Dog Dryland Derby 2006. Photo by Robert Brown.

## Photos from a Sledding Demonstration for Some IL Boy Scouts



Noel (IL) and her team.



The boy scouts petting Dale's (IL) sled team.

## Pet Poison Alert: Liquid Potpourri Packs a Painful Punch

Note: As provided by the ASPCA

Want a fresh and fragrant home? Before setting out that delicious-smelling potpourri simmer pot, please take heed. Many liquid potpourris contain essential oils and detergents that could prove hazardous to your furry companions, based on an analysis of calls to the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center.

According to the ASPCA's Dr. Steven Hansen, veterinary toxicologist and senior vice president, the essential oils found in many of these products can cause irritation of the skin, gastrointestinal tract and mucous membranes. More significant injuries are typically a result of thermal burns or exposure to a specific type of detergent. Says Hansen, "A class of detergents known as cationics is usually responsible for severe ulceration of the membranes of the mouth, throat and gastrointestinal tract. Where there is contact with the skin, redness, swelling and extremely painful lesions can appear." Symptoms of these exposures include drooling, vomiting, depression, metabolic disturbances and difficulty breathing from fluid on the lungs.

Although 10 percent of the liquid potpourri poisoning cases managed by the ASPCA since 2001 have

included life-threatening effects, most animals make a full recovery if treated promptly. "However, it is important to note that treatment can be very extensive and may involve a lengthy hospitalization," says Hansen.

And feline caretakers, please take note—cats are more likely to be at risk than dogs. "This is most likely because cats have greater access to the simmer pots, which are usually kept on countertops or other high-level surfaces," explains Hansen. Most exposures occur when cats lap up heated liquid from the simmer pot, or when liquid spills on their fur from a leaky container.

To avoid exposing your pet to the dangers of liquid potpourri, ASPCA experts offer the following tips:

- Place potpourri simmer pots and unused liquid in rooms where pets cannot gain access.
- Consider using relatively safer alternatives, such as plug-in or solid air fresheners. (Do take care to use these in out-of-reach locations as well.)
- If you suspect your pet has been exposed to liquid potpourri, please call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at (888) 426-4435 for round-the-clock telephone assistance.

Article Courtesy of [www.aspca.com](http://www.aspca.com)

## **Keeping Your Older Dog Safe in the Winter**

Permission to reprint provided by Fuzzy Pawz Shih Tzu Rescue, from the January issue of "Fuzzy Times."

### ***From the Medical Side***

How can I keep my older dog safe in winter?

Just like humans, aging dogs experience a lot of physical changes. For example, their metabolism slows down and they have less tolerance to cold. Now that the temperature is dropping, you need to be extra diligent to not leaving your dog outside for long periods of time. On particularly wet and blustery days, you may want to shorten your dog's walks from 20 minutes to 10 minutes.

If you find your dog is shivering when you take him out, do him a favor and get him a coat. He'll appreciate it, especially when he's trying to do his business in sub-freezing temperatures!

If your senior dog is arthritic, he'll have even more trouble in the cold than normal. A heated bed can help soothe his joints when he comes in from his walk.

Your older dog's vision and hearing may also be impaired so be extra cautious around lakes, rivers and ponds. Keep him off frozen bodies of water entirely as you wouldn't want him to fall through the ice or injure himself.

Older dogs also have a weaker immune system, which may pose a problem in winter; dogs, like people, are more susceptible to illness during this time. If you see any suspicious symptoms in your dog, be sure to take him to the veterinarian.

Finally, your older dog's drier skin and thinner hair will offer him less protection from the cold. His feet may get chapped, just like our hands. If you notice any cracks in the pads of your dog's feet, coat them with petroleum jelly and protect them in booties when he goes outside. You might also

consider using paw wax. Consult your veterinarian if the trouble persists, or if you notice lameness, swelling, or discharge.

## Educating the Public on Pets in Rescue - Why it's so important

Dec. 11, 2006

Last week, I did four presentations with my foster dog at the middle school where I work. One of my coworkers sat in on a presentation for the kids. She told me that the presentation "inspired" her, and she arranged to have her neighbors' four farm cats altered—two males and two females. One of the students and her family came out to the shelter and volunteered for 3 hours on Saturday and sponsored one of the cats. Another parent reported that her son came home and asked if they could get their new dog from a shelter; they are building a house and planning to get a dog when the house is finished.

If any of you have the ability to do presentations, do them. Kids are so wonderful and so impressionable.

Christi  
Singing Blues

### Foster Spotlight: Riley, MN Foster Looking for a "Furever" Family

Riley wants to be everyone's friend. She loves meeting new people and animals and is always looking for someone to play with. Riley knows a lot of commands and does a very good job responding to them -- most of the time -- as befits any self-respecting Siberian Husky. She has been loving with a cat but should not be trusted with one alone. She walks well with a "gentle leader" or "promise" collar. Otherwise she is a bit rambunctious on a leash, but this is probably due to the fact that she loves being outside so much and simply wants to have fun and get out to meet everyone.



Click here to read [Riley's bio](#). Interested in adopting a Siberian, please read our [adoption process and fill out our online adoption application](#).

### Happy Tail: Augustana, now Sierra, found her forever home



We adopted Augustana, now Sierra. She is soooooo sweet. Keyser and Logan love their new sister.

Already things are going well. We have had only a few accidents in the house, but basically she is house broken. All 3 dogs get along great. They are testing the waters still, but I have not seen any major problems. All and all we could not ask for things to be better. We will keep in touch.

Thanks again!

Sierra's Forever Family



Peg and furkids

### Volunteer Spotlight: Peg, MO Volunteer

**Name:** Peg

**Hometown:** Cedar Hill, MO

**Family (including pets):** Husband Dave, sons Eric and his wife Sharon, Steve and his wife Amy, grandsons Alex, Lennon and Thatcher and furkids Maya, Kayli, Kita and Heath and 6 foster dogs

**How did you get involved with rescue?** To be honest, I can't remember. It just happened. I had rescued several Siberians on my own and placed them and then got involved with AAHI.

**What is the best thing about volunteering for AAHI?** Seeing a foster go to its forever home

**Favorite AAHI moment?** Hanging out with the AAHI volunteers when they came to Alaska to work dog drop. What a group of wonderful people.

**What are your interests/hobbies outside of Siberian rescue?** reading, world travel, volunteering with Iditarod, being in Alaska (my second home), doing school talks on dog care

**What did you do to celebrate the recent holidays?** Hung out with friends and family . My son , Steve and his new wife live in Singapore so I only get to see them once a year. It was nice to have them here for the holidays.

**If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?** Faint and then when I came to, I would pay off a lot of things and donate money to dog rescues. I would travel, travel and then travel some more.

**What would you like to say to fellow AAHI volunteers and to those people thinking of volunteering with AAHI?** You are doing a wonderful service to Siberian Huskies. Because of all of you, so many Siberians are now safe and protected. Sometimes this job is heartbreaking, but seeing a dog drive away with its new family and never looking back is such a good feeling and it makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you Peg for volunteering your time to help save Siberian lives!!!!!!

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

- all of our recent adopters on the addition of a furry family member and to our fosters

#### THANK YOU TO . . .

- Noel (IL) and Mike (IL), for organizing recent AAHI events!
- all of the AAHI volunteers that have

that have found their "forever home!"

- Phyllis (IL) on the donation her school's theater made to AAHI on her behalf.

volunteered their time to staff AAHI's events and for doing all of the recent home visits!

- all of AAHI's supporters: without you, we wouldn't be able to help Siberians in need!
- Paul (IL) for dropping his new year plans to transport a dog into our care!
- Mike (IL), Peg (MO), Don (MN), and Lois (WI) for helping with this newsletter!

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**

To print this newsletter in PDF format [CLICK HERE](#). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader.