

# Alaskan Malamute 101: Living, Learning, and Working with Your Malamute

## Temperament of the Malamute

### Personality and Characteristics

Independent and Smart

*Creative thinker*

*Problem solver*

*Self directed*

*Needs to be motivated, to see a benefit for itself*

Pack Animal

*Extremely social*

*Hierarchy-conscious*

Athletic

Powerful

*Energetic*

*Strength and endurance*

Quiet but Vocal on Occasion

*Talks in "Woo-Woos"*

*Good listener*

*Howls upon hearing sirens*

*Makes noise only if necessary*

Lively and Alert

*Boisterous*

Humorous

World Class Champion Digger

Females are Alpha

*[Generally prefer members of the opposite sex]*

*[Two females will be intolerant of each other]*

*[Two males will be intolerant of each other]*

### Companion Animal

Great Family Pet

*[Friendly]*

*[Hungry for human attention and affection]*

Loves Small Children

Friendly to Most Strangers

*[Appearance can be intimidating to strangers]*

*[Not a good watch dog]*

### Working Animal

Excels in a Variety of Diverse Talents

## Why the Malamute Does what it Does

### Old-Style Dog Bred for Certain Activities

Evolution of a Breed Developed for a Specific Purpose

Arctic Explorers Needed an Animal Capable of Pulling Heavy Sledges

## How to Interact with the Malamute

### Lead or Be Lead

"Alpha" the Dog

Be the Leader of the Pack

Firm But Gentle Persuasion

## **Training for all Activities and Events**

- Sports
- Therapy/Service
- AKC Events and Titles
- AMCA Events and Titles
- Tests
- Rattlesnake Aversion

## **Activities to Participate in with Your Malamute**

### **Sports/Exercise**

Summer

- [Hiking]*
- [Backpacking]*
- [Jogging]*
- [Bikejoring]*
- [Swimming]*

Winter

- [Sledding]*
- [Carting]*
- [Skijoring]*

Any Season

- [Search and Rescue]*
- [Tracking]*
- [Weight Pulling]*

### **Therapy/Service**

Visitations

- [Schools]*
- [Hospitals]*
- [Libraries]*

Companion to the Disabled

## **Events to Participate in with Your Malamute**

### **AKC Events and Titles**

Conformation Dog Shows

- [Dog is guided by a handler]*

Rally Trials

- [Dog and handler team]*

- [Navigates a series of exercises]

- [Works at its own pace]

- [Emphasis placed on fun and excitement]

Obedience Trials

Agility Trials

### **AMCA Events and Titles**

Weight Pull

### **Miscellaneous Events and Titles**

Flyball

### **Fun Matches**

### **Tests**

- Canine Good Citizen (CGC)
- Temperament (TT)