

Khanti

There is nothing typical about our five year old red, golden and white Alaskan Malamute, Khantishna (Khanti) whom my husband was asked to identify her by breed rescue at a local shelter as a Malamute. As soon as she laid eyes upon Norm, this lovely young dog performed the Malamute song – the “woo-woo” song, making certain that she was correctly identified as a Mal so that she could be saved by the Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association with which we were affiliated and volunteers. Visiting with this lovely dog he breed identified her and signed the appropriate paperwork ensuring that this dog would not be euthanised, Norm was headed to Rescue with the dog. It was assumed Rescue would find a foster home for her until she was able to find the appropriate people who would love, respect, appreciate and adopt her.

Leaving the Shelter, Norm easily persuaded this friendly dog to jump into his Suburban. He took her to a local vet to have her examined and to make certain she had no serious health issues. She was examined, vaccinated, bathed and groomed. We were going to make sure that she was in good health before turning her into the local rescue organization. Once she had been thoroughly examined and ready to become someone’s ‘foster dog’ until she would be adopted, Norm called me to find out if I wanted to see her. He said that she was beautiful and extremely friendly. He said she had sung the signature Malamute song to him to let him know she was “one of us, and that she belonged with a family that loved and understood Malamutes. I knew better than to have Norm bring her by our home, but I told him to bring her anyway. I was in no position to adopt another rescue dog, but, somehow, I couldn’t help but want to see the lovely girl Norm had described.

Khanti was lovely – to look at and in temperament and personality! She was extremely friendly and outgoing, affectionate and demonstrative. She clearly felt “at home” with Norman and me knowing on some level that she was with the right people at the right time. She was not shy, timid or apprehensive. We took her out of the Suburban and walked her around our property and neighborhood. She was calm and at ease.

We brought several of the dogs outside to meet her (one at a time) with whom we thought she would best get along. She was eager to please and not at all aggressive, egotistical or arrogant. She clearly had no aspirations to rise to the top of the social canine pyramid and was definitely not power hungry. She simply wanted to be friends with and accepted by the members of her new family.

We introduced and re-introduced Khanti to the dogs with whom we felt she would best get along. She was a loving and charming girl with lovely manners who seemed to get along well with all of our dogs. However, it was with Kobuck and Sunny that she seemed to have the greatest affinity, and with whom we felt she would be most comfortable. They were laid back and easy going and seemed to genuinely enjoy this

new young lady. The three became fast friends and have remained best buddies until the present.

Unfortunately, Khanti was diagnosed with a very serious and life-threatening blood disorder several years ago and has been on chemotherapy ever since. She has gained nearly forty pounds in association with the medication she takes to keep her alive. It is very sad to see such a young, lovely girl limited in so many ways. Her diet is carefully monitored as is her activity and exercise. She MUST take her medications several times daily. She is limited in mobility and activity but not in heart and spirit.

She is a “trooper ”and her spirit prevails no matter how dim her prognosis and grim her future. She is good-natured and optimistic. She embraces each and every day and unconditionally loves all who are members of her life and family. She is irresistible and full of love, grace and joie de vivre. She is such a special member of our family and our lives. We give thanks for each day we are able to spend with her.