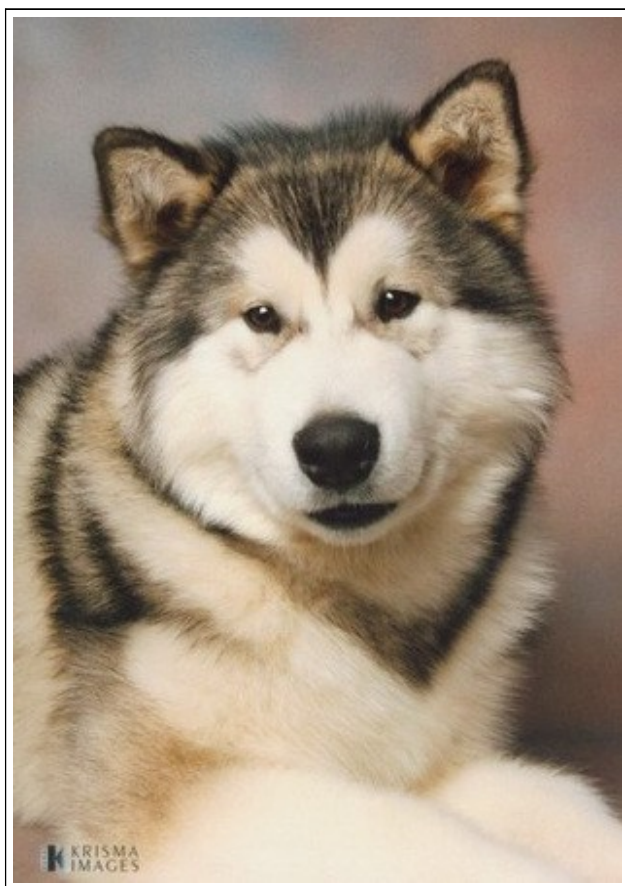


*Kaviak Alaskan Malamutes
USA, Since 1995*



*Owned by:
Joyce DeLay*

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Background & Early Dogs

Q. How & when did you get started in Malamutes?

A. Growing up, my family always had dogs, usually whatever stray mutt ended up on our doorstep needing a home. We never had a purebred dog but I was always fascinated by them, especially large breeds that resembled wolves. I acquired my first malamute, a male, in 1995 from an ad out of the paper. The second, a bitch named Jilly, quickly followed. Both were altered and were strictly companions.

Q. What was it about you, your background or lifestyle that made you choose this breed?

A. I love all dogs, but I've always been a "big dog" person. I chose malamutes for the wrong reason—I liked the way they looked. Fortunately, it was a good match. I stuck with the breed because I enjoy the fact that a malamute is an independent, "thinking" breed. They are as stubborn as I am!



Flash (right) at age 12 with his beautiful daughter Indi, Ch. Kaviak 'n Totem's Sapphire Sky, also a group placer

Q. Who were your first dogs and what activities did you do with them (conformation, obedience, working, etc)?

A. I took both of my first dogs to a basic obedience course taught by Kristy Taylor (at the time, her surname was Schraad; some will know her as *Prairie Snow* malamutes). Kristy suggested that Jilly might be a good candidate for competitive obedience. She became my start in dog sporting events. Her strength was heeling. She was precise, which allowed her to earn high scores. Jilly finished her CD in three straight trials, with all scores in the 190s. This was back in the days when you only had 60 days to continue showing a dog in novice once the title was finished, so I only got to show her six times at AKC shows. Her average score was 195. She won high in trial at the 1999 national specialty in Portland with a score of 196.5 and was the AMCA's Blackhawk Award winner that year.

The only reason I didn't pursue advanced obedience titles with Jilly was she tore her ACLs, one right after the other. These injuries were surgically repaired, but the jumping proved to be too much for her when we returned to training and I had to retire her from competition. In spite of this, I was able to bring her back out at the age of 10 to finish her Rally Novice title with two perfect (100) scores. U-CD Jilly CD RN CGC was a wonderful companion and passed just one month shy of her 15th birthday.



Ch. GRA-Wind's Kaviak Freeze Frame, "Flash" winning the group at age 4

I would also like to mention my first champion, *Ch. GRA-Wind's Kaviak Freeze Frame*, a beautiful male acquired from Gary and Ronda Allen in 2000 (*Ch. Mobear's No More Mr. Nice Guy* x *Ch. Snowy Bleu's Isis of GRA-Wind*). Flash was a big dog with a lot of attitude. He took his first points as a six-month-old puppy his very first time in the ring, and I was hooked. In spite of my novice handling he finished easily at the age of two, and began placing in the group at three years old. The rest is history: in addition to being my first champion, he was also a group winner and had many group placements, all but one of which was earned with me on the end of the lead. I was very lucky to be able to buy this lovely dog right out of the gate.

Although Flash was an incredible start for me, he was also a challenge. He thought he was the king of the world and had a real sense of humor. I lost Flash at the age of 13. I loved him dearly and will never forget him.

Q.What dogs do you consider the foundation dogs/bitches of your breeding program?

A. My foundation bitch was acquired from Tex & Patty Peel and Gail Castonguay in 2003. Cleo, *Misty Pak's Moonlit Kiss* (Ch. *Mushateer's Lewis Moon* x Ch. *SnoKlassic Piece of my Heart*) was bred by the Peels and Sandy D'Andrea, but as Gail's stud fee puppy she wore the *Misty Pak* kennel name.

Cleo was produced by semen frozen in the '80s from Pappy, a linebred Ch. *Voyageur's Cougar* son. Many pedigrees trace back to the various members of the *Voyageur* litter (*Cougar*, brother *Phantom* and sisters *Vicky* and *Elke*, born in 1966, were the ones who contributed to the gene pool), although my dogs are the only place in the breed today where you'll find *Cougar* within 3 or 4 generations. There is more Pappy semen out there, including some that I own with Penny Devaney, so we'll likely see more dogs from this background when it is used.

Cleo was never finished. She was shown just one weekend as a puppy and won two singles, but she hated the show ring and dragged as only a malamute can. However, she contributed much to my breeding program (see next question!).



Cleo, Misty Pak's Moonlit Kiss (Ch. Mushateer's Lewis Moon x Ch. SnoKlassic Piece of my Heart), at about 4 months old. My foundation bitch.



Astro, Ch. Kaviak's Big Bang Theory (Dan x Cleo)

Q. What did each of your foundation dogs contribute?

A. I think the best way to answer this question is to describe the thinking behind the first couple of breedings I did, both with Cleo to the same stud dog, Dan (Ch. *Prairie Snow's Lieutenant Dan*). Cleo brought many good things to my breeding program, including great bone and substance; large snowshoe feet; proper tail, coat and mouth; a correct front assembly; and ground-covering, efficient movement with no wasted motion. Her failings were primarily cosmetic — she was plain, with large ears. I chose Dan for her for several reasons. First, he was a typey dog who produced his beauty consistently. Second, I wanted to use a dog whose immediate background included an outstanding ancestor common to both the stud dog and my bitch. Dan's pedigree worked, as Dan-Cleo was a linebreeding to Ch. *Nanuke's Revolutionary*, a top-producing dog I saw and admired as a veteran. Third, Dan had a tendency to allow the bitch's strengths to come through,

if bred to a bitch of compatible pedigree that also complemented him phenotypically. I felt reasonably confident the puppies might be the right blend of their sire's beauty and their dam's soundness.

The first breeding produced several nice champions, sweepstakes winners and a multiple group-placing dog (Astro, Ch. *Kaviak's Big Bang Theory*). However, the real bonanza for my own breeding program was a seal bitch out of the repeat breeding, Ch. *Kaviak's Whoa Black Betty*, who I co-own with Kat Copley-Holland (*Katabatic Kennels*) in the UK. Betty has produced what I consider to be some of the best animals out of my breeding, including her young daughter who I bred and own, *Kaviak's Make Mine a Double*.



BIS Ch. Kaviak's The Colonel at Wolfmountain (Chester x Betty). A multiple Best in Show winner. Owned by Vladimir Goncharov and Pat Jenkins

Other notable Betty offspring include *Ch. Kaviak N Spectre Start a Riot*, owned and handled by his owner, Julia Cole DVM; and *BIS Ch. Kaviak's The Colonel at Wolfmountain*, who has won multiple groups and Bests in Show in Russia, owned by Vladimir Goncharov and Pat Jenkins. Betty also has a lovely daughter in the UK owned and bred by Kat, *Katabatic Kansas Voyageur*, among a few others here in the U.S. that are working on their championships.

Q. What would you have changed?

A. I would have liked to have bred Cleo one more time, to a different stud dog. It would have been nice to see how she might have produced when bred in another direction. If I had it to do all over again, I think I'd have explored taking her to Calvin (*Ch. Taolan Traces of the Cat*).

Breeding Experience

Q. In your breeding program, did you find certain combinations of dogs or bloodlines were successful? If so, which ones?

A. I've bred just seven litters to date, but

most of my better animals have doubled on Ben (*Ch. Nanuke's Revolutionary*) or his son, Dan. I've been happy with the type produced in two of my recent litters out of a lovely Dan son named *Ch. Silver Shadow's Polar Drift*, owned and bred by my friends Chris and Linda Frank.

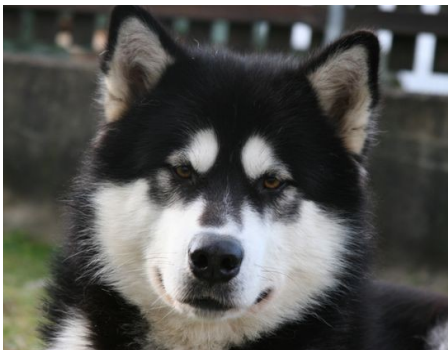
Q. What were/are your top considerations when breeding (temperament, working drive, type, movement, etc.)?

A. My goal is to produce a typey animal per the breed standard that can be successful as a family pet and a show dog. Most malamutes today are kept as companions. It goes without saying that temperament and health are a priority. To satisfy me, the dogs I keep must also have classic type, using the AKC standard as my blueprint. It's easy to produce a beautiful animal that's amply blessed with good cosmetics. It's not so easy to consistently produce beautiful dogs that also move as efficiently as this breed should. My mentor and friend Penny Devaney (*Voyageur Kennels*) has helped me better understand the structure underneath the cosmetics. When it comes to choosing a stud dog for one's bitch, compromise is inevitable, but I work to improve one trait at a time while keeping the whole dog in mind. I have tried to



Brandy, Kaviak's Make Mine a Double, about a year old. Little Dan x Betty daughter

select and keep structurally sound animals in my breeding program. I don't do any sledding work with them, so I can't speak to working drive. I am using the standard to attempt to create an animal built for the job, though. Others are working my dogs in harness successfully.



Kody, Kaviak Kodiak's Son of Denali (Dan x Cleo), owned by Katharina Meixner in Austria. Betty's litter brother.

Q. What advice would you give to new breeders today?

A. I can speak from a showing standpoint... I have a lot to say on this one.

- Don't be in a hurry. Attend at least one national specialty before buying a show dog. I went to three nationals before purchasing the dog who eventually became my first champion. This helped me hone my eye for type while giving me an opportunity to see dogs from different bloodlines and

meet breeders from all over the world.

- One of the best things I ever did for myself was to start with a quality male. Generally speaking, it's much easier to convince a breeder to part with a good male than a good female. By purchasing a top quality male and learning to show with him, you're maximizing your chances at experiencing some success early. This will give you an opportunity to have some fun and learn what is involved before you dive in with both feet. It'll also give you a chance to prove you are committed, so when you are ready to start breeding, someone will be more likely to trust you with a good bitch.
- Finding a mentor in the breed is a smart move, but don't become too dependent on one person. You can learn from everyone you meet. Listen and ask questions. Make friends and find mentors outside of malamutes, too.
- Learn everything you can about this breed, its functional purpose, its history and what it was meant to be. Read the standard and make a sincere effort to really understand what the words actually mean. Why does the standard call for specific traits? Use the different parts of the standard to evaluate each aspect your dog's conformation, and ask your mentors both inside and outside of malamutes to do the same. This will help you determine where he excels and where he could use improvement. Keep records of the results of these evaluations.
- Join the national club, your local malamute club and/or all-breed kennel club, and volunteer to help with a show or on a committee. This will help you meet people and will enrich your overall experience immensely.
- When evaluating other people's dogs, don't fault judge (dismissing a dog based on his faults rather than looking first for his virtues). Always look for the positive; every dog has strengths, just as every dog has faults. Your mind will remain open if you view your competitors' dogs with a realistic but kind eye, while being extremely critical of your own.



Brandy, Kaviak's Make Mine a Double (Betty daughter), taking best of opposite over a special at 6 months old



Riot, Ch. Kaviak N Spectre Start a Riot, a Chester x Betty son owned by Julia Cole DVM.

Your Years in the Breed

Q. What was the breed like when you started?

A. I began attending dog shows in the mid-90s. Entries at shows were bigger, and generally speaking, the dogs were of better quality (or maybe I've just gotten pickier!).

Q. What is the breed like today?

A. I think we're doing okay compared to some other breeds, but I don't see as many dogs exhibiting great breed type as I saw in the 90s, and even fewer dogs that move as I feel this breed should. There's an emphasis on cosmetics and "showiness" over structure, and the dogs have suffered for it.

Q. What would you say has changed from then to now?

A. I've seen a drastic drop in the number of people interested in breeding and showing purebred dogs, and malamutes in particular. Dog show entries overall are declining. Now it's become "fashionable" to own a

mongrel. That hasn't helped attract new people to the sport, or to the malamute. People who are involved in shows aren't as interested in making a lifetime investment in producing good dogs.

It seems like many of the newer people I've met in recent years mostly want to win right away, and they don't take the time to learn about this breed's history and what it was meant to be, which is so crucial. You can't breed truly good dogs if you don't understand what makes a good malamute. People aren't making a study of the breed anymore. I don't mean to sound negative, I've met some new people who do want to know more about the breed beyond a few dog show ribbons, but the emphasis is no longer on producing quality dogs—it's on winning dog shows.



Phoebe, Ch. Kaviak's Starlight Starbright (Dan x Cleo), a beautiful bitch out of my first litter.

Q. What were some of the problems facing Malamutes and Malamute breeders when you first started?

A. If we're talking health issues, generally the same as affect the breed now. If we're talking other things, see above. I think one of the biggest threats we face today is a lack of interest in the sport, and the fact that "breeder" has become a bad word among many in the general public thanks to the animal rights radicals.

Q. Would you say we have overcome those problems? If not, what are your suggestions to overcome them?

A. I think that all of us as breeders should be promoting purebred dog ownership in any way we can. We need to take our dogs into the community and show people just how wonderful they are, as well as showing them how much knowledge we have to offer and why buying a purebred puppy from a breeder is a good thing. We should be encouraging our puppy people to get involved beyond pet ownership, whether that's showing, working, performance events, or whatever might pique their interest. We need to be actively looking for good people to bring into our doggy community. And when they do show interest, we need to do everything we can to support them and start them out right. In addition to selling them the best possible dogs we can, this means encouraging them to spread their wings and learn from all different avenues—not simply adopting our own ideas but seeking out the opinions of others, as well. As a breeder, I'm not looking to sell my best puppies to "satellites" or to people who simply want to play follow-the-leader ... I'm looking for smart, motivated people with their own ideas and a desire to learn. These are the folks who will become positive, long-term contributors to the breed.

From a health standpoint, we need to learn how to trust each other. In some cases, we need to stop using information we have as a weapon to injure our competition or as a distraction from the health issues our own dogs have produced. An open database for health-related issues would be a tremendous help to all malamute breeders, but it will take a paradigm shift in the current culture for this to happen. I do believe we are moving slowly but surely in that direction. Recent health advances, such as the discovery of the gene that causes polyneuropathy, have been encouraging.



One of Flash's many group placements, this one under Bev Bonnadonna-Vics, a breeder judge.



Typical Kaviak puppies—in this case, two bitches, 4 weeks old.

Q. Who was your “favorite” Malamute of all time that was not from your own kennel? What did you like about this dog?

A. This is a tough one. I’m not sure I can narrow it down to one dog... but some who made a real impression on me aren’t necessarily “famous,” just animals that had outstanding type. For example, one that will always be at the forefront of my mind is a gorgeous bitch bred by Kathy Schmidt named Gemma, *Ch. GGM’s Street Smart*. No dog is flawless, but she is the whole package and is pretty close to my idea of perfect breed type. A dog I never saw in person but who will always represent proper type to me is Floyd, *Ch. Inuit’s Woolly Bully*. I’d give my left arm to own a dog like Floyd. The Gabriels of *Kaila* fame bred numerous malamutes who appeal to me a great deal as well; their dogs had really classic type.

Q. In your opinion, what has been the most influential malamute during your years in the breed? Why?

A. Again, I can’t narrow this down to just one. My favorite dogs have in general been bitches, but the males are the ones who influence the overall gene pool the most. Some of the stud dogs I can think of off the top of my head who made a discernible impact in the last 20 years include *Ch. Nanuke’s Revolutionary*, *Ch. Sno Ridge’s Ty Won On*, *Ch. Taolan Traces of the Cat*, *Ch. Nanuke’s Lockport Louie*.

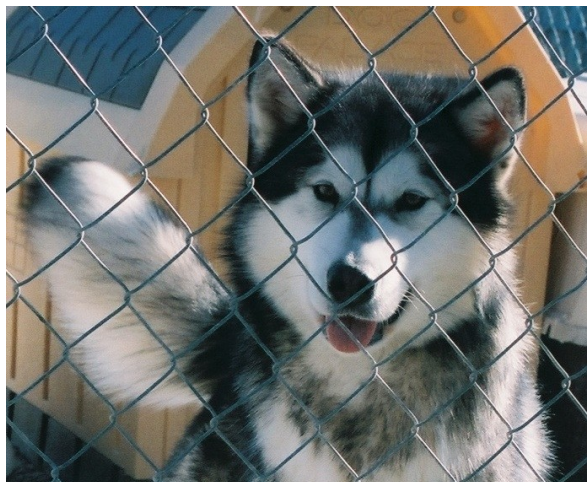
Q. Who was your favorite Malamute from your own kennel? What did you like about this dog?

A. Betty (*Ch. Kaviak’s Whoa Black Betty*). She isn’t the most classically “beautiful” dog I’ve bred, nor is she the most successful in the show ring, but she is correct and balanced, and is built to do the job. In addition to having good type, she moves like a well-oiled machine with no wasted motion, and I value that very highly. The proof is in the pudding—she also has produced some of my best dogs.

Q. Who is the most influential malamute from your kennel? Why?

A. I don’t know that I’ve yet bred a dog I’d categorize as truly influential on the breed as a whole. The biggest influence on the future direction of my breeding program would be Betty.

Q. What do you think are the best things about Malamutes today?



Ricki, Kaviak’s Clairvoyant, a Chester x Betty daughter.

A. For the most part, breeders have done a good job producing an animal that can function well as a family companion, which is the malamute’s most important role in today’s society.

Q. What do you think are the biggest problems?

A. There’s too much emphasis on cosmetics and pretty trappings, and not enough emphasis on the dog underneath. I see too many out of balance, unsound dogs, considering the malamute is a breed for which structural soundness is central to good type.



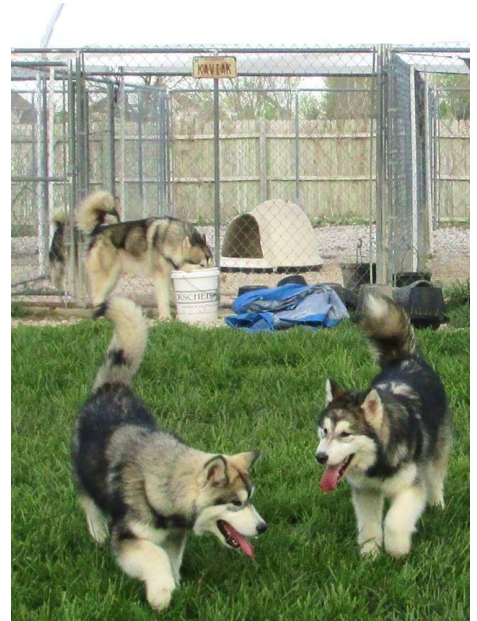
Betty, Ch. Kaviak’s Whoa Black Betty (Dan x Cleo), three years old.

Parting Thoughts

Q. Is there a memorable story or parting thought you would like to share?

A. The memories are many, but I'll list just a few. I've been fortunate that other breeders have shared their wonderful dogs with me, and they've given me many memorable moments.

- Jilly's many successes in the obedience ring, the culmination of which was High in Trial at the 1999 national specialty.
- As an owner-handler, the many group placements and my first group win with Flash, then placing in the group with three of his beautiful champion children bred by Jeanne Beroza (Totem) in later years.
- The phone call from Marilyn Richards telling me Michael (*BIS GCh. Kaviak's Lord of the Dance*) had just won a Best in Show. I was at an antique mall and I burst into happy tears right there, which was sort of embarrassing, LOL.
- The many wonderful friends I've made in malamutes over the years. One of the first people I met in the breed was Penny Devaney. I picked up the phone back in 1995 when I first got into the breed and called her up out of the blue to volunteer for rescue (at the time, she led the Alaskan Malamute Protection League, a national rescue group she founded that served as the forerunner of today's AMAL). Penny about fell out of her chair; apparently, phone calls like mine were unusual. I served as the coordinator for the state of Kansas for about 6 years and made a new friend. We have been close ever since.



Two puppy bitches, Brandy and Foxy (Foxy bred by Ron Pohl and Laurie Newburn), enjoying a spring day in the yard.



Ch. GRA-Wind's Kaviak Freeze Frame, my first champion. Shown here at age 12.

*Joyce DeLay
Kaviak Alaskan Malamutes*