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ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A PET EMERGENCY?

CREATING YOUR AKITA EMERGENCY KIT

BY CAROLYN & DAVE ROZELL

Over the past decade, emergency planning has become common in every household. Pets, unfortunately, are often overlooked. We want to encourage all pet owners to be prepared for any situation by creating a pet emergency kit. While planning your emergency kit, we recommend listing the items that you would pack if you were travelling with your pet. The list below offers suggestions to help you prepare your pet for an emergency. Also, this kit is meant to supplement your family emergency kit. If you have not yet created a family emergency kit, we recommend visiting www.ready.gov for suggestions.

Survival: food, water, shelter: Much like your family emergency kit, the first step in preparing an emergency kit for your pet is to determine your pet's essentials. In order to survive, your pet will need food, water, and shelter. In an emergency, assume that you will not be able to reach a store for 3-7 days. You should be prepared with a minimum of 7 days of food for each of your pets. Water will likely be easier to come by in an emergency, but at least 3 days worth of water should be kept on-hand specifically for your pet. Recommended water supply varies dramatically between preparedness planners. We recommend approximately 1 cup of water per 6-8 pounds. Which means a 100-pound dog will need approximately 1 gallon (16 cups) of water. Naturally, be prepared with more water if your pet eats dry food. Shelter will depend greatly upon the emergency situation. You should, however, do your best to be prepared in any situation. If a collapsible dog crate is in your budget, this would be a good investment. Otherwise, practice loading your pet carrier into your vehicle.

Essentials: food/water bowls, first aid kit, leash, dog waste bags, muzzle (optional): Next, you need to consider the essential items that you utilize each day. An extra dog bowl, full-size or collapsible, will be helpful in an emergency. One bowl is sufficient for food and water; however, two bowls are more convenient. An extra leash in your pack will save you precious seconds during an emergency. This leash should be sturdy and easily convertible to a sliplead. Keep an extra supply of dog waste bags in your pack. You may want to consider attaching these to your leash for convenience. The most important, and frequently overlooked, item is the pet first aid kit. You may assemble (or purchase) a first aid kit for your pet. The first aid kit should include tweezers, elastic bandages, hand sanitizer, gauze (roll and pads), medical tape, antiseptic, and vinyl gloves. As these are all items that should be found in your family medical kit, you may consider simply adding items to your family medical kit for your pet. Adding a muzzle to your kit is optional – and may be controversial. We recommend introducing a muzzle to your pet, however, to protect you and your pet from a spontaneous “nip” during the high stress situation.

Comfort: treats, towel/blanket, toys: The next step in building your emergency kit is preparing for your pet's comfort. In this case, comfort items are meant to ease the stress of your pet during the state of emergency. One package of your pet's favorite treats can help calm your pet. Be sure to cycle these treats out of your emergency pack regularly. You'd hate to respond to an emergency with expired treats! Add an old towel or blanket that smells like you to remind your pet of being at home. And one or two of your pet's favorite toys will help calm your pet during the emergency. These should also be cycled out of your pack regularly, to ensure that the toys smell like your pet and your home.

Records: allergies list, medications, routine document, vaccination records: The final step in preparing your pet emergency pack is determining your local emergency practices and preparing a detailed emergency information sheet. In some jurisdictions, pets are permitted to stay with you during the emergency. Some jurisdictions, however, are not prepared to accommodate pets in the same facilities as humans. To be prepared for any situation, you should anticipate that your pet will be taken from you to a different facility. Creating a detailed document with your pet's daily routine, including medications, known allergies, preferred food brands, and walking times, will ease the transition for your pet during the stressful time. Be sure to include a picture of you with your pet on this document to help emergency workers identify your pet quickly and recognize you as the owner. (continued on page 2)

URGENT:

FOSTER HOMES

NEEDED!!!

Ever thought of
fostering?

Maybe in the future?

If you can find it in
your heart, we urge
you to complete the

paperwork now.

Please visit our
website for more
information:

AkitaRescue.org

EMERGENCY (FROM COVER)

PET INSURANCE

Emergency workers will also benefit from having a copy of your pet's vaccination and veterinary records, including the name and phone number of your veterinarian. Be sure to include one week of your pet's medication in your emergency kit. Simply refilling your pet's prescription one week before it runs out will ensure that you are prepared should an emergency arise. Also, be sure that your pet's tags are on your dog's collar at all times. Emergencies can happen fast, so you want to be prepared for an emergency at any moment. Akita owners know that your dog is not just a dog - it's a family member. Protect your family by being prepared.

Below is a check list of the suggested emergency kit items. Cut along the dotted line and keep this tacked up on your fridge as a reminder!



Pet Emergency Kit Check List

- Food (7 days)
- Water (at least 3 days)
- Dog crate or carrier
- Food/water bowl(s)
 - First aid kit
 - Leash
 - Waste bags
 - Treats
- Blanket/towel
- Toys
- Informational documents
(photo, allergies, walking routine)
- Vaccination records
- Veterinary records
& contact information
- Medications

ARE YOUR PAWS INSURED?

BY AARON HOSKINS

Pet insurance is becoming more and more popular; this gain in popularity is not too surprising as the cost of various procedures increases. When E.V. was about a year old, I looked into getting a policy for her and I learned a little bit in the process, so hopefully I can pass on a little of what I learned. First of all, there are a number of companies out there that offer policies. Some of people I talked with assumed that there is only one company out there because they had only heard of one company. However, there is no guarantee that the biggest and best-known company will be the right choice for your pet(s).

Second, pet insurance is significantly different than human health insurance. When I go to get a routine physical, my health insurance is billed; pet insurance does not work this way. First of all, most pet insurance companies do not pay the vet, but rather reimburse the owner. Therefore, you might have to cover a large bill while you are waiting for the check to come from the insurance company. As well, pet insurance plans do not cover routine office visits, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention, routine teeth cleaning, spay/neutering, etc. Pet insurance is designed for the things that you do not reasonably see coming such as a torn ligament, a broken bone, eating a golf ball, diabetes, etc. In a lot of senses, pet insurance is more similar to car insurance; you do not file a claim to get reimbursed for an oil change (a routine, anticipated thing), but you do file a claim when the person behind you runs into you (an unexpected event). Depending on your financial situation and who you are determines if a pet insurance policy is right for you. Insurance companies make money; if they did not, they would not be in business. If everyone got reimbursed more than they paid in, the company would not be all that profitable and would go out of business. Therefore, there is a good chance that you will never be reimbursed as much as you pay in premiums. At the same time, the same is true for all types of insurance policies. (Most people pay more in car insurance premiums than the insurance company pays for them.) I know of some people who put aside money out of each paycheck to go into their "doggie health fund" rather than pay insurance premiums. As long as their dog has a typical life, they are probably money ahead this way. On the other hand, if your dog has more issues than normal, then you could get reimbursed more than you pay in premiums.

There is also the peace of mind that comes from knowing the insurance is there if something catastrophic does happen. It is very similar to car insurance, homeowners insurance, or life insurance: you pay premiums hoping that you never have to file a claim. The age of your pet when you buy a policy does matter. One company does not increase rates with age, so the younger the dog, the lower the premiums will be for life. (This is not true for most companies.) . (cont'd on page 3)

INSURANCE (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

However, most companies do have age cutoffs where they will not issue new policies for dogs and none of the insurance companies cover pre-existing conditions. Because they will not cover pre-existing conditions, if you are going to buy a policy, it is best to purchase a policy before your dog has a problem. (Just in case you are thinking that you will buy a policy right before heading to the vet for an emergency surgery, all of the companies will not cover you for a period of time after you buy the policy to prevent people from doing exactly that.)

Some companies will cover conditions from a previous year, but at a reduced rate. Others will fully cover a condition so long as it was diagnosed while the pet was covered by their policy and you make your premium payments on time. For a chronic condition (such as diabetes or a dog going through multiple rounds of chemotherapy), the definition of a pre-existing condition can be significant. As well, if you have really bad luck and the dog is diagnosed the day before the premium is due, but the surgery is the day after the premium is due, then the way injuries/illnesses are handled that span more than one year would be very important even though the time from diagnosis to surgery was only a few days.

Knowing what is and is not covered by plans that you are considering is important. Hip dysphasia and cancer are examples of conditions that not all plans cover, but some plans do cover. Some people would opt against surgery for hip dysphasia or would rather their dogs not suffer through chemotherapy, so a lack of coverage for hip dysphasia and cancer is not important to them, but other people have these conditions as their primary reasons for buying insurance. Each individual has to look at what is covered and what is not covered and decided if something that is excluded is important to them or not. When looking at what is excluded, make sure to pay attention to breed restrictions; some illness/injuries are not covered for specific breeds.

Once you have figured out what you want to make sure is covered there are a variety of options that must also be considered. Pet insurance plans have deductibles. A low deductible means that you have to pay less when you file a claim, but it also means higher premiums. Some people prefer as low of a deductible as possible because it reduces the amount of the unexpected expense. Other people want a high deductible since it keeps their premiums low. The other thing to pay attention to with the deductible is if it is per incident or if it is per year.

Most, if not all, companies have a maximum yearly and/or lifetime payout and some allow you to choose the value of the maximum payout; it is another tradeoff. A higher payout makes sure that more expensive procedures are completely covered whereas a lower maximum might cause you to pay more, but the higher the maximum payout, the higher the premiums.

Pet insurance does have co-pays that are usually a percentage of the bill. Many companies give you a choice of your co-pay and the more they might end up paying, the more you will pay in premiums. Let's take a quick look at an example of how co-pays work. The dog had a \$1000 bill, with a \$200 deductible and a 20% co-pay (the terminology is not consistent, some companies call it a 20% co-pay and others call it an 80% co-pay, but they all mean that.

When it comes to deductibles, co-pays, and maximums, some companies will let you change these terms after you create a policy. They are more than willing to let you opt for a higher co-pay, a lower maximum, or a higher deductible. On the other hand, they may only allow you to go in the other direction if all existing conditions are treated as pre-existing conditions. (In other words, if you have a \$200 deductible before the dog is diagnosed with a thyroid condition and then want to decrease to a \$100 deductible, this change will only be possible, for most companies, if you are willing for the thyroid condition to be treated as a pre-existing condition and no longer covered by the policy.)

The other thing to look into is how the company decides how much to reimburse a claim. Some insurance companies use a table where they have the procedure and a cost. Considering that the DC area is more expensive than other places, vets charge more here than in other places. If you are leaning towards a policy with a payment schedule, you might want to have your vet look at the payment schedule and see how their prices compare. If your vet charges more than the insurance company thinks the procedure should cost, then you have to pay the difference in addition to your co-pay and deductible.

Some companies have policies that reimburse differently depending on whether you go to your regular vet, an emergency vet hospital, or a specialist. On the other hand, some companies will reimburse based on whatever the vet charges whether it is your normal vet or an emergency vet. Some companies will, if they receive a bill that seems too high, call multiple vets in your area and pay out based on an average of the vets they called. Knowing how your reimbursement will be calculated helps you to always make an informed decision as to how a course of treatment will impact you financially.

The final bit of advice is to look for discounts. Discounts for insuring more than one pet are common as are discounts for the pet being spayed/neutered. Some companies will give you a discount if your pet has a microchip. Some have discounts for specific employers or professions. Paying your yearly premium in one lump sum rather than monthly can be a savings.

There are a number of companies out there and there is no one policy that is right for everyone. The key is to do some research to figure out if there is a policy that meets all of your needs at a price that you feel is reasonable. For more information visit the following website:

<http://www.petinsurancereview.com/dog.asp>

JUST CALL ME BLONDIE

My name is Blondie or Blondette...pretty obvious why, no? I was one of six dogs taken on humane hold. An animal control officer found me, my two siblings, mom, dad and grandma on short ties in a backyard, no food, no water, no shelter. She spoke with the owner and said they had to change our conditions and have proof of rabies; she would return the next day to verify this. When she returned the next day, we were all gone. A call came in about several Akitas tied in a vacant lot not too far away. En route to that location, she received a second call saying some had managed to free themselves and were wandering around in danger of being struck by cars. Just imagine, it was the same Akitas for whom she had written a warning the day before. Obviously the owners were trying conceal their dogs and their location from animal control..with no luck. With re-enforcements, all of us were rounded up and taken to the shelter. The owners were given time to fix our conditions and pay their fines to retrieve us. They chose not to do so. Animal control called rescue. Two ladies came out and walked up and down talking to all of us. They declined to take my mom and dad; said they were not adoptable. They temperament tested all of us puppies and my grandma. One of the ladies said grandma was coming out no matter what; she deserved to have a bit of a good life in the time that was left to her. They also took me, my brother, and sister. We were all vetted, spayed/neutered, and put in a kennel where we were treated very well. My brother found a home, my sister found a home, and I went into a foster home. After a while, I found a home of my own. I was very happy there. They walked me, played with me, and loved me. The dark cloud came when there was a divorce. Afterward, I stayed with mom and her daughter. But financially, she could no longer afford the housing that allowed her to keep me and had to take me back to rescue. We were all heartbroken. I had to go into a kennel again because there was no foster home available for me. I began to lose weight, and have diarrhea with no known cause. One of the rescue ladies felt it was because I was depressed, mourning the loss of my family and hating the kennel, and promised she would get me into a foster home as soon as possible. There was an older couple who adopted me but in spite of all the preparation by the rescue, decided I was too much for them. When I came back it was to go into a foster home. I am much happier here, no diarrhea, no peeing in the crate, and gained my weight back; I look and feel much better. Unfortunately, this foster home has cats...which I would love to go after, so I am only allowed limited time out of my crate while the cats are put in a different area. I really, really just want to be in my own home again with my own family.



Blondie rides very well in a car, is a dream to groom (washing, brushing, even nail clipping). She walks very well on leash, knows sit, down and will give you "high fives". Upon first meeting someone, she is the typical aloof Akita, but does warm up pretty quickly, especially if you have food. Although initially antsy, once she settles, she just wants to hang out with her people wherever they may be. This 5 yr old girl is in many ways a dream dog. Her drawbacks are that she is dog aggressive and cat predatory. She will not drag you across the street to attack another dog, but will react moderately when she sees one.

Her reaction is stronger when her personal space is invaded. However, a quick correction and "Leave it" puts a stop to that. She will fence fight with other dogs in neighboring yards, but can be distracted using body blocking techniques. I just don't let her out when the other dogs are out..I don't let any of my dogs out when the other dogs are out because fence fighting only ratchets up any aggression. She is very predatory toward cats. Blondie needs someone with some Akita experience or experience with another strong minded breed. She may get along with a male dog with a sufficiently drawn out introduction process. Otherwise, this girl would be a wonderful companion in a single dog home. She is polite to all people she meets and we would prefer a home with older children.

If you have an empty space in your home, think about filling the empty space in her heart and adopt Blondie!

CHEF HILLARY'S KITCHEN BY HILLARY LAMAY

Homemade Dog Food

Sick of the laundry list of chemicals on the kibble bag? Make your own with this simple recipe!

Ingredients:

- 6 cups water
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 2 cups brown rice
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 package frozen broccoli, carrots and cauliflower combo

Directions:

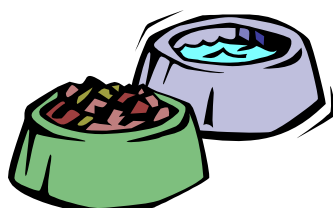
- Place the water, ground turkey, rice, and rosemary into a large Dutch oven.
- Stir until the ground turkey is broken up and evenly distributed throughout the mixture; bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes.
- Add the frozen vegetables, and cook for an additional 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Refrigerate until using.



Bow Wow Wow Yipee Yo, Yipee HEY YOU!

Do you have a yummy recipe your pup loves? Is it healthy and easy? We'd love to put it in the next newsletter!

**E-mail Chef Hillary with your submission:
HJLaMay@yahoo.com**



VISIT THE ARMAC BOOTH AT THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENT:

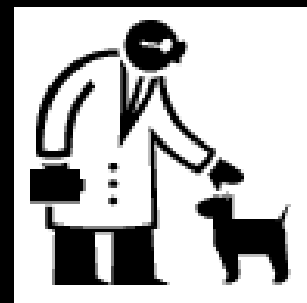


**FREDERICKSBURG'S GONE TO THE DOGS
OCTOBER 1 9:30AM- 5:00PM
OLD TOWN FREDERICKSBURG**

AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT SPAY/NEUTER OPTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

For our Northern VA audience: The Neuter Commuter travels to PW County to transport animal into Washington, D.C., where the spay/neuter procedures are performed. There are no income requirements and anyone can participate, but space is limited to 30 animals each month. Low-cost services, such as rabies vaccinations, will be offered for animals receiving the spay/neuter procedures. Full instructions and details are provided on the application form. All reservations and payments are made in advance and on-line. For more information: www.pwspca.org

For our Maryland audience: SNAP, Inc offers low cost spay/neuter certificates, financial aid to those unable to afford spay/neuter surgeries, and to reduce pet over-population through sterilization. Anyone of any age who needs assistance for spay/neuter surgeries should contact the SNAP Program. For more information:



AVAILABLE ORPHANS

CURRENT LIST OF AVAILABLE AKITA RESCUE (ARMAC, INC.)
WWW.AKITARESCUE.ORG TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

The majority of these dogs came from animal shelters, therefore "owner surrender" does not necessarily mean they were received directly from a home.

Cora—s/f, dob 2000, Red w/white markings, black mask. Old style girl with lots of life left, LOVES people and wants desperately to be in her own home with NO OTHER PETS. She is currently being kenneled and loves to go out on a lunge line for hiking in the fields. She was picked up by a shelter as a stray and whelped 9 puppies in the shelter. Her puppies found homes, don't you think she deserves one?



Laurie

DOB 1/09 (guesstimate..between two and three years old), is a big, bouncy lady. She weighs about 112. She has become crate trained, rides fairly well in a car, shows no aggression to other dogs, seems good with the people she has met, walks fairly well on leash, and is still being evaluated in her foster home. She was turned into the shelter with a prolapsed uterus. She was so nice they called a local humane society to see if they could get help with her medical care. She was transferred to the humane society where she was spayed and conservative treatment applied to help shrink the remaining tissue. When that treatment did not work, surgery was performed and she has done very well since then.



Princess – s/f, dob 2005, fawn with black mask, white markings. Our classic beauty is still waiting for Prince Charming. She is housebroken, good with most dogs, obedient, affectionate. She is responding well to her meds for Pemphigus and just needs a forever home.



Blondie:

Blondie was one of the Petersburg dogs that ARMAC took in 2006. She, her w siblings, parents and grandmother were all taken on humane hold. The parents had temperament issues and were euthanized. The 3 older pups and grandma found homes. Unfortunately Blondie is the victim of a divorce and was returned to ARMAC. She is a small 5 yr old female, who is wonderful with all people, but not small animals. She has not been fence fighting with other dogs at the kennel, so may be able to live with an easy going male. She is crate trained, rides well in a car, walks well on a leash. If you think Blondie would complete your family, please contact us.



Santana:

s/m– 2.5 yrs. White with black brindle hood and white blaze. Mid-sized (aka normal). Found as a stray and retained by the family for a year, living with another male Akita and two teenaged children. I suspect he was surrendered due to a skin condition that we are working on, that the family couldn't afford to treat. It looked like flea dermatitis and he is growing in hair (had a bald rear), but he has been started on a course of antibiotics to see if that will speed recovery along. He also had an ear infection. Stay tuned for photos of this handsome fellow! While at the vet to be neutered, he met the office cat and was totally unimpressed, so he may be able to live with cats.

Wyatt:

Wyatt is about 8 months old. He passed the temperament test, no surprise there. He is thin as a bone, has intestinal parasites, ticks, a sparse, harsh coat, and a huge smile. He is all playful puppy with lots of energy to burn. He was a perfect gentleman in the car during the 4 hour drive home, going from one to the other of us nudging for attention and giving kisses. He also has a lovely double curled tail that will look like a Cinnabon when his hair grows back in. He was very good his first night in the crate, no barking or whining and in spite of loose stools/diarrhea, it was clean. At the vet, he was good for his exam and a little bit of a wiggle worm, but they were able to draw a blood panel. He appears to have been taught some rough hand/mouth games, but still has a soft mouth. He needs some help in the manners department and in leash walking. Because of his physical condition and some obviously learned undesirable behaviors, we thought it best he go into a foster home immediately. We will update his availability as we evaluate him. Thanks to all who donated money for him and to those who came forward to do short term fostering.



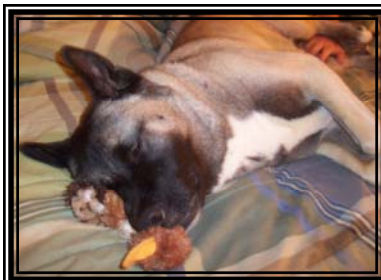
POSTCARDS FROM HOME: BAYA



Dear Akita Rescue,

It's been almost a year and I wanted to share some Baya pics with you. She is doing great, what a sweet girl, has helped us a lot. She is not as aggressive, but still excitable around other dogs.

She has even found a boyfriend, Lewis a black Lab, that comes down to play



on weekends. We found out she loves to dive into ditches on walks and bring us all kinds of gifts. Recently she dove in and came out with a black snake which she promptly flung at me like she does her toys. She is great on leash. We stopped using choke collar about 2 months after we got her with no problems. Thanks for all you do and for letting her be part of our

family. Sincerely, Grant and Mary

RAINBOW BRIDGE: MOMO

On July 30th, I had to help Momo over the Rainbow Bridge, as he could no longer stand or walk on his own. The vet's records say that he lived 15 years and 2 months, but I know it was longer -- he had such an old soul. I still remember the day that he arrived here in SLC with Gibby --- he walked out of his crate, looked around, and said "OK, I can do this". Thanks so much to Akita rescue for bringing him into my life, and for giving me the opportunity to share his love (and leans) with the folks here in Utah and everywhere else he traveled with us. Mr. Mo watching the world, while Kitsu is just annoyed with her "brother".



Sincerely, Grant

ABOUT ARMAC

Akita Rescue, Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. (ARMAC), is one of the oldest Akita rescue groups in the United States, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ARMAC was founded by a small group of concerned Akita owners and has been serving the Mid-Atlantic seaboard since 1984.

Our highest priority is to save and re-home Akitas in area shelters, however, we also address a wide variety of Akita needs such as educating potential owners, referrals, support for Akita owners, and evaluations of dogs in private homes and shelters.

If you can find it in your heart to foster, adopt, donate or volunteer, please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved:

<http://akitarescue.rescuegroups.org/>



Congrats On Your Adoption!!!

~Chino~

~Malachi~

~Osamu~

Thank you for your generous donations!!

Rebekah Sidebotham

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