

Alaskan Malamutes in Texas

Frequently Asked Questions

Do Malamutes have blue eyes?

No. Malamute eye color is always a solid shade of brown. Malamute eyes range in color from a solid golden to nearly black.

Are Alaskan Malamutes part wolf?

No. The Alaskan Malamute is an ancient dog breed whose domesticated roots trace back many centuries with the Mahlemut people in Alaska. Malamutes have been living in close harmony with mankind longer than most other breeds.

Do they shed a lot?

Yes!! Malamutes have a coarse outer coat and a fluffy undercoat that is shed twice a year in heavy amounts commonly called a "coat blow." Malamutes living in warm climates will shed some hair year round, and they need regular brushing.

How big is an Alaskan Malamute?

Large. The preferred size for a Malamute is 25 inches at the shoulder and 85 pounds for males, 23 inches and 75 pounds for females. Some may weigh less, or as much as 100 pounds or more. Malamutes also look bigger than their size because of their thick double coat. In general, Alaskan Malamutes are about 20% larger than Siberian Huskies.

How well do Malamutes handle the Texas heat?

Average to well. The Malamute coat insulates from heat as well as cold and they do well when properly acclimated. So it is never recommended to shave a Malamute! However, Malamutes do need some special care in very hot and/or humid weather. Lots of outside shade and cross-breezes or fans are a must. Use common sense; know your dog's heat limits and avoid exercise at hotter times of the day (exercise in early or evening hours). Good grooming, outdoor "kiddie pools," ice cubes in water bowls, and plenty of cooled indoor time are good ways to help beat the Texas heat. Please remember that all dogs need constant access to fresh water and shaded protection from the sun when outside.

How much exercise do Malamutes need?

Moderate to High levels. Malamutes are active dogs and need daily exercise. Yard time and 1-2 walks a day are good exercise for most adults, but others will need additional or higher levels of exercise such as jogging, or biking with a Springer. Puppies do well with play and yard time for the first several months. Malamutes are great for agility, packing, hiking, camping, as well as the dog sports of obedience, freestyle (dancing), rally, and scootering in Texas where we can't go sledding.

Are Alaskan Malamutes good house dogs?

Yes. Malamutes are clean dogs with very little odor. They can be couch-potato house dogs as long as their exercise needs are met. But bored dogs may be destructive and many are food thieves! House dogs need lots of exercise and attention.

Do Malamutes make good guard or watch dogs?

No. Malamutes are usually friendly with everyone they meet. They should never be used primarily as guard or watch dogs.

Are Malamutes good with children?

Usually very good. Alaskan Malamutes are generally very people-friendly and most enjoy the company of children. Because of their size and strength, they should never be left unsupervised with *any young child*. Certain dogs may not be suited for very small, noisy or active children. Children must be taught proper behavior around a dog.

Are Malamutes good with other animals?

Sometimes. Malamutes are a dominant breed with a high "pack" instinct and prey drive. They must be raised or socialized with other animals to keep problems at a minimum, but this is never a guarantee. Most problems are between dogs of the same sex or dominance level and with small animals, which Malamutes consider prey.

Can I trust my Malamute off leash?

No. Most Malamutes do as they please when off a leash. They are independent and inquisitive-minded with a high prey drive. Even the best-trained Malamute will not listen to your commands consistently. Allowing a Malamute off-leash is hazardous to its health and life, and to other animals. Malamutes always require a secure, high fence at home and strong leash on walks.

Will my Malamute be like the dogs in the movies?

Not so much. Real-life Malamutes will not share food and should be fed separately to prevent fights. Malamutes need more obedience training than many other breeds, and can be more stubborn and self-willed. You should never use harsh physical methods such as ear-biting or "alpha roll", especially with adult dogs. They are also very intelligent and have a great sense of humor. TV and movie Malamutes are VERY highly trained, and training a Malamute is never as easy as it looks in the movie!