

Second Chance!

animal rescue society

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—December 2010

Maliha's story of courage and forgiveness

Maliha is one of over 600 companion animals that SCARS saved during 2010. If you are a dog in need, SCARS is a pretty amazing place to find help. Maliha arrived on August 4. At that time she was on death's doorstep—alone, starving, broken, infected, and in pain. SCARS was told that Maliha was beaten about the head with sticks and abandoned. She survived for months without care. The trauma to her face broke many of her teeth at the root, left holes between her mouth and nasal cavity, collapsed her nasal cavity and broke her nose. Maliha was taken to the Westlock Veterinary Center by the volunteers who found her. The following is her story as told by Lorraine Spreadbury, her foster mom.

It was late in the day when I first met Maliha, she had been picked up, crated, transferred to another driver, and driven a couple of hours. The clinic was extremely busy, with many animals needing care, and there I met her. She was clearly terrified, clearly starving, and with a face so damaged and so infected she almost didn't look like a dog. She had no reason to react to me with anything but fear or even aggression, but as I approached her she looked up with that poor broken face and then started to wag her tail, slowly at first, but the more I talked the more it wagged and she slithered on her belly towards me. Broken, abused and in pain her spirit shone through. Once again I was humbled by the forgiving nature of these animals we help and once again without the capacity of the spoken word she taught me a powerful lesson about trust, forgiveness, and wisdom.

Her journey to health began that day in August and continues now. Those first days were difficult. The infection was so bad that each morning her eyes and nose were mostly caked shut and the smell was almost unbearable. She struggled just to breathe. She was so



Maliha during December 2010

hungry, yet eating was so difficult for her because of the trauma to her face, but with trial and error on different foods, and pain medication and antibiotics we started to see improvement. I fed her small meals at least six times a day. She slowly gained weight, the infection became more manageable and her blood count improved to the point she could undergo surgery. Her first surgery was extensive. Dental specialist Dr. Martin Scheibel from the Mayfield Veterinary Clinic donated his time to assist Maliha. Long-term SCARS supporters, Paula and Shawn

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Maliha's story (continued)

of NAPA Auto Parts in Wabasca, made a major contribution to SCARS by covering the portion of the surgery costs the clinic wasn't donating. During the first surgery, it was discovered that one of Mahila's molars had lodged in her nasal cavity, and that was a source of major infection. The force of a blow to her head had sent the tooth through the roof of her mouth. The first surgery provided a lot of relief to Maliha, but given the extensive damage to her face it did not solve all of her problems.

Today she has two remaining holes between her mouth and nasal cavity, the surgery to fix them will be very complicated. SCARS is working with her vet and another specialist to hopefully cross this final hurdle to her recovery. It will be a wonderful day when Maliha is fully recovered and we are able to post "Available for Adoption" alongside her write up on the website. Then it will be her turn to rescue that "person" in need of a great dog.

Maliha always makes me smile when I look at her, she has handled so much with such grace. The one fear she hasn't conquered is tile floors, and I do not think she is going to forgive me for the bath I finally gave her. I named her Maliha as it means beauty and strength—she has both and she has the courage to share her beauty and her strength with everyone who meets her. Maliha has touched many hearts



Above: Maliha with Lorraine's children, Tyson (age 13) and Jayden (age 10) Pidsadowski;
 Below: Maliha in Aug. 2010

during her stay with SCARS; she teaches us many lessons about hope, forgiveness and trust. As a foster family, it has been our privilege to care for her and help her on her road to recovery. Our hope is that her final surgery, at the end of January, will be successful so we can give Maliha the opportunity to live a happy and healthy life with a loving family.



A tribute to SCARS

SCARS has been a big part of my life for close to five years. I started volunteering there when I was around 11 years old, and felt like it has helped me further my experience in working with animals to pursue my dream; becoming a veterinarian. It was also through volunteering with SCARS that brought me Sadie; a four-year-old terrier cross that my family and I adopted two years ago.

Volunteering at SCARS has taught me many valuable lessons that I can remind myself about later on in life. Seeing the forgiveness and incredible willpower of some of these animals is an amazing inspiration to me. They are able to forget about their past and move on into new lives and forever homes. Not to mention that a lot of these animals come to SCARS with extensive injuries or health problems that can take months to recover from. Not only has it taught me many amazing traits of animal, but it has also taught me something about people. When these animals come into SCARS with difficult pasts, it is with the general idea that humans had played some role in that. Although it's hard to believe the heartless acts of some people, it's also amazing to see the opposite: people who are helping to give these animals a second chance. It takes diligence, hard work, and a loving and caring attitude to do what organizations like SCARS do. And, as for me, I'm just honoured to be a part of that.

Amber Allnutt and Sadie

More tributes to SCARS

In February 2010, we adopted Rufus from SCARS. He had a terrible life before SCARS found him. He was found chained up with a shattered leg, bites and gun shot wounds on him. They took him in and gave him immediate medical attention.

Even though he still needed a lot of medical care after we adopted him, SCARS paid for everything. Surgery on his shattered leg included a permanent metal brace inside his leg to keep the bones straight, and a metal brace on the outside of his leg (which was eventually removed). He also needed creams to heal the bite wounds and a lot of antibiotics, x-rays and of course vaccinations.

We are forever grateful for the work SCARS does. They give dogs a second chance at life, and a chance to find a family they deserve and that deserves them.



Rufus after his surgery

Rufus has been a wonderful addition to our family, we love him as much as he loves us. The people who volunteer and give their time to help these animals are amazing and there are people all over who will be forever thankful for the work they do.

Sherisse Morgan and Rufus

As a volunteer dog walker for SCARS, I have always felt that I received more than I have ever given. It is a volunteer position that provides maximum flexibility with lots of exercise in the great outdoors and without the cost of gym fees! The dogs are always overjoyed to see you and getting out into the fresh air is always good emotionally and physically for both canines and humans alike.

SCARS provides direction and support to ensure the safety and well-being of all animals and volunteers. Over the past six years, every encounter I have had has been a positive one. The dogs quickly recognize

you and display sheer joy at the chance for a walk in the woods. Regular walks provide exercise, affection and socialization which helps the dogs stay healthy, happy and adoptable. Thanks SCARS for the opportunities and services you provide, not only for the critters but also for the volunteers and adopting families!



Liza

Liza Russell

My family has been fostering for SCARS for four years now, and we have seen close to 90 dogs go through our home and move onto loving forever homes. We have had the broken and abused, the scared and the timid, the puppies, the old, the pregnant and injured. People always tell us how wonderful we are for doing what we do, but here are some of the kickbacks we get as a family: our three children, now ages 8, 11 and 13, have grown up learning empathy for animals, they have seen dogs and puppies come out of their shells and learn to trust and to play, and know that they played a role in that dog being able to feel that security.

We have learned what kind of a difference we are able to make in these dogs' lives by giving of ourselves. Just recently my eight-year-old son was attacked by a domesticated wolf/husky hybrid (not a SCARS dog, but from a tourist venue). He required emergency plastic surgery to graft skin back onto his upper arm and, amazingly, he is showing no signs of being afraid of dogs. We spoke with a doctor who said the fact that we have dogs of our own and have had so many with special needs go through our house has made the difference in him being less traumatized by the event. He has accepted that what happened was an accident and has moved on. When you give of yourself, what you get back is ten-fold. We are grateful to SCARS for the opportunity to make a difference in these dogs' lives and teach our children what it is to give of themselves.

Deb Kardash

Look at us now

A bouquet from Jasmine

It's November 2010 and it has now been over two years since I became part of my new pack. I thought



it was time to send the wonderful folks at SCARS an update on my progress, as well as a few holiday photos. I have had lots of wonderful adventures with my family at home in the city and at Kootenay Lake in

BC. I have discovered that I really like to swim, and would be happy chasing and retrieving a stick from the lake all day long. I also found out that I like to lounge in the sun and soak up the rays, as you can see.

I was surprised to find out that I have quite a mix in my ancestry. One of my parents was German Short-haired Pointer and my great grandparents were Siberian Husky, Bernese Mountain Dog, Dalmatian, and Chinese Sharpei. This year I got to meet up with my brother Rogue (Randolph). He looks a lot like me but doesn't have the nice soft fur I got from one of my doggy ancestors. I hope my brother loves his new home as much as I love mine.

I regularly meet up with several SCARS dogs in my neighbourhood and, as you can imagine, we all have a tale to tell... or at least to chase. I have also had the

chance to meet up with SCARS volunteers quite a few times, at events like Tails on the Trails, and can see that the great work continues. I know I am one of the lucky "Alberta" dogs that will be safe and loved,



and I will never have to wonder where my next meal is coming from. I would like to send all you SCARS volunteers a bouquet of thanks but I think the picture of me in the daisies will be sure to reach you all at the "Look At Us Now" web page. Thanks again!



Giving a home to "Bones"

Dear SCARS: We just wanted to let you know that Bones has settled in very well. He slept in his travel kennel all the way home and had a good look round when he got here. He is having a lot of fun with his toys and keeps us amused by running up to them, stopping, then leaping on them!

He is already "asking" to go outside to do his business and has only had one or two accidents, but they happened when we didn't realize what he was trying to tell us. We love him to bits! Thanks so much for the wonderful work your organization does for these wonderful animals.

Best wishes, Ian & Judy Rose



Adorable and adoptable

Hi there, I'm Chilie. I am approximately 2 years of age and a Husky crossed with (maybe) a Beagle. I know... weird combination but I am actually not that big, maybe 60 pounds. I do not care to be confined and would do well in a home where someone is there quite a bit. I would also do great on an acreage and with a little work could even be an agility dog. I am not fond of other female dogs, but love the boys. As you can see, I am sitting here waiting patiently for a loving family that needs a dedicated girl to brighten their lives.



Hi, I'm Sabre. I've been with SCARS for awhile now and I have so much to offer to the right family! I currently live with my foster family on 80 acres of land and I love it when they go quading. I am very active and I hope that I will find a family that is very active too. I'm very well behaved, house trained, good with other dogs and I'm even well behaved both on and off leash. Oh, did I mention that I love my toys?

Hi, I'm Lonnie. Okay, people say I'm kind of a different looking girl, I prefer the word "unique". Did you check out my beautiful smile? SCARS think I'm possibly a Chow cross. I'm a fairly large girl, very friendly with people but I tend to be particular about other dogs. I tend to prefer male dogs to female dogs. I am not fond of cats either. I am well behaved on and off leash and I am house trained. Did someone say squeaky toys? Oh boy do I love squeaky toys. They can entertain me for hours!



Hello, my name is Sierra. I am the proud mother of 5 beautiful babies. I know I'm going to miss them when they grow up and move away to new homes but I ALSO know that someone out there will adopt me and help fill that lonely spot. Who wouldn't love to have me – I'm gorgeous and still very young.

Visit www.scarscare.org to see the dozens of other adoptable animals currently in our care.

Canine & Cocktails 2010

On September 17, 2010, SCARS held its biggest ever fundraiser—our 5th Annual Canines & Cocktails dinner gala with live and silent auction. Over 400 SCARS volunteers and supporters got together at the Palace Banquet and Conference facility in Edmonton to celebrate animal rescue and to raise funds to help support SCARS' operations for another year. This year we raised over \$50,000 in gross revenue. This event always has a fun theme; this year it was PAWrites of the Caribbean. Our volunteers dressed in pirate attire and were led by our very own debonair Captain Jack Sparrow!

Once again, the food and service was amazing thanks to the good folks at The Palace Banquet and Conference Facility. Our dedicated volunteers went to great effort to make our dining room a magical place. The room was decorated elegantly with white table cloths and slip covered chairs enhanced by candle light. Each table had a lovely flower arrangement. Flowers were donated by Flowers by Christine (Athabasca), Eden Lily Flower & Gift, and Melissa's Flowers. Each table also featured a framed photo of a SCARS rescue dog, treasure chests filled with chocolate coins (courtesy Instabox), take home dog treats (courtesy The Bone & Biscuit Magrath, Summerside, Hamptons and Ft. McMurray locations), and two bottles of fine wine (courtesy Inspek Crushing

Ltd.). The banquet facility was filled with a bountiful pirate booty of over 300 hundred donated auction items ranging from fine art, handmade crafts, pet-related products (such as a custom made dog house), and a wide variety of gift certificates. No one went home empty-handed!

SCARS would like to extend a special thank you to the beautiful and entertaining Seanna Collins who graciously hosted our event again this year, and to Gary Hanna, of Gary Hanna Auctions Ltd., who volunteered his time to make our live auction successful and really fun. Our thanks to Seanna for blogging three times about our event.

The evening featured two very special guest speakers. Lorraine Spreadbury spoke about what it is like to be a foster home and her current foster dog Maliha, and Janice Ryan (Edmonton Journal columnist and author of Amazing Animals) spoke about the joy that her SCARS' dog Zorro has brought to her. The evening also featured a wonderful video about animal rescue by Virginia Mirando of Pet Rescue Magazine and a parade of SCARS adorable adoptables. Each adoptable dog was formally introduced before it walked about the room to greet guests and melt hearts! The crowd was also entertained by the speciality show band Bella Rouge.

Continued next page

Thank you to our table hosts

- Blackpaws Pet Resort & RV Storage
- Bob & Deb Eberley
- Campbell Dental Centre / Spruce Grove, Alberta
- Carefree Coach & RV
- Chad August "The Co-operators, Heritage Square Edmonton"
- Champion Petfoods Ltd.
- Cindy Cabral (In memory of Ben and Sasha)
- City of Edmonton — Animal Control Services
- Edmonton Granite Memorials Ltd.
- Instabox Alberta Inc.
- Kathy Garbutt, Sutton Premiere Real Estate
- Leo Elwell and Elaine Rapp / and Mike and Deb Kardash
- Marsha Johnston
- MD of Opportunity No. 17
- Michelle Doll-Shankaruk & Wyan Shankaruk
- Mike & Laurel Cunnington
- Mobile Augers and Research Ltd.
- Nicholson Chevrolet (1977) Ltd
- Norampac Calgary a division of Cascades Canada Inc. "Green by Nature"
- Pamela Thomas (Pamela Plus Pals)
- Priority Printing Ltd.
- Ray and Judy Williams
- Ron & Joyce Liebreich
- Ron Dickson & Associates
- Sammy's Pet Boarding / Athabasca, Alberta
- Tanis Liebreich and Corey Johnson (in memory of Peyton)
- The Bone & Biscuit Co. / Sherwood Park
- The Bone & Biscuit Co. / St. Albert

Canines & Cocktails 2010 continued

SCARS is very grateful to everyone who attended, supported or volunteered at this event. We can't wait to start planning for next year! We would like to thank the primary sponsor of our event, the MD of Opportunity, and all of our generous supporters. We are very grateful to our table hosts and we also have a long list of individuals and companies that donated auction items. We are grateful to each of them. The complete list is available on our website.



Top: sold-out crowd in our elegant ballroom; top left: treasure chests from Instabox; middle left: Drew and Greg Mace of Instabox with Sylvia Christiansen; bottom left: Captain Jack Sparrow and friends; Middle right: Jamie Hunter and Sylvia; and bottom right: Seanna Collins greets Maliha and Lorraine Spreadbury

Help SCARS create a book of rescue stories

SCARS is putting together a book of stories about our wonderful rescue dogs and we need your help! Of course, each of our dogs has an interesting story; but they need the people in their lives to put their stories into words. So, please think hard about the SCARS dogs you have adopted, fostered or interacted with in some other way, and send us their stories!

There are many things that will be of interest to our readers. Did your SCARS dog overcome great odds to get to the point of rescue, or adoption? Did it face health issues, injuries from abuse/neglect, or some other challenges? Has a SCARS dog inspired changes in how you live your life? Have you learned something from your interaction with a SCARS dog? Does he/she make you laugh? Or make you cry? These are just a few examples of things people will enjoy reading about.

We ask that your story be no more than 1500 words. It will be subject to editing by SCARS. If you are thinking of writing a story but are pressed for time or don't have confidence in your writing skills, feel free to send us information in point form or a rough copy. We will ask our "ghostwriters" to develop it for you. If you have a photo, please send it along. Visuals help bring stories to life.

Authors of stories that are chosen for the book will receive a free copy of the book and a SCARS t-shirt. The deadline to submit your story is June 30, 2011. Our goal is to release the book as a fundraiser in time for Christmas 2011.

To submit your story, or if have any questions, please email scars@scarscare.org

Because of you, SCARS can save pups like Jacquie

SCARS is currently taking in a very high number of abandoned and injured puppies. Here is just one of their stories.

Hi, I'm Jacquie, I am a 3 month-old puppy and as you can see I am very thin; I only weigh 4.4 kilos. I was owner surrendered at the pound and the SCARS volunteer who picked me up on Dec. 4 noticed that I wasn't using one of my back legs properly. I was taken directly to the vet's that afternoon. X-rays showed that my back leg was broken. My femur bone had an "L" shape: the broken parts were perpendicular to one another. Since there was a fair bit of calcification, the vet told my foster parents that my femur had been broken at least a month ago. Despite all my setbacks, I tried to play with my foster parents. I had to spend a whole day at the vet hospital where I got therapy and observation. Next came the surgery to fix my leg. That involved breaking it again, removing all that lumpy calcification, and setting the femur correctly. It was really painful, but I was very brave. I'd appreciate if you'd keep me in your puppy prayers.

I am currently available for adoption!



An overview of dog body language

By Vicki Stafford

Always remember that a dog will use several means of communication all at once to convey his message. Always look at the whole dog and consider the behaviours being displayed in the context of the environment.

Whale Eye or Half Moon Eye! This is where you will see a sliver of the whites of the eye. This usually occurs right before a dog is ready to snap or bite. The pupils may be dilated as well.

Wagging Tail—Is it friendly or not? That depends! If the tail is high, stiff and wagging quickly or not wagging at all chances are he is not in the mood to be friendly. A mid level, relaxed gentle swing back and forth is usually a sign of friendliness while a tucked in tail is a sign of submission or fear.

Toothy Grin or Serious Stuff? If a dog displays a tight-lipped snarl showing only his front teeth, this is a sign you should definitely back off. But if the dog shows you his pearly whites including his molars, has that nice gentle wag about him, chances are he wants to be your friend.

Is it Freezing in here or is it just my dog? We have to remember that lack of behaviour is a type of behaviour as well. When a dog freezes it can mean that they have been alerted to something in the area or they are about to bite if further provoked.

Hackles Up! When a dog raises the fur on his back it can mean several things. The technical term is called "piloerection" and is a means of making an assertive dog look bigger in the event of a challenge or it can simply be the dog is over excited and over stimulated.

Shake it Off! We sometimes see a dog shaking it off as though he just got out of the water. This can be a sign of stress actually that you will see sometimes during play between two dogs that has got a bit out of control or if a dog doesn't like how he is being petted.

Yawning—are you tired? Humans usually interpret this as the dog being tired because that's how we feel at certain times of the day. What your dog is trying to tell you is that he is stressed in the context of the moment. This can be seen during a training ses-

sion or for some dogs it's a certain way they are being petted.

Eyebrows—Bert or Ernie? A dog can use all parts of his face to communicate. If you see a dog that has well defined eye brows he is more than likely on alert or trying to show his status. A dog that is calm and relaxed will not have any eyebrow definition.

Paw Prints! Ever wonder why your dog will leave paw prints on the floor or cement when there isn't a drop of moisture around? This is another sign of stress. The feet are the only way for your dog to actually sweat.

Good Growl! Growls are pretty obvious for the most part but being tuned into the pitch and tone of the growl is what is important. Some dogs are very vocal when they play and mean no harm. A serious growl could come with a lowered head, whale eye, or body freeze among other things. NEVER correct a growl. It's your dog's first line of defense to increase distance between them and a trigger. If you continue to correct a growl the dog may stop; however, next time he feels threatened he may not give any warning signs and go straight for the bite.

Vicki Stafford is the owner/operator of [Sammy's Pet Boarding](#) in Athabasca, Alberta. She is also a long time volunteer, valued foster home and past board member of SCARS. Please note that the opinions of dog trainers who volunteer with SCARS do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SCARS as an organization. Vicki is one of several dog trainers actively involved in our rescue work; we are very grateful for their support.



How you can help

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to reducing the number of homeless animals in Northern Alberta, Canada. To date, SCARS has rescued and rehomed over 3,000 animals.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. We believe there is a suitable home for all homeless animals: young or old; large or small. We provide veterinary care and foster homes until permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide the animals with warm shelter, food, exercise and tender loving care—something that so many of these animals have never experienced. We also promote responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and community awareness. We rely solely on money raised through memberships, donations, sponsorships and other fundraising efforts. Because we have no paid staff and use private homes for fostering, we can only take in as many animals as our resources will allow. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- **Donate or sponsor**—our medical expenses are enormous. Please consider donating to our rescue efforts. We will issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20.
- **Foster an animal**—we rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes. There is no cost to becoming a foster home. We will provide everything you need.
- **Volunteer**—we are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising and adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations. As a volunteer, you will become an integral part of a team that is dedicated to giving animals a second chance.
- **Buy an annual membership**—memberships cost just \$25 and include newsletters, a calendar and opportunities to volunteer.
- **Adopt an animal**—provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit our website. Their stories might make you cry, but

they will also fill you with love and hope. There are so many people who care and the animals are so grateful.

- **Please be a responsible pet owner**—spay or neuter, microchip and vaccinate your pets! And remember, all pets need food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise, love and attention.
- **Buy our merchandise**—please buy SCARS clothing, our calendar, or one of our “Gifts from the Heart” certificates. Visit our website for more information.

The 2011 SCARS Calendars are now available for



sale! These popular and conveniently sized calendars are great stocking stuffers and a fantastic way to support the rescues at SCARS. Due to the

generosity of our calendar sponsors, all proceeds from calendar sales go directly to support our rescue efforts! Calendars are \$10 each with a \$2 shipping charge. (www.scarscare.org/calendar.asp)

For more information, other ways to help, or to provide us with feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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www.twitter.com/scars_alberta

