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FOSTER HOMES

NEEDED!!!

Ever thought of
fostering?

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

MAKATO—A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

By Puller Lanigan

I received an email from someone stating there was an Akita at a local facility over the 4th of July weekend. Good thing I don't go away for the holidays, generally! I made an appointment to go in over the holiday weekend and meet this dog. The shelter was on skeleton crew and when I arrived all the dogs were terribly excited. I was ushered to the run and before me was a small, skinny, mostly hairless dog with a big fat Akita head. The head was Akita and the tail was Akita....I think my expression said it all. 'OMG!' The dog was wiggling from head to toe and squeaking. The staff person asked me if I wished to go into the run. Ordinarily, I try to avoid going into Akita's runs, I've been cornered on more than one occasion, but since the dog wasn't coming out, 'when in Rome....'



This fellow had very good manners, in that he did not pound me to death with his paws. He jumped and when I told him 'Off', he fell to the floor cringing. Ooooh, that hurt. So I carefully bent over and talked to him and he immediately sat up and gently put his paws on my bent knees and put his head on my lap and proceeded to sob. I swear, he was saying prayers, that whatever he did in his previous life to deserve being dumped, he would never do it again. I just continued to stroke him and gently probe him as much as I could to determine if he had any spots that he might not tolerate being poked or petted. He just collapsed in a puddle around my knees. I bid the

guy good bye and told him I would do my best to get him out of the shelter.

I went back to the staffer's desk and we went over his paperwork. He had been 'found' as a stray puppy at around 6 months of age (uh huh) and lived with a neutered male Akita and two children. The paperwork stated the dogs got along fine, but the family fell on hard times and couldn't provide the medical work needed for this guy. They had him for a year and a half. The staffer said they seemed sincere. I've never had a dog say prayers at my knee and while I knew we were bursting at the seams full, I just couldn't leave this abandoned dog to be killed for problems that were not of his own making. So he went to the kennel. He has made a full recovery and while I thought we had had a dog before named Santana, that didn't fare well, Stacy named him after her third nephew, Makato. We have had fabulous success with the dogs named after Stacy's nephews! So, while Makato's paperwork says, "Santana", I think he needed a completely new lease on life with a new name, Makato, which means, 'sincere man'.

Stacy has had him in the house around her dogs and said he is good with dogs. He will not be able to live with cats and he cannot live with livestock (horses, cows, goats, donkey, pigs, sheep, etc.).

*Special thanks to Jeffrey
Corzatt for sponsoring the
ARMAC booth at the 2012
Super Pet Expo*

*ARMAC
Recommends...
Thank You
Janis & Bruce!*



SUMO'S STORY

NEW TICK BORNE DISEASE

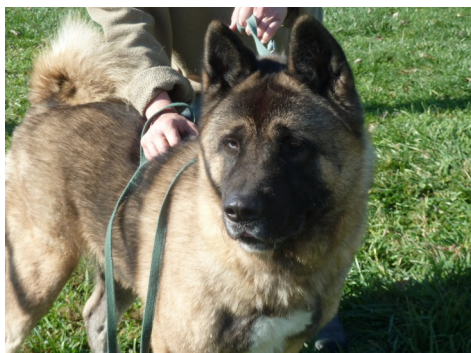
By Puller Lanigan

I received yet another call from a shelter in reference to a humane hold and drove out to meet the recipient of this title. This was another dog who could not be removed from his run, nor was I allowed to go into the run. This is customary at shelters for humane holds; they are not available for public adoption. This male Akita was a chronic 'RAL' or Run At Large and since the caretakers can't contain him he was not returned to them. I was grateful he was such a happy fellow when he was loose. To say Sumo is large is an understatement. His barking wasn't intensely aggressive, I got the impression he was doing it to bide the time and entertain himself. He stopped and happily came over for pets when I called him.

We put out a plea for a possible foster for this moose and sadly nothing panned out. It was unclear when he would become available, but we really needed to have something lined up as the shelter was overflowing with dogs and he was not even getting any secondary interest. I finally received a response from "BEAR", Big East Akita Rescue, that if he became available, they would take him. At least I could rest easy on that thought. Thank you BEAR!

Eventually I received the 'Guess What?' call. Sumo was being sprung but ONLY to a rescue. This was the middle of the week. They wanted him gone ASAP. I notified JoAnn of BEAR and took the next day off to spring the beast. Sumo was collected and he practically had a cheering section with employees all coming up to pet and hug him 'good bye'. He was thrilled. At this point, he was reminding me a lot of our old "Hina Boy". This guy just loves people. He had people fawning all over him outside of the shelter. We walked and walked and walked some more. He had been incarcerated for almost 3 months. He was SO HAPPY to be out! The drive to the kennel was gorgeous and I'm happy to say, Sumo rode like a champ. This guy is a people dog. He loves people. He was so crestfallen when I left him at the kennel. I know he will be well cared for and get fresh air and good romping time, but he wants to be back in his own home.

As it turns out, we had two dogs get adopted the week after Sumo arrived, so it doesn't look like he'll have to make the trip to New York after all. It would be nice to see this happy fellow in a home for Christmas.



Yale researchers, working alongside Russian scientists, have recently discovered a new tick-borne disease that may be infecting some Americans.

The disease is caused by a bacteria which is similarly related to that of Lyme Disease. This bacteria, called *Borrelia Miyamotoi*, has been found in the same deer ticks that transmit Lyme.

Since there is currently no diagnostic test in the United States for this new disease, it is hard to say if it had actually made an American's sick. However, the Yale researchers estimate that as many as 3,000 American's a year may get infected with the disease. That number is minimal compared to the nearly 25,000 annual cases of Lyme.

A Russia a team of scientists developed a test to distinguish *B. Miyamotoi* from other tick-borne diseases discovered that it causes much higher fevers than Lyme. In a small number of cases the fever went away and returned a few weeks later. And, *B. Miyamotoi* doesn't appear to develop a circle "bull's-eye" rash that is indicative of Lyme disease.



The discovery of this possible tick-borne disease in America gives more credence to the need for our pets to be treated monthly with tick prevention. There are many effective tick products available, including several "spot on" types that are easy to apply to the skin. It is best to use them year-round. Ask your veterinarian about effective medication, and learn the facts about the pest prevention you choose to use. Just be sure that whatever you're using is for both fleas and ticks.

And, should you suspect that you have been bitten by a tick, and a Lyme test comes-up negative, be sure to discuss with your doctor the possibility of having contracted *B. Miyamotoi*, especially if you have a reoccurring fever.

For further information visit the website of the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society, the Lyme Disease Association or Turner the Corner Foundation.

IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR

Written by Jodi Marcus

As we start a new year, I like to think about the things I am thankful for. And in the world of rescue I have many things that positively impact my life. First on my list are the foster homes. Whether they are consistently fostering, foster occasionally, or simply jump in for an emergency, we could not operate without them. Our foster homes repair the Akitas' wounded souls, nurse their sometimes starved and abused bodies, teach them that they are loved, and then let them go on to their permanent homes. It is bittersweet; joy at seeing them in a wonderful new home, but missing them so much it aches. Thank you all for being there and saving the lives you have.

There are the adopters, past, present and future. It gives me so much joy to see one of our Akitas go into a home where they are loved and cherished family members. Whatever was in their past, their future is bright because they are welcomed into the hearts and homes of loving families.

To those wonderful individuals who donate money on a regular basis, where would we be without you? Sometimes when things seem really grim, we get another donation from you that helps us over the hurdle and gives us the energy to continue, knowing we have your support.

To all those who donate the precious gift of your time to help us at adoption and other events, you guys are the best!!! Your participation allows us to work in shifts so that no one is overwhelmed or overworked.

To the donors who find extra bits of money here or there and send it to us rather than buy something for themselves; those who find that extra to contribute for special cases, I want you to know that all your donations, be they large or small, are important to us. It all adds up to help pay the vet, boarding, website, and other expenses that are part of our rescue organization and your monetary support is key to our success.

To all the veterinarians who take such good care of our guys at a discounted rate, it is because of you that some of our dogs are alive and all our dogs are healthy when they go to their new homes.

And last, but not least, to our kennel partners. Without your support there are many Akitas that would not be alive today. Boarding is essential when foster space is not available and to allow our foster homes precious breaks when needed.

It takes more than a village to save Akitas. It takes a network of people who all contribute what they can, how they can, in any way they can to save our guys and I am very happy to be part of the network which includes you all. I hope you have a wonderful year in 2012 !!!

2012 VA LEGISLATION

Written by Lisa Gray

Virginia Residents should take note of the following companion animal bills that are being considered in committee or are proposed for committee for the 2012 Virginia legislation session:

- **HB158—Devocalization of Companion Animals**
(Status: Assigned to Agriculture subcommittee)

This bill makes devocalization a Class One Misdemeanor (punishable by up to 12 months in jail and a fine) unless the operation is necessary to relieve illness, disease, injury or pain.

- **HB363—Companion Animals Protective Orders**
(Status: Referred to Committee of Courts of Justice)

Provides that a court may include in a protective order provisions granting to the petitioner the care, custody, and control of an animal owned, possessed, or kept by either the petitioner, the respondent, or a child residing in the household.

- **HB537/SB305—Dangerous Dog Registry**
(Status: Assigned to Agriculture subcommittee)

This bill would place responsibility for registering dangerous dogs on animal control officers instead of the State Vets office. It also would lengthen the amount of time to obtain the certificate from ten to 45 days, and the certificate fee would increase from \$50 to \$150.

- **HB650 (Notice of Euthanasia for Companion Animals)**
(Status: Referred to Agriculture subcommittee)

Requires city/county pounds to maintain a registry of organizations willing to accept healthy and non-vicious companion animals scheduled to be euthanized, and requires the pounds to give 24 hours' notice to the organizations prior to euthanizing.

- **HB888—Anti-Tethering Ordinances**
(Status: Referred to Agriculture subcommittee)

Allows any locality to regulate by ordinance the tethering of companion animals.

Watch for three other bills that are being proposed: (1) establishing Feb. 28th Spay Day; (2) addressing trap, neuter and return of feral cats; and (3) prohibiting ownership of exotic animals.

If you're a Virginia resident, please play your part and contact your local legislators on these bills and proposals.

Excerpts taken from Companion Animal Law Blog by Heidi Meinzer, 1/15/2012

SHORTAGE OF HEARTWORM DRUG

Merial, the only FDA approved US distributor of IMMITICIDE, announced in August, 2011 that the company that manufacturers Immiticide (melarsomine dihydrochloride) is “experiencing technical issues in their plant that will temporarily affect their ability to provide finished product to us”. Merial said its inventory of Immiticide is depleted, but in a press release in September 2011 Merial informed vets that the FDA had approved a temporary measure to import limited quantities of the drug from a European supplier. However, the supplier lacks the production capability to provide a quantity that will satisfy the US demand. Merial has advised vets that a small shipment would arrive in October, with additional shipments arriving intermittently. Vets are being urged to conserve the Immiticide that they receive and only use if for dogs in urgent need of treatment.

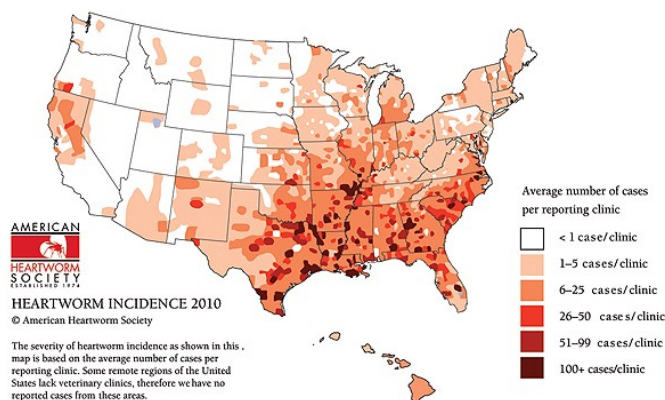
What does this mean for you and your dog? It means that should your dog develop heartworm disease, the life saving drug Immiticide will not be readily available for treatment.

Heartworms are internal parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes from animal to animal. Heartworm is not infectious between animals, but transmission can be life threatening. The risk of infection far outweighs the cost of prevention, therefore vets recommend monthly prevention for all pets regardless of lifestyle.

As you can see from the most recent incidence map to the right, heartworm infection has been found in dogs in all 50 states, with the highest infection rates being within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Dogs as young as one year of age have been diagnosed, with most infections primarily between the ages of 3–8 years.

Prevention is your best defense. While treatment of heartworm disease is usually successful (if the drug is available), prevention is the safest and cheapest route. With the limited availability of Immiticide, dogs with mild to moderate heartworm disease will be managed until such time as Immiticide is available again. The details of the plan are available at

www.heartwormsociety.org.



The American Heartworm Society strongly recommends year-round prevention, even in seasonal areas. There are a variety of options available for preventing heartworm infection, including daily and monthly tablets and chewables, monthly topical and a six-month injectable product. These products are highly effective and when administered as directed, heartworm disease can be prevented.

Still not convinced? Let's examine what happens when a dog becomes infected with heartworms AND Immiticide is available. Treatment includes the administering of Immiticide (a compound derived from arsenic) into the heart muscle at intervals determined by the vet. The treatment can have adverse effects as the worms die and can potentially clog vessels in the lungs. Because of this risk, the dog being treated must be kept very quiet (confined to a kennel if possible) during treatment and for several weeks afterwards. The treatment will kill the adult worms, but the damage done to the heart and lungs will remain. In severe cases, the worms may need to be surgically removed from the heart. The cost of treatment is into the thousands, depending on the extent of the infestation.

As you can see, treatment for heartworm disease is complicated, painful and expensive. Some dogs may have permanent damage. Don't take the chance! By maintaining your dog on heartworm prevention, you will spare him from this deadly disease and its complicated and costly treatment.

BLOAT VIDEO COULD SAVE LIVES!

by Puller Lanigan

Thanks to Bill and Lynne Loewy for sharing a video clip they accidentally taped of an episode of bloat in an aged abandoned Akita they offered to foster. We have been able to put 'pictures' to the words you read on this devastating medical anomaly. While viewing this presentation is painful, we felt it so much better exhibited what goes on than we could ever explain.

We received moderate criticism from some members within the breed community, but the overwhelming response from other rescue members, veterinarians and breed clubs was positive. While we would NEVER intentionally sensationalize an animal suffering, the video was taken as a matter of course as the Loewy's received this dog (they video tape every dog they receive). The patron had no idea the dog was bloating enroute to the Loewy's. When it became apparent the dog was in distress, he was rushed to the nearest emergency vet clinic and 'saved'. Unfortunately, as is often the case in elderly dogs that bloat, he bloated a second time several weeks later and was humanely euthanized.

It is our goal, by sharing this video, to educate all Akita owners (and even those of other large breeds) on the symptoms of bloat. We know from feedback on YouTube that is video has already managed to save lives. You can view the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1Wrt2719yo>.

YouTube Viewer Feedback:

As a retired vet tech, I deeply appreciate your generosity in sharing this video. I had my husband watch it. You never know when a little knowledge will save a life. Thank you.

I was told the symptoms of bloat when I got my Akita puppy but seeing it was educational. I will show this to every friend who has a dog and to anyone that I allow to watch my pooch. Thanks.

This video is a GREAT example to see what bloat looks like and hopefully will help save more dogs with this condition by getting the dog to the vet..

VOLUNTEER

C
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R

We need volunteers for the following:

- Event Coordinator
- Grant Specialist
- Social Media-Marketing Manager
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Web Design-Development
- Artists

If you feel you can donate your time in any of the above capacities please contact Lisa Gray at (571) 237-7335 or Jodi Marcus (703) 730-0844.

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Paw Paws Canine College
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The Bigger the Better Canine Camp
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New Baltimore Animal Hospital
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Regional Vet Referral Center
Springfield (703) 451-8900

Animal Medical Center of Cascades
Sterling (571) 434-0250

Morgantown Vet Care
Morgantown (304) 599-8269

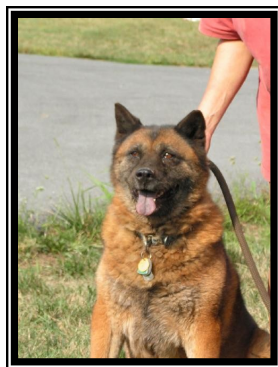
AVAILABLE ORPHANS

CURRENT LIST OF AVAILABLE ARMAC ORPHANS
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

Spayed female, estimated age 11. 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?



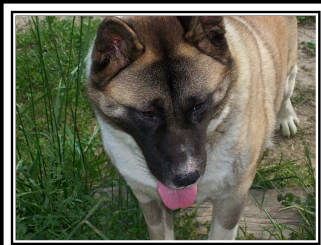
Yukon

Neutered male, estimated age 6 years. Yukon made a long journey to us. We initially received an email asking for assistance in placing a very nice Akita who was in a shelter in the Bahamas. We featured Yukon on our website as needing a foster home. Our plea was answered! He made the flight to us and is now acclimating himself stateside. He rides well in a car, walks well on leash, is housebroken, enjoys hanging-out with his foster family and is good with their female dog. More to come on Yukon.



Princess

Spayed female, estimated age 5-6 years old. Princess is a stunningly beautiful female who is loves everyone she meets. She is housebroken, good with most other dogs, obedient and very affectionate. Sadly, Princess suffers from Pemphigus, a common autoimmune dermatologic genetic condition. However, Princess is responding well to her medication and the long term management of her condition is very positive. She just patiently waits for a family that will allow her to win them over with her charm and affectionate nature



Sumo

Neutered male, estimated age 2-3 years. Sumo is a happy-go-lucky guy who loves everyone; no aloofness here. He loves to play and be with people. He would be great in a home that is active outdoors (maybe hiking, boating). He rides great in the car, knows many commands, has good manners and is an all-around great Akita. Sumo doesn't like being crated or confined.



Santana/Makato

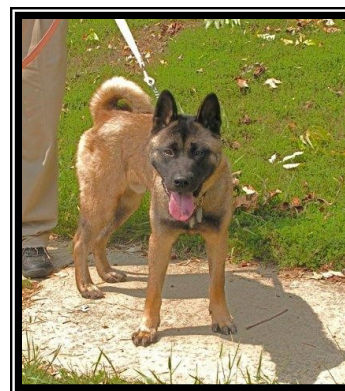
Neutered male, 2.5 yrs. White with black brindle hood and white blaze. Average size. Found as a stray and retained by the family for a year, lived with another male Akita and two teenaged children. We suspect he was surrendered due to a skin condition and ear infection. It looked like flea dermatitis and with flea preventative and antibiotics, he has made a full recovery. He cannot go to a home with cats or livestock.



Adoption Pending

Wyatt

Neutered male, estimated age 14-18 months old. Wyatt has a huge smile; is all playful puppy with lots of energy to burn. He appears to have been taught some rough hand/mouth games, but still has a soft mouth. Wyatt is learning to calmly interact with people and to walk on leash. He gets along with the resident female Akita and accepts her discipline without challenge. Wyatt is extremely intelligent and strong willed. He will do best in a home with an experienced Akita owner, an active lifestyle, no cats or children under the age of 12.



POSTCARDS FROM HOME



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Takara just barely stood still long enough for Jeff to take her picture. Just brought her in from her walk. Hardly a day goes by when someone doesn't compliment me on Takara. We're thinking of changing her name to Diva.....

She is the absolute joy of our lives. So different in personality from our other Akitas in that she is needier for attention and shadows us constantly. Very much a people kind of dog ...

Sammy's Christmas present. He thinks he is hot stuff when I put his back pack on. Gets all serious.

Still learning about each other and building the trust. He has found his own space - same one Dodger chose: bedroom closet - tucked into the corner facing the doorway.

Happy New Year!

Finka Cathey

Sammy (aka Osamu)



Thank you for your generous donations!!

- Chuck Diehl*
- Roschelle Heuberger*
- Robert Gilson*
- Robert Harvey Jr.*
- Ariane Sweeney*
- Matthew Halnon*
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- Carleen Watts-Hicks*
- Aaron Hoskins*
- Sharon & Bill Theologus*

RAINBOW BRIDGE "...love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation." Kabil Gabran

We wish to express our deepest condolences to the following:

Talon and Gia Cromer on the loss of their Akita; run free Shinyu.

Mike and Cheryl Mason on the loss of Lucky



ABOUT ARMAC

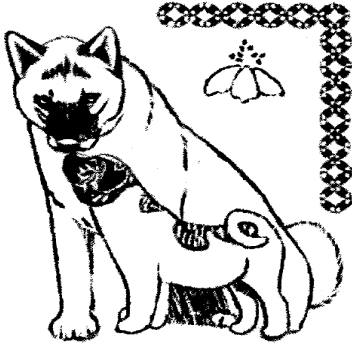
Akita Rescue, Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. (ARMAC), is one of the oldest Akita rescue groups in the United States, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ARMAC was founded by a small group of concerned Akita owners and has been serving the Mid-Atlantic seaboard since 1984.

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:

www.akitarescue.org





ARMAC

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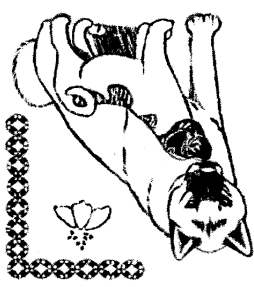
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OUR BOOTH DURING THE EXPO. IF YOU ARE
ABLE TO VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS IT
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

MARCH 16-18, 2012

SUPER PET EXPO

UPCOMING EVENTS:



- ARMAC Contacts**
- Puller Lanigan (301) 680-0788 puller@akitarescue.org
 - Jodi Marcus (703) 730-0844 jodi@akitarescue.org
 - Betty McDade (703) 524-9163 BettyMcDade@akitarescue.org
 - Lisa Gray ((571) 237-7335 Lisa@akitarescue.org