

Kobuck of the North

Kobuck is a textbook example of an Alaskan Malamute. He is absolutely gorgeous – tall, perfectly proportioned, with beautiful multi-colored woolly, shiny coat, gorgeous, gleaming chocolate brown almond shaped eyes, a beautiful black mask, and a perfectly white muzzle. He is a gentle giant and weighs 131 pounds. He is friendly, loveable and loving and good-natured. He is also a fine vocalizer with a wonderful woo-wooing ability (that's the Malamute song as they do not "bark" in the traditional way of other dogs.) His songs are beautiful and prolific! When he is out with us in public, he is a magnet for men, women and children – of all ages. People stop and stare, admire him, ask to pet him, and ask where they can find a dog like him.

Alaskan Malamutes are extremely intelligent and resourceful. They are also independent. They are protective of their families, but they truly love just about everyone they meet and, therefore, do not make good guard dogs. They are members of the family or "the pack" and enjoy participating in family events and activities. They are rarely aggressive unless they have been abused and/or trained to be aggressive. They are intimidating by virtue of their large size and robust physique. However, in my experience, they are big babies who love to be loved and are both affectionate and demonstrative. They are very attached to and love their families.

Kobuck came to our home with his biological brother, Nenani, from Austin, Texas by way of the SPCA of Texas. He and his brother were thought possibly to be wolves or wolf-hybrids, which the SPCA could, by policy, not legally adopt out to the public. I was asked by Texas Alaskan Rescue to identify Kobuck and Nenani to determine if they were indeed Malamutes. They were together in a huge kennel in the admitting area of the SPCA, and, frankly, I was a little nervous around Kobuck. He was awfully large even at seven months of age. However, he was very good-natured, friendly and playful. Nonetheless, his size was intimidating and his resemblance to a wolf was also a tad scary. Nenani was smaller in every aspect. but resembled a gray wolf, The two brothers were inseparable- devoted to one another, and based upon their physical characteristics and personalities my husband and I immediately identified them as Malamutes. There was virtually no doubt in our minds in regard to their friendly dispositions and appearance. As they had been neutered and vaccinated with no apparent health issues, we adopted them and brought them home in our Suburban. We wanted to keep the siblings together and knew it was unlikely that they would not be euthanised and/or would be adopted by others as a pair. Large dogs tend to be more difficult to place in homes than smaller or medium sized dogs, and these unique dogs were unlikely to be adopted individually or as a pair.

We brought them home – they were so happy and relieved to be together in freedom at last.

They, as puppies (albeit large) were welcomed into the rest of their new canine family; it was as though our older dogs knew that the new additions were young. The two of them loved their new family and environment. They couldn't get enough of running, playing hide and seek and playing/fishing in our pond. They quickly became beloved members of our extended canine/human family. It was so easy to fall in love with them.

Today, they are happy, healthy members of our family. They are beautiful and a joy to behold throughout the seasons and the years...Kobuck shares a very special relationship with Sunny, our yellow lab. He loves her and acts as her boyfriend and protector. Theirs is a very special relationship...