

Adopt A Husky, Inc.

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



VOLUNTEER NEWS YOU CAN USE



November 2005

Meet Lola, a Katrina Survivor

Lola...if she could talk, what a story she could tell. But she doesn't speak human, so I get to relate the miracle that brought her to Adopt A Husky.

On Monday, October 3rd, I received an email alerting Adopt A Husky to the plight of a 3 y/o Siberian Husky at the Dane County WI H/S. Lola had survived hurricane Katrina only to be separated from her family, wandering the streets of Gretna, a New Orleans suburb.

She was found by a police officer, one of a group of WI cops who drove to the disaster area to help. In the early days of the recovery effort, the animals were the last to be evacuated, so this officer decided to bring her back north, and he took her to the shelter hoping they could trace her family.

Folks, if any of you have not microchipped every dog you own, start NOW! Because Lola is microchipped, and although her family had never re-registered her, AVID provided the name of the vet clinic that owned the chip. Yes, Lola was a patient of theirs, and the clinic could not imagine they'd simply left her behind, that they were wonderful owners. Residence or cell phone numbers were useless, ...phone service was still spotty at best.

Knowing that this could be a long and perhaps futile search, the shelter was grateful that Adopt A Husky would take over the task of both caring for Lola and attempting to reunite her with her family.

On Friday, October 7th, having obtained an emergency contact number from the veterinary clinic, a woman answered my call. I introduced myself and said, I'm calling from WI and I have a red/white Siberian Husky named Lola...

That was as far as I got, as she screamed "OH MY GOD, SHE'S ALIVE!" followed by "when can we get her back?" I explained that we would begin to make arrangements to get her home, and Martha, her owner, told me this story of how Lola ended up alone.

The family was being evacuated, had to leave immediately. Martha went upstairs and released Lola and her GSD buddy, came down the stairs, opened the door to the yard for a quick potty break...and someone had



Meet Lola!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MN EVENTS

Midwest Mountaineering
Expo, Minneapolis, MN
Nov. 11th-13th

Minneapolis Kennel Club at
Canterbury Park,
Shakopee, MN
Nov. 19th- 20th

HAPPY TAILS

*Recent fosters that have
found their forever
homes.*

Gretel (MN) Oct. 8
Bingo (MN) Oct. 19
Nikki (MN) Oct. 23
Haven (MN) Oct. 26
Zelkova (MO) Oct. 27
Blade (MO) Oct. 27

left the gate open. True to her Siberian heritage, Lola took off! They frantically searched, but were finally forced to leave without her, taking a depressed and unhappy GSD who'd lost his best buddy.

Martha is currently living with her daughter, three grandchildren, the GSD, and the daughter's dog in South Carolina...a very crowded situation. Her husband, Julius, is staying with their son in Dickinson TX, a suburb of Houston.

Through the kindness of two Siberian Husky Club of America members, Lola is on her way to her lost family in TX. Thank you, Bruce and Joanne Barnes!

And, as Paul Harvey says on his daily commentary, now you know the rest of the story.

- Lois, founding member of AAHI

To the Adopt A Husky Group:

We just wanted to let your group know how much we absolutely adore our beautiful husky - Abbey (she was named Lady Violet when she was with you). We can't imagine our lives without her now. She has been with us for about a year. My husband and I have both had dogs of various breeds all our lives, and Abbey is by far the best and sweetest one either of us has ever owned. She has a precious spirit, and we just can't get over how good she is with our 14 month old. Chloe has grown up with her and gives her kisses and hugs. We just wanted to let your group (especially Peg and Abbey's foster mom Gee-Gee) know just how perfectly Abbey has fit into our family. She tore her knee ligament several months ago, but we had the surgery, and she is recovering very well. We are SO appreciative of the Adopt A Husky group for saving these wonderful dogs and placing them in loving homes. Thank you for all you do!

Love,
The LeBlanc Family
Ryan, DeAnne, Chloe and Abbey



Abbey, formerly known as Lady Violet



Store Shows: How & Why We Do Them

Adopt A Husky's presence at local pet stores (PetSmart, PetCo, Pet Supplies Plus) and other stores such as Caribou Coffee are vital to the promotion of Siberian Husky Rescue. These store shows are considerably smaller than the large shows that Adopt A Husky is involved in (Arlington Pet Expo, Morton Arboretum, Midwest Mountaineering Expo, etc). However, store shows are just as important, because they occur many times a year at many different venues.

The volunteer coordinating the store show is responsible for contacting their area events coordinator (IL & WI contact Noel, MN contact Kim) first to discuss possible locations and dates. Store shows should be done in various different areas, so Adopt A Husky gains more exposure and does not saturate one area with AAHI's presence. Once the volunteer has discussed the store show

with the area events coordinator, he/she can then contact the store manager to set up a date and time. Also, the volunteer should let the store manager know how many volunteers and dogs will be attending.

If possible, the volunteers will bring foster dogs along so the public can see in person the dogs that are available for adoption. Unfortunately, foster dogs are not always available, so volunteers from time to time may bring their own adopted dogs (always check with your area events coordinator before taking a personal dog to an event).

Store shows are typically held on weekends as this is when most volunteers are available and when stores expect the highest volume of customers. Volunteers who work these shows donate approximately 5-6 hours on either a Saturday or Sunday or sometimes both days. On average, two to three volunteers will work a store show with anywhere from one to three dogs.

Depending on the weather, the volunteers will set up a table either outside or immediately inside the front door of the store. Typically, one table will be set up with a display that includes photographs and descriptions of Siberian Husky breed traits. The table will also include a binder of dogs available for adoption with individual photographs and biographies. Printed materials include applications for adoption, fostering, and volunteering as well as educational information.

Our main goals at these store shows include the following:

Education: Education is the most important aspect of what we do at these store shows. Educating the public is crucial in helping individuals and/or families make educated decisions as to whether a Siberian Husky is the right type of dog for them. Knowledgeable volunteers, who have at least one Siberian Husky of their own, are more than happy to answer questions and to discuss both good breed traits and traits that some feel are undesirable.

Applications: Applications are accepted at all store shows for adopting a dog, becoming a foster home, or for becoming a volunteer, but all forms should be filled out online so the process goes much quicker. All of these applications can be found on our website www.adoptahusky.com.

Donations: A donation jar is present at each store show and although this is not the main focus of these shows, every dollar is helpful and certainly appreciated.

- *Carrie, IL volunteer*



The Rewards of Fostering: Melanie, IN Volunteer

The first thing you will see when you walk in the front door of my house is huskies, huskies, and more huskies. Not the living, breathing kind, but just about anything else that is "husky" (the stuffed ones are upstairs). My most precious piece in the collection is a huge painting of my original husky family painted by Carolyn Jagodits, a well known wildlife artist and adopter of my first two fosters. Some of you may have seen the plate "Pupsicles" put out by Bradbury. That is Carolyn's work.

Melanie with her current foster, Sakari (left) and furkid, Mulligan (right)

I have always loved huskies. My first was given to me by a neighbor who decided he couldn't take care of his any more about 20 years ago. I first became part of the AAHI family when the last of my original 4 huskies crossed the rainbow bridge about 5 years ago. I lasted one day without a dog in

the house. Searching the internet I found AAHI and put in an application. Hoping to speed up the adoption process, I drove more than two hours to a Petsmart on the north side of Chicago to meet some of the AAHI volunteers at a store show. There I met Donna and Lois. The first thing out of Lois' mouth was "I just found out this morning that there is a husky at the Elkhart Humane Society (about 15 miles from my home)." Back then, things were not as complicated as they are now. The next day the shelter brought Mulligan to my house for a "meet and greet" and the home visit. He immediately decided that this was his forever home and the rest is history. A short time later, at my first Husky Hike, I mentioned to Lois that I "might" consider fostering at some point. Two weeks after that I got an urgent call from the Elkhart Humane Society concerning two huskies that they had. Five years later, I am now on my 7th foster.

Because I live in South Bend, IN and there is only one other volunteer in the area (and none when I started) I have basically learned volunteering for AAHI by just "jumping in with all fours." In addition to fostering, I have done transports, occasionally a home visit, helped at the big shows and events when I can, and have facilitated getting a couple huskies into our organization and ultimately adopted, one from another local all-breed rescue and one an owner surrender. As a teaching golf professional and manager of the city's ice skating rink, most of the time I have to work is when everyone else gets to play, so scheduling is sometimes difficult. I really wish I could do more.

I also have two cats, which present their own set of complications when it comes to my fosters. There have also been some health and behavioral issues along the way with both Mulligan and my fosters. Mulligan had heartworm, which he contracted before I adopted him. Foster Powder had been horribly neglected and was a physical mess (underweight, worms, etc.) when I picked her up. Foster Sugar destroyed 3 crates before I got her separation anxiety under control. And then there was foster Sampson whose story is below. Three of my seven fosters have each been with me for a year or more. It is incredibly difficult to give them up after that long. I have a very soft heart and would have a zillion dogs if I could, but I know my limitations. Sometimes the dogs have really needed a family that can give them more activity than I can give them and I recognize that. Also, because I live alone in a small house, in town, and have a very long work schedule at times, two dogs are all I can handle, (except in an emergency). At this point, if I foster fail, I will have to stop fostering and I don't want to do that.

There have been two specific incidences that I recall that illustrate the reason I continue to foster. The first happened with my first foster. Sampson was very depressed at the shelter and the staff was very concerned about him. He had stopped eating and was just moping around. When I picked him up at the shelter and brought him to my home, he didn't want to be bothered by anyone. The second day he pretty much stayed in his crate and still wasn't eating. That evening I had a headache, so I laid down on the couch. A few minutes later Sampson crawled up on the couch, put his head on my chest and stretched out on top of me and went to sleep. Together, we took a nap for about an hour. Later that evening he finally started eating again. A couple weeks later when he and Princess, my second foster, went to live with Carolyn, he was a totally different dog. Now, after almost five years, even though he is overweight, he is a happy dog who is totally bonded to Carolyn and she to him. He just needed to be loved and Carolyn also needed someone to love.

The second incident happened with foster Sugar. Sugar was with me for a long 21 months before she was adopted. About 6 months after her adoption, I went to visit Sugar and her family. During the course of the evening Sugar kept making a fuss and insisted on taking me into a different room. There, she showed me her two beds. After I sat down with her on the beds and talked to her for a while, Sugar went back into the other room, laid down and was quiet. I figure that Sugar just wanted to show me her new digs and to let me know that she was happy in her forever home.

As a seven year survivor of third stage Ovarian cancer I have learned that there are no coincidences and there is a reason why Mulligan and AAHI came into my life. And that is to continue to help the

dogs find their forever homes. In the process of doing that, I touch the lives of the dogs and the people who adopt them, in ways that are priceless. We sometimes forget that we touch the lives of the people we adopt to, usually in ways we will never really know. In addition, the group of people that make up AAHI are incredible. Never have I worked with a more caring and dedicated group of individuals.

Someday I would like to learn how to skijor with the dogs (I probably should learn how to cross country ski first, huh) and live in a house where I can have more dogs and room for them to run and play. I have never gotten to mush or even ride on a sled, but I think that would be fun too. Until then, I have to settle for hiking with the dogs when I can and continue giving them the same love that they so generously give back to me.

- Melanie, IN volunteer & foster home

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books make great holiday, birthday, retirement and anniversary gifts for families and college students. They are available now, and can be easily ordered from the AAHI homepage or you can order by [clicking here](#).

They contain coupons worth thousands of dollars for things such as dining (fast food, casual, fine dining), travel (hotel, airlines, rental cars, cruises), recreation (professional sports, golf, bowling, movies, amusement parks), shopping (gifts, clothes, electronics, groceries), services (dry cleaning, car washes, flowers) and are sold September through November. AAHI receives a percentage for each book sold. Books are available for cities across the United States.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

- MN & MO volunteers on a great month of adoptions!
- OH volunteers on another great hike!

THANK YOU TO . . .

- [Bamboo Pet Products](#) for inviting AAHI to model their products at the recent Bakker show in Rosemont, IL and for donating nail clippers, toys and grooming tools to AAHI!
- all of the volunteers for their time, hard work and dedication to AAHI!
- Carrie, Melanie and Lois for helping with this month's newsletter.

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