



Re-defining your vocabulary with respect to Alaskan Malamutes

Back in 1979 when we were first introduced to this breed we naively thought . . . just another type of dog. Mick Mooney had had many years experience with Great Danes and my dedication and love was Afghan Hounds plus the usual dogs my family had when we were growing up – an Irish Setter, a Scottish Terrier, Cattle dog and a Dachshund, oh and our friends and neighbours' various breeds.

In hindsight none of these really prepared us for Alaskan Malamutes.

So I've decided that perhaps now knowing a little about this breed some fresh definitions should be added to our dictionaries. Common words, and our comprehension of these have a whole new concept once one has a Malamute in the home.

Forget your current understanding of the following words, read the "new" definitions and you'll then be convinced your Malamutes behaviour is simply Normal.

Mine Shaft – A brief 2 minute fun activity nothing to do with a potential to earn money.

Fossicking – A brief 2 second fun activity – again with no potential financial gain. But could well expose the toy car your child lost 25 years ago.

Woodwork – The clever craftwork your Malamute pup can achieve on your (once attractive) timber verandah posts.

Wet Hands – An essential tool to remove the dog hair from clothes and seating

Night Owl – Is now the inevitable night owl (howl) at least several times throughout the night.

Dishwasher – Although every skerrick of food is removed dishes do need to be re-done the traditional way.

Fast Food – Applies to the speed with which your Mals food disappears out of the dish.

Recycle – Your precious pet eats, defecates, then consumes the "waste" in a continuing cycle.

Bossy – Your entitlement if you are a Malamute.

Mere Male – A Malamute bitch's view of a Malamute dog.

Liar – An expert Al Malamute. Regardless of how well fed, well loved, well exercised or well trained they will advise outsiders they aren't.

Inedible – Needs to read . . . edible for Malamutes

Jealousy – Perfectly normal reaction to have over anything.

The list could go on. However the Alaskan Malamute does have all the wonderful traits of most other dogs so the Up side of living with one (or two or more) does, in fact, outweigh their not so charming habits. They must or we wouldn't have had them in our lives for so long.

Vanda Parker & Mick Mooney
Paharey Alaskan Malamutes