



# M U S H R

MINNESOTA'S UNWANTED SIBERIAN HUSKY RESCUE --- SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

**Introduction:** MUSHR takes in Siberian Huskies from humane societies, animal controls and owner surrenders. While we would love to rescue them all, the amount we rescue is largely dependent on how many foster homes are available. Currently we have 5 dogs in need of placement into a foster home, including:

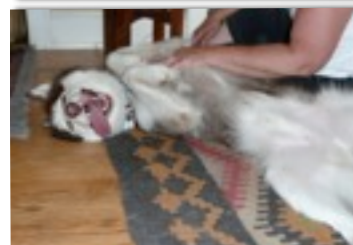
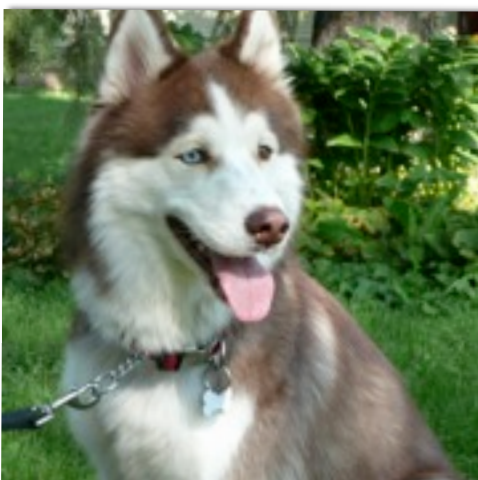
- \* 4 year-old female, black and white, heart worm positive.
- \* 9 year-old female, gray and white with blue eyes in need of knee surgery. Donations needed for the surgery. If able, we welcome any size donation to go towards payment of the surgery.

**Foster Homes** are the foundation of MUSHR. We are in great need of more foster homes. If able, please consider fostering. Call 612-867-4013 or email [mushr@earthlink.net](mailto:mushr@earthlink.net) and another volunteer will call you to discuss. Your help is greatly needed and likewise greatly appreciated.

## Success Story

In early February 2010, Brad Kramer began considering adding a new four legged member to his family and started searching Petfinder. He knew he wanted a larger dog, and entered search criteria for Great Danes, German Shepherds and Siberian Huskies.

“One particular posting really jumped out at me,” says Brad. Brad happened upon MUSHR’s posting for Yuri, a one year old black and white blue eyed male. Brad immediately emailed MUSHR about Yuri. He learned there were two other families interested in Yuri, but felt that neither family worked out for a reason. Con’t page 4.



## Featured Foster

Well, the first "Featured Foster" almost did not happen. Why, you ask? Because I almost took him home myself! When I went over to Andy's foster mom's (FM) house and met Andy, I fell in love instantly. Andy is absolutely gorgeous. And, when he met my husky, he was so sweet with her and tried to get her to play. Then, when my dog grabbed his bone, Andy was fine. No problem. As beautiful as Andy is on the outside, he is truly just as beautiful on the inside. So, although my heart aches in leaving Andy with his FM, your heart may blossom by adopting him.

So, let's talk about Andy. He is a bit over 4. Red and white. One blue eye and one brown eye. Good weight. Great coat.

Now for the fun stuff. Andy loves to play. He loves to ... Con’t page 3.

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## Exciting Events

What: Pet Fest

Where: Minnesota Renaissance Festival

When: September 11 and 12, 2010

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lots of fun. Foster dogs will be there. Will have t-shirts to buy. Come join the fun and check out some of the dogs!

For more information, check out:

[www.renaissancefest.com](http://www.renaissancefest.com)

What: Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo

Where: Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

When: September 18, 2010

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet dogs up for adoption. Several rescues will be there.

For more information, check out:

[www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org)

## Trainer Tips/Healthy Hints

### Watch Me

One of the biggest issues for Siberian owners (or any dog owner) is getting their pet to pay attention. What owners do not realize is that dogs can be trained to pay attention or "watch me" in the same fashion you teach a dog to sit or lay down. In fact teaching your dog to watch is the foundation of training your dog for sit, down, and come.

1. Use a small chewy bite size treat. Avoid hard large treats (these distract the dog - takes too long to chew and dogs will sniff for crumbs after receiving hard treats). Something soft and small that is quickly eaten is best. My dog's personal favorite is cheese. String cheese works great because it doesn't get soft too quickly and is easily broken into pieces.
2. Have your dog sit or stand in front of you. Bend forward a little towards the dog, not standing straight up. Bring the treat to the dog's nose to get their attention and then quickly up to your face then immediately back down to the dogs face and let them have it. There is no need at this time to give any verbal commands. You're simply trying to hold onto the dog's attention long enough that they never take their eye off that treat. Do this again several times in a row, with the key being giving the treat quickly. Once holding your dog's attention about 6 times in a row, try standing a little straighter but still not straight up. Again do this about 6 times or until you feel you can stand straight up and not lose the dog's attention. When you are standing straight up you can give the command "watch me".
3. TIPS:
  - \*If at any time you lose the dog's attention, which will happen because they are just learning, bring the treat right back in front of their nose and immediately to your face.
  - \*Only do this for a few minutes at a time a couple times a day. Do not expect your dog to do this any longer than about 16-18 times in a row.
  - \*After doing several small sessions for 3 days or so you can then try to lengthen the time you hold the treat in front of your face before giving it to the dog.
  - \*As your dog becomes more advanced you should hit the point of holding the treat in front of your face for over a minute without your dog removing his eyes from yours. (My dog can go almost 5 minutes without taking her face off of mine. Let me remind you this took years of training but it was worth it.)
4. Eventually, you need to begin to wean the dog off the treat and have them pay attention to the command that is given. Give the command. When the dogs then watches you, con't page 4

## Featured Foster - con't

play with his FM's husky and other dogs, his toys, his FM and people in general. If play can be incorporated into a situation, Andy will find a way. Andy loves his squeaker toy. He'll grab it, throw it up in the air, grab it again, throw it up in the air again, and so on and so on. Oh, the joy of a squeaker toy! Although Andy is great with sharing, when he wants his bone all to himself, but wants to save it for later, he'll hide it. One night when his FM went to bed, she felt an usual feeling underneath her pillow - yep - Andy's bone!

Besides playing, Andy loves to be with his FM. She will find Andy following her about the house. Andy will lay by his FM when she's busy working at home, but when she gets up to get something from the kitchen, then Andy gets up to follow her. He just wants to be near his family whenever possible. And, he's more than happy to roll over on his back and let you rub his belly. Andy's preference is LONG belly rubs. Andy just loves people. After just a few minutes of visiting with Andy, he started to lean up against my leg to be close. What a sweetie!

Andy needs his exercise. Andy likes routine and right now his routine is about 1.5 miles in the morning and then 2.5 miles in the evening. This leads to a typical husky comment. Andy is very prey driven. So, no cats (or probably small dogs either) please. Although Andy walks pretty well on a leash, when the squirrels torment him he may want to lurch a bit. In between his walks, Andy is a pretty calm and happy guy.

Andy is a smart guy. He likes treats so will work hard to learn new things in exchange for a treat. No people food though - gives him an upset tummy. He knows sit, down, paw. He is crate trained. He knows "no" means to stop doing whatever he is doing. His FM is working on wait with Andy. Andy is also potty trained. When he has to go out, he will track you down and TELL you. Then, when he wants to come in, he'll bang on the door to get your attention. He's not bashful about letting you know what he wants.

Andy would do great in pretty much any active family. He needs his exercise daily. Andy would do well with a family with children, but the family needs to be dog savvy. Andy tends to like to talk during play which may sound a bit intimidating and likes to "mouth." So, the family needs to know how to handle this behavior. (FM can help with this.) Andy would do well in a multi dog home. He loves other dogs and would love a dog brother/sister.

The transition to his new home is critical for Andy. The family has to be willing to follow the FM's instructions to avoid doggie trauma, i.e. routine, crate training. With patience, the fun and loving Andy will join the family in no time. Trust me, Andy is absolutely worth the wait! So, are you interested in being that wonderful family for Andy?

To help dogs like Andy, obviously an adoption is needed. But also, monetary donations are needed to assist with veterinary care of all dogs that come to MUSHR (shots, spay/neuter, microchip) as well as to assist with more involved care (surgeries). Donations are greatly needed. Any help is appreciated. Also, MUSHR is in need of additional foster homes for dogs like Andy. If you are interested, please call or email. If you have not fostered before, a volunteer will contact you and explain the process and expectations. If you have fostered before, are you willing to foster again? If so, please call/email. Thank you to everyone for all your donations and to all our foster families! MUSHR could not survive without you!

Thank you to foster mom Jeanne Eaton.  
Written by Corrine Evenson



## Success Story - con't

"Clearly Yuri was meant to live with me," Brad says.

Their first meeting confirmed Brad's hunch. "I remember the first time I saw my boy. He was pressing his nose up against the glass door. We took a walk and it just felt right. I knew he was supposed to be my dog and everything was falling into place."

The following Monday, Brad made the adoption official, changed Yuri's name to Zeus, and they began their life together.

Since coming to live with Brad, Zeus (formerly Yuri), has made incredible strides. Originally Zeus had dull looking hair on his back and was slightly underweight. He's now gained 6 lbs and his coat is a healthy, shiny black and white. Brad also claims it took Zeus about a month to come out of a shell. "Zeus wasn't much of a talker when he first came to live with me," Brad mentions, "I think it was a solid month before I heard any noise out of him. Now, if I'm watching T.V., he'll whine, then bark or even put his front paws on my leg and stand between me and the T.V." Zeus also looks forward to his belly rub time and play time, which often involves running as quickly as possible up and down the stairs. Finally, Zeus has learned all of his basic commands as Brad was a responsible Siberian husky owner and took him to obedience class.

Brad is very grateful to MUSHR for taking such good care of Zeus and bringing the two of them together. "I can't imagine life without my boy! We've made a ton of new dog friends around the neighborhood, graduated from obedience class, gone on day trips together, and has become a fixture at my softball games! " Congratulations Brad and to all those involved in this success story.

If you want your dog featured on one of our "Success Stories" please email MUSHR.

Written by Janel Bester

## Trainer Tip - con't

give the dog a reward command. I use "yes". Give the dog the command to "watch me" then when the dog makes eye contact with you say "yes" and give the treat. For every 3-4 times give the command and then the reward word. The next time do not give the treat. Remember dogs are smart. More importantly Siberians are wickedly smart. So mix up when you give/don't give the treat. If you go every third time without the treat you'll be amazed to learn your Siberian can count and will not respond every third time. Stinkers! The goal is to keep them guessing as to when the treat will come. This is the key to training your dog with treats.

5. If you want to get advanced: put the treat in your mouth and spit it out at the dog. Yes this is very disgusting but in your dog's eyes they have just hit the jack pot. When you ask them to "watch me" and a treat may or may not pop out of your mouth your dog can't resist to watch on the chance that food will fly out of your mouth. As crazy as this sounds, it works.

Teaching your dog to "watch me" builds a relationship between you and your dog that gives you the foundation to begin teaching your dog other commands in the future.

Written by Jessica Kuehlman.

If you would like help training your dog, MUSHR offers private lessons for a fee. This fee then goes back to MUSHR.



## Miscellaneous

**Website:** We are excited to announce MUSHR has a new and improved website! We have the same web address, [www.mushr.org](http://www.mushr.org), however it has been redesigned and includes more information. A huge thank you to Clint Carlson - he donated his time, energy and money to get our new and improved website up and running.

**Calendars:** 2011 MUSHR calendars will be available by October 23, 2010. Great Christmas idea-hint, hint! Calendars can be purchased by mail for \$25 each or \$110 for 6.

**Photographs:** Everyone reading this newsletter probably feels better when seeing photographs of our goofy 4-legged friends. So, check these out and enjoy! Also, if you would like to submit any photographs for a future Newsletter edition, email your photographs to MUSHR.

**Newsletter:** We hope you have enjoyed our first Newsletter! The Newsletter will be bimonthly, coming out within the first two weeks of the odd numbered months. (That's the plan anyway.) If you do not wish to receive any further Newsletters, please email MUSHR. Or, if you know anyone else that wants to receive the Newsletter, please email MUSHR the email address to send the upcoming Newsletters. Please feel free to share with friends, families and co-workers. Who knows, maybe you'll share with a future foster family or adoptive family!

**Thank You:** Thank you Edie and Chuck for your generous donation in honor of Magoo - a MUSHR alumni who recently passed away. Thanks also to Brad and Linda Blyton and Amanda and Josh Burton for their donations as well.

