

Siberian Scoop

ISSUE 3

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Why Rescue, Fosters, Home Checks & Transport are So Important: A Shelter Dog's Story

I am a Siberian Husky and my name is "She's such a sweet dog." The people here are very nice to me, but I miss my mom and my brother. We all came here together but I am the only one left. The people are starting to whisper and I can't always hear what they are saying.

The lady who brings me food was crying today when she brought my bowl. As she gave me a hug and petted my head, I gave her my best wag and a lick on the cheek. It tasted salty. I heard someone say last week that Husky rescue would be wonderful for a dog like me but they have a long list. I hope that I am on that list... They said rescue are wonderful people who work very hard and would really like me, if they have the room. They have lots of snow dogs, just like me. I hope they come soon, so I have someone nice to play with. It is getting crowded in here and not all the dogs are nice. It can be scary. My brother found a home last week. He went to live with a very nice family who had two little people who were really fun. I tried to look my best and hoped they would take me too, but I couldn't run as fast and they said they could only take the healthier one. I am so happy that my brother found a nice family. They were nice to both of us. I hope some more kind people like them come again

soon and I find a home with little people... I liked them! My paw is hurting more every day, and I can only stand on 3 of my legs now. It got hurt when we were trying to find food in a big box behind where lots of people eat. We were really hungry and so glad to find such a big food bowl.

Someone came out the back door and shouted, "Hey!" It scared me and my foot got caught. Mom and brother ran, but Mom came back to bark



when she saw I was stuck and started to cry. She barked and barked while brother stayed behind her and wagged his tail. My brother ran right up to the man when he showed him a treat. He was hungry, but mom stayed near me because I was hurt and she was worried. They put a big loop around her neck with a long stick and she tried to stay with me and made a big fuss, but they put her in a box with bars next to my brother. Some nice people then came and helped me get my paw out... They said it needed some attention, but it would cost too

much money, so I have been licking it all the time to make sure it stays clean. It hurts bad, but I will do my best to be brave.

My mom was crying and talking a lot because she was worried about us and couldn't see us. We have been running together for a long time. However, she found a place to go right away. They said that she was too old and excitable to keep here and would be going to the Rainbow Bridge in 3 days. I hope it is a nice place and they love her as much as my brother and I do. I found out his name is "Good Boy."

I miss my mom very much and hope she is happy in her new home. She was a good mom and my best friend too, even when she would "grrrr" at us when we played too rough. She always let us eat first. We had been running a long, long time and it is nice to have someone to pet you, bring food and to have a place to sleep out of the rain. I just wish my paw felt better.

The people here are hoping rescue finds room for me fast. I hope rescue is already on their way to get me right now. I wonder if all of these other dogs who have been coming in every day have rescues coming for them, too?

Oh what great news.... I heard a

(Continued on page 2)

Shelter Dog...cont'd.

nice person at my cage say that I was on the list to go today!!! He put a big tag on my cage. It is probably so they can find me. I am so excited. That place called Rescue must want me very much. They must have heard what a good girl I am and are going to fix my paw too. Last week, they said the waiting list was long because there were so many dogs in need and there were two of us. Lucky my brother already found a home. That must have made my place go higher on the thing they call a waiting list. They sure have big hearts to help all those Huskies!

A man is here. He just came with a leash to take me away. I thought he was with the rescue list people, but he said it's so heartbreaking that they don't have an open foster home for a sweet girl like you. I am on "today's list." He told me it was a shame that the shelter filled up faster than they expected. I gave him a kiss as he patted me on the head, told me what a good girl I am, and said it was a pity that I didn't have more time.

I would have liked to have had time to meet the rescue people too. They sounded wonderful, but I heard people say that they are up to their ears in Huskies. We do have nice ears too. One of my ears flops a little, where another dog once bit me, but the people here say it makes me extra cute! It's okay and I thank rescue for thinking of me. I can really feel all their love in my heart, but I also feel them being sad too...I wonder why?

I will always smile and wag when I think of those rescue people and love them back just

as much! Today, I will be real good and wag my tail extra times...I am so happy. I am going home. I tried my best to be good and now, they will be sending me to live with my Mama at the Rainbow Bridge too....

Unfortunately, this is the sad reality of what happens to so many loving Siberian Huskies in shelters everyday. It is not a pretend situation. What kills these homeless dogs most is the lack of time, not only on the shelter's part, but on the part of people who truly love animals, too.

Please know that every person who has ever adopted a rescued animal and loves their companion with all their heart, must realize that somewhere, when your furry family member was in desperate need, some kind-hearted volunteer gave up their own time to transport, do a home visit or even foster your baby. Someone's time made the love you share with your precious pet possible because they gave their time to help save a life.

Adopt A Husky has many of the most compassionate and dedicated volunteers.

However, the amount of Siberians that can be saved is directly affected by the amount of "time" people are willing to invest to help save the life of the homeless dogs in need. The dawn of a new tomorrow for a Siberian Husky who is slated to be euthanized hinges on someone who is able to give up part of their time today. Rescue is really hard work and is not just the result of people who have so much extra time on their hands. It is about people who are compassionate

about saving lives.

We have some very hard working volunteers who already dedicate most of their spare time, but there are so many dogs out there who need more people to throw them a life-line...To give them their time. Is there a little corner in your home to foster a Husky until an adoptive family comes along? They will come along quickly if someone volunteers the same day a much needed home visit is posted. That action will then result in the opening of another space today, so tomorrow's Husky, on death row, can be saved. Can someone transport that Husky, to safety too... Please? This simple chain of events can save Husky lives. Most of us have wonderful animal companions that are deeply loved, safe and very happy family members, thanks to the actions of rescue volunteers who sacrificed their time so your dog's life could be spared...

Look into the loving eyes of your own Siberian Sweetheart...Think it was worth it? Adopt A Husky volunteers did, too. Please know that the time you give helps another dog live...Make your Siberian Husky proud... Please -- Pay It Forward!!

Adopt A Husky urgently needs volunteers to do Home Visits and Fostering. If you would like to know more about helping in these areas, please contact volunteer@adoptahusky.com.

Please know that the time you give helps another dog live...Make your Siberian Husky proud... Please -- Pay It Forward!!



Foster Spotlight

Editor's Note: The 'Foster Spotlight' is provided in order to give you a more in depth look at some of our fosters. We have asked their Foster Families to tell us about their personalities, quirks, issues, etc.

Houston

Houston holds a special place in the hearts of everyone who has met him. Truth be told, we failed him the first time he came to us. We adopted him out 4 years ago to folks we thought would be great owners. We were wrong. We got a call a few months ago that one of our dogs was in an animal control (traced to us via the critically important microchip) and that he was in very bad shape. One of our volunteers dropped everything and went and got an emaciated dog who was days away from dying of starvation. It was Houston. He was so weak he could barely keep his head up. He could not walk because his nails were curled over and hitting his pads. If the authorities could have found his "owners" they would have been arrested. Houston weighed 42 lbs. when we got him that day. That is 22 lbs. less than what he should weigh.

Flash forward a few months: due to some intensive care in his foster home, Houston is a different dog. Our vet staff was in tears when he came trotting in for another checkup. They did not recognize the dog that was so close to death's door when they first met him. He is happy, healthy and fully recovered from his ordeal. Amazingly, he holds no grudges against humans; everyone he meets is his new best friend. He just loves his humans and leans in to them with his whole body, looking up at you adoringly with those sparkly blue eyes. He is such a character and so full of life and personality. How someone could neglect such a wonderful boy is beyond us. His only residual effect of these last few years seems to be that he does not

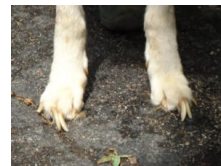
care for other dogs. He generally ignores other dogs until they get in his space and then he lets them know he prefers to be alone. Because of this, we will look for a home that is content with just Houston to love. He is an absolute dream boy who just loves to be petted and given attention. He has that perpetual puppy look about him. Even though he is older, he looks like a juvenile boy, with a silly grin always on his face. He is like a colt -- all legs -- and sometimes they go faster than he does.

He is not aggressive with other dogs but has told us many times he really does not care for other dogs to be in his space. If they push him, he will react. He made it clear he wants to be an only dog. But he is such the perfect first Siberian for someone-he is active enough that they will get the full Siberian experience, but he is also calm enough to not need constant watching and exercise.

Houston is Just an all around nice dog. If you want to see what a special boy Houston is, apply now.



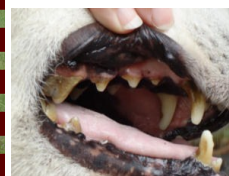
Houston on arrival at AAHI:



Toenails



Protruding Ribs



Teeth



His rusty collar -- with old AAHI tags still attached!

What's Your Problem?

'What's Your Problem?' is a column for those Siberian Husky owners who have faced a problem with their dog(s) and found a solution. If you have one you would like to submit, please e-mail it to news@adoptahusky.com. The 'problem' should be of general interest to most Siberian owners, and must include how you solved the problem. Training methods must utilize 'positive reinforcement'. AAHI reserves the right to select the entry it deems most appropriate for publication.

The Story of Bear

About ten years ago, my wife and I acquired a dog that a neighbor had basically found wandering on the side of the road. He was both physically and behaviorally a mess. He had no collar, no tags and no sign that he belonged to anyone. The girl who rescued him took him to the vet where he was treated for heartworm. What they were not able to fix, however, was his behavioral problems. In short he had what most would label as severe separation anxiety. Every time this girl left Bear in her house alone, he would transform from a big mellow dog into a wild beast tearing up all he could get his paws on. He had literally destroyed parts of her house and she could no longer afford to keep him. The vet had prescribed various "doggy downers" but to no avail. His future was dim; however, my wife and I decided to take the challenge.

Crate Training

The first thing we did with Bear (in consultation with our veterinarian) was to wean him off of the depressants he was on. They clearly were not working, and my wife and I had no desire to have a doped up dog wandering around the house. We wanted to address the problem behaviorally, not with drugs. This is where the

crate came in.

We purchased a large crate that was big enough for Bear to stand up in and easily be able to turn around. Our mission from that point on was simple...to make that crate the most rewarding and positive place in Bear's world. We did this through many short and positive sessions approximating Bear to love his new sanctuary. Now I do not want to disillusion anyone, it was not all smooth sailing. There were moments of regression (as should be expected), but we remained consistent with our approach and it proved to be an enormous success.

The Approximations

We began the whole process by simply reinforcing Bear with his favorite treats just for going near the crate. At first we did not even ask him to go inside. We wanted to make sure his initial introduction was a positive one. Once he was consistently going up to the crate, we asked him to go inside. At this point it was not difficult at all. I pointed him inside, he walked in, and then I reinforced him through the opening on the back side of the crate. This way he was receiving all his reinforcement for being INSIDE the crate. We did LOTS of short positive sessions just like this

throughout the day. In fact, almost all of Bear's food was delivered for being inside the crate.

Once Bear was comfortable walking inside the crate, we began closing the door.

Once again, ALL his reinforcement was placed inside the crate; now with the door closed. Just like before, we did many short sessions often throughout the day. The idea was to have him voluntarily go inside the crate and allow us to close the door. We were NOT trapping him or tricking him to go inside.

After he was consistent going in the crate and allowing us to close the door, we slowly began to increase the amount of time he remained inside. We would then intermittently reinforce him for being inside the crate AND for being calm. We were very careful to be sure we were not reinforcing him for whining or scratching at the crate. We were also very careful not to let Bear out of the crate if he was exhibiting any of these behaviors. By doing this and remaining consistent, it did not take long before Bear would go in the crate and remain there for hours at a time. The key was to apply ALL reinforcement for being

...we did many short sessions often throughout the day. The idea was to have him voluntarily go inside the crate ...

What's Your Problem? (Cont'd.)

inside the crate, and ZERO reinforcement for leaving the crate. I have to emphasize this, as it is REALLY important. Most dog owners have to fight the urge to pet and reward their dog after they walk out of the crate. By doing this, you are only teaching your dog that leaving the crate gets them lots of attention. This is the opposite of what you want to teach your dog, especially at this stage.

Important Notes

We were successfully able to get Bear to stay inside his crate and remain there for hours at a time without "freaking out". How did we know this? The best indicator was the state of his crate when we would return home. There were times during this process where he would dig up his bedding and also salivate inside the crate. Eventually, with careful attention to what we were (and were not) reinforcing, these things disappeared. The entire process took us about three to four weeks. Again, we were only able to accomplish this by doing MANY

sessions, applying all his reinforcement for being in the crate, making sure we were not "releasing" him from the crate if he was not calm, and also fighting the urge to give him attention as an immediate consequence of leaving the crate.

I also need to mention that during this process we also approximated ourselves for not being present in the house while he was in the crate. At first it was just for very short periods of time...like walking outside to check the mail. We then slowly begin to increase our time away from the house (doing yard work, running short errands to the store, etc.). As I mentioned earlier, we did have some regression, but by remaining consistent were able to work through it.

Happy Ending

After Bear was calmly staying in the crate consistently while we were away, we were then able to begin leaving the house without having to put him in the crate. Our theory was if he could learn to remain calm inside the crate while we were away, he could probably

remain calm even if he was not in the crate. We initially only did this for very short periods of time. Just like the approximation we took before...checking the mail...then quick trips to the store...and then longer periods. Our theory proved correct. After a few months we were able to leave Bear in the house with no incidents. I have to be honest; it was a LOT of work in the beginning. Our lives literally centered around this one behavior because we knew Bear's future with us depended upon it. It was well worth it though. Bear ended up being a terrific dog and hugely loved member of our family!

I hope this little story might help someone else out there who is dealing with a similar problem. Crate training may not be the only solution, but it was certainly one that worked great for us.

The above "What's Your Problem" was written by Todd Freucht and published on EzineArticles.com.

Note: Adopt A Husky always recommends the use of an airline style crate over a wire crate! Airline crates are stronger, have fewer 'parts' and weak points, and create more of a 'den-like' atmosphere for the dog.

Renew your Dominick's Fresh Values Card with eScrip!!



Although your qualified Dominick's purchases are currently earning rebates for Adopt A Husky Inc., your Dominick's Fresh Values Card will become inactive with eScrip on November 1, 2010 unless you renew your commitment by clicking the button below.





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Glacier
Hendrix

Jackson
Kep
Kenai
Kobe
Medley
Miley
Phillips
Quinn
Sally
Sheena
Sketcher

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 19-21 **Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo**
Fri. 4:00pm-9:00pm; Sat. 9:00am-6:00pm; Sun. 11:00pm-5:00pm
309 Cedar Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN

Jan. 21 **Gurnee Frosty Fest**
5:30pm - 8:00pm
Viking Park
4374 Old Grand Ave., Gurnee, Illinois

Please check the 'Calendar of Events' on our website for event locations and details!

[Adopt A Husky Events](#)

Donations

In Honor Of...

Diane Dale in honor of Maverick Dagley
Sue Mool in honor of John Tuminaro's birthday

In Memory Of...

Boots Sheperd
Larry and Cheryl Langkau
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Jim Shepherd

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Irving & Gwen Lerner
Leslie Bohm
Donald & Susanne Nevin

David & Patricia Kubicek, in memory of Raven
Ronald & Joanne Kopeck, in memory of Gwen
Ruth & Jerome Peltier, in memory of Ziggy Stardust

General Donations

Thomas & Kim Avrutik
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You Can Support Adopt A Husky, Too!

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO ADOPT A HUSKY (Please circle option below)

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Mail this form and payment to: Adopt A Husky, P.O. Box 87226, Carol Stream, IL 60188-7226

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE DONATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.adoptahusky.com