

## 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



September 2005

### Home Visits: Educating an Applicant Makes a Difference to a Rescued Siberian

The kids are in bed and I'm in my jammies, a diet coke (caffeine free!) at my side, my lap top opened to a blank home visit page, and my earpiece plugged into my cordless phone. I'm ready to do a "phone" visit. The applicants live too far away for a volunteer to feasibly do a home visit, so this is the next best thing. I'm armed with the family's application (previous husky owners), glowing reports from the vet and references, and digital pictures have been taken by the applicants and sent to the Adoption Committee for review.

At first glance, I thought this visit would be a walk in the park, until I received a concerned email from a member of the Adoption Committee. The "kennel" the applicants had constructed for their previous husky was not quite husky-proof--not to AAHI's stringent standards anyway! One side was the side of the garage, and the rest was picket style fencing. River rock covered the bottom and there was no top. The kicker was two rows of firewood were stacked inside the kennel--a convenient storage place for the owners, but an invitation to climb and escape for a husky!

With some coaching from the Adoption Committee, I proceeded to do the phone visit. When we got to the section about the kennel, I had the applicants describe it to me, and how they used it with their former Siberian. When they moved into their current home, their dog was almost 10 years old and no longer in shape to successfully execute an escape. He liked to lounge in the kennel and watch the neighborhood go by. They wanted their new dog to be about a year old--young and sprightly enough to escape from Alcatraz. I discussed with the applicants the Adoption Committee's concerns about the kennel, and asked if they would consider adapting it to meet AAHI's requirements. The husband "preferred" to not have to put a roof on the kennel, and he wasn't overjoyed at the prospect of moving his wood pile. I was disheartened because up until this point, this couple was very knowledgeable about Siberian behavior and went to great lengths to educate their children and friends as well. They went so far as to lock the kids outside when they went out to play, so they couldn't accidentally let the dog out when they came back in! So, I decided to start exploring the thought of installing a trolley. After explaining exactly what it was and how much freedom it give a dog to run, the applicants decided that the trolley



Eliza found her forever home on August 7th.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*If you can volunteer at one of the following events, please contact Jen M.*

Sept. 10 Septemberfest, Bloomingdale, IL

Sept. 11 PETCO Grand Opening, Bloomingdale, IL

Sept. 17 Allstate Family Fair, Northbrook, IL

Sept. 24 Bark-B-Que, Salem, WI

### HAPPY TAILS

*Recent fosters that have found their forever homes.*

Solomon (WI) July 26

was an acceptable solution.

The rest, as they say, is history. I conducted the phone visit on a Friday night and submitted the application to the Adoption Committee around 10:30 PM. They were approved and went home with Eliza on Sunday afternoon.

Had I not received some coaching from the Adoption Committee, I would have zipped through the visit, a family would have been denied, and a dog would have lost out on a forever family. Now I know how crucial it is to take the time to educate. What's an hour and a half of my time versus the life of a dog? Thankfully it's not something I have to ponder. This story is another happy tail!

-Anne, Milwaukee, WI, Proud Green-shirt owner & AAHI volunteer

Eliza (WI) August 7  
Aurora (IL) August 14  
Reggie (WI) August 26  
Snow White (MN) Aug. 27  
Kamia (MN) August 28

Fosters Adopted at Noses  
In Need

Pablo (IL) August 28  
Jaclyn (WI) August 28  
Sepia (IL) August 28  
Thistle (WI) August 28

### Volunteer Spotlight: Getting to Know...John S.



(Note: This month we're proud to spotlight John and the many things he does to help AAHI. We had a great time writing this; hope you find it as enjoyable to read.)

**Name:** John S.

**Hometown:** Gilberts, IL (originally from Arlington Heights, IL)

**Family:** Wife Rita and 2 Siberians: Cassidy (red & white coat, blue eyes, turned 5 in August) and Ryker (red & white coat, blue eyes, adopted from AAHI, will turn 3 in December)

**How did you get involved with AAHI?** In October of 2002, we were looking to get a second Siberian and were told about AAHI by the trainer that we were taking Cassidy to. I went to the website and saw that they were going to be at the Rockford Pet Expo. We went to the Expo, met Jeff (our volunteer coordinator), and became interested in volunteering after talking to him. My first event was the Downers Grove Ice Festival in January 2003 and the rest, as they say, is history.

Sirius, John's 1st transport. Sirius is now healthy and lovin' life as a sled dog.

**What's the best thing about volunteering with AAHI?** If I had to pick one reason, it would be knowing that I'm making a difference in the lives of these animals. It's summed up nicely in the quote that many volunteers have in their email signature: "Saving one dog won't change the world, but surely the world will change for that one dog." Another reason would be the people. We truly have a wonderful group of people.

**What's your favorite AAHI event?** I'd have to say the Bark-B-Que. What a great thrill to see so many of the dogs we've helped rescue from some pretty bad circumstances now able to enjoy life. It's an awesome sight to see all those Siberians running around in the yard playing with each other.

**Although you do many things for the rescue, you're well known for your many transports over the years.**

**What's your most memorable transport?** Each of them is memorable in one way or another. I've done 9 transports to save 11 Siberians (Sirius, Mallard, Mufasa, Vinny, Sweet William, Brighton, Cratchett, Razzmatazz, Sepia, Periwinkle, and Midnight Blue) covering more than 2600 miles round trip, but my most

memorable transport was my first, down to Crawford County Animal Control in Robinson, IL to pick up Sirius. We'd been told he was in a fight and was in bad shape. When they brought him out to me, I was in shock at the sight of him. I took him to the car and he looked at me like he just wanted to lay down and die. He couldn't get into the car, so as I bent down to pick him up, I gave him a hug and told him I was taking him to a place that would help him get better and find a good home. It turns out that it wasn't a fight that was responsible for his condition, but an often fatal disease known as Blastomycosis. He had a long, slow recovery, but with help from people within and outside of AAHI (special thanks to Petco manager Christa and her help in securing a grant from the Petco Foundation!) he was able to make a full recovery and now pulls as part of a sled team. It's a great feeling to see him again and whenever I feel down I think of Sirius and it brings a smile to my face and tears to my eyes.

**How many miles (round trip) has your longest transport been?** Picking up Vinny from Hancock County Animal Control, 589 miles round trip.

**What are your interests/hobbies outside of Siberian rescue?** I enjoy computer games and am a WWII buff.

**What's the last good movie you've seen?** Hmmmmm, the last movie I saw in a theatre was Star Wars Episode III, which was disappointing. The last good movie I saw on DVD was BlackHawk Down, a very interesting look at more recent events. I'm looking forward to seeing The Great Raid (based on a true raid in WWII.)

**What type of music do you enjoy listening to?** Some of my favorite bands are Styx, Journey, Rush, The Rolling Stones, Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, and the Black Crowes. I also have a soft spot for show tunes from Broadway musicals, especially the ones I worked on in high school and college. "If I were a Rich Man" from Fiddler on the Roof is a favorite.

**If you won the lottery tomorrow, what's the first thing you'd do? (Thanks for the great lead in!)** Since the very first thing is kind of boring, I'd pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming. But seriously, there are a few things I'd do: pay off my bills, create an endowment/trust for my niece and nephew, make a large donation to AAHI so we could have a nice facility, enjoy life, continue to rescue (with more vigor than ever!)

**What would you like to say to your fellow volunteers?** I'd like to thank Lois for founding such a wonderful organization and giving me the opportunity to help make a difference. I'd also like to thank everyone for the unnecessary but appreciated recognition at this year's Husky Hike. I'd also like to thank all of our volunteers for putting in so much time to help these animals in need, helping to change their worlds for the better.

**John, thanks for your time and all that you do to help Siberians in need!**

*- Chris, IL Volunteer*

.. - . . .

### Event Recap: Noses In Need

Noses In Need was a great success!!!! 4 lucky Siberians found their forever home. Several people stopped in to meet the dogs and learned how they can apply to adopt. We had 21 volunteers there and every one of them was needed to greet, answer questions, show dogs and fill out adoption paper work. So, I'd like to send a HUGE thank you to everyone that helped with Noses and made the day possible.

Also, thank you to [Doggy Day Camp, Inc.](#) on hosting the event for us. Doggy Day Camp has a great grooming facility, doggy day care & boutique along with some obedience classes. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop in to thank them and give them your support.

Again, THANK YOU to everyone that helped with this event!!!

- Jen, IL Volunteer



Adriana at Noses in Need looking for a forever family.

### The Rewards of Fostering: Ed and Donna, IL Volunteers



Ed and Donna, along with fosters, Roxie and Charades at Noses In Need

Ed and Donna have 2 of their own furkids, Crystal and KD and 13 months ago, they opened their home to AAHI's fosters. When asked, why do you foster?, Ed and Donna both replied, "because we care and it's wonderful knowing that we're saving another life."

To date Ed and Donna have fostered 3 Siberians, Macintosh (adopted) and current fosters Charades and Roxie. While Macintosh was their first foster to be adopted, Charades is the first AAHI foster they opened their home to and has been their longest (13 months).

Charades has also been their most challenging foster. She is extremely shy and Ed and Donna believe she was not properly socialized at an early age. For those of you that remember, Charades was one of many that came to AAHI after being rescued from Malmo. But one of their happiest foster memories, has been watching Charades improve through a lot of love and basic obedience training that has resulted in Charade's new found confidence.

Ed and Donna both said that the best part about fostering is, "learning something different about each Sibe. No matter what issues they have, love will help heal," so, "If you can, please foster. The rewards are well worth it. Just think, if you foster and that dog gets adopted, then you'll be saving two lives because you have room for another foster."

Thank you Ed and Donna for opening your home to AAHI's fosters. Without foster homes like you to take in our Siberians in need, AAHI would not exist.

- Jen, IL Volunteer and two time foster failure

**CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .**

- Maverick, Skye, Rocky & Breeze (Mike's & Noel's dogs) on passing the [Delta Society](#) test. They are now registered Delta Society Pet Partners and can start participating in animal assisted therapy.
- all of AAHI's volunteers on a great month of adoptions!!!!!!!
- Don and his two furkids, Oreo & Bandit, on earning their [Working Pack Dog](#) titles from the Siberian Husky Club of America.

**THANK YOU TO . . .**

- Chris, John, Anne, Ed, Donna & Mike for helping me with the Sept. newsletter.
- Doc Lew for all you do for the IL/WI fosters.
- the volunteers that worked hard to get pending home visits done, so there would be approved homes at Noses In Need.
- As always, thank you to all of AAHI's volunteers across the branches for their hard work and dedication.

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