

Uniquely AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast Inc. (ARMAC)

May/June 2012

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WAITING FOR PENNY

By Puller Lanigan

While I will never claim to have been remotely helpful in this venture, it is a story of great compassion and fortitude. We salute two volunteers who waited patiently for a dog named 'Penny'.

Sometime after Thanksgiving I received a call from Brenda Crumbie about an Akita that was seen sitting each morning at the corner of Rt. 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue) and Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland. Brenda was stunned when she first saw the small white Akita with a dark head sitting along the side of the road, as this is a MAJOR interchange before you get on the Beltway. She tried to watch where this dog went when she left her post, but she always disappeared into the myriad of shopping centers. She watched Penny go from a clean, well-cared for looking dog, to a dingy, shabby coated street dog. It was obvious Penny had been dumped and she was waiting each morning for her owner to return.

I suggested that Brenda contact animal control, which she initially resisted, but later did and was informed that they knew about the dog. Brenda asked what she could do? We discussed setting up a feeding station and trying to win this lonely girl's trust. But I cautioned Brenda not to interfere with Animal Control's projects. She talked with AC and a feed station was determined. And so began a close relationship with Tanya Roberts.

A few weeks later, Brenda was accosted by another woman enroute to work who asked about this pitiful dog who sat at the intersection waiting for her owner each morning. They exchanged contact information and herein, entered Katrina Owens. Brenda and Katrina became the mainstay of this project and kept me posted weekly (if not daily) of Penny's adventures in Suitland.

Penny was often seen accompanying children to school, following shoppers at nearby stores, construction workers at lunch, people getting off the bus and heading home. Reactions to Penny ranged from never recognizing her to loud admonishments to 'Go Home!'. Penny had earned the nickname, 'Ghost Girl' as she quickly learned to utilize the storm culverts that run underneath these highways and she could quickly evaporate before your eyes as she dropped down into a ditch and appeared some 100 feet away, trotting steadily to a safe place for the evening.

I was asked if I could bring a friendly Akita to where Penny normally hung out and see if she could be lured to come play. She had been seen play bowing to an Akita who lived nearby as he patrolled his own yard. Meredith Murtagh and I took her Tadao out one afternoon and walked all over the area and never once saw Penny. Live traps were set up in various locations, she avoided them. Her hideout was eventually discovered and nets, traps and tranquilizer laced food was set out for her, she evaded them as well. Then, just two weeks before Easter, I received a call at 10:00 p.m. from Katrina, Penny had been caught and was safe! I was anxious to know the details on this capture. It seems that Officer Roberts put out some food and Penny apparently was either tired or just used to seeing her, she didn't eat and run and was looped and taken into custody.

Beyond this incredible story of dedication is the fact that neither Brenda nor Katrina have ever owned an Akita. But they both do have dogs and, as they told me, they just love dogs and saw in Penny a dog who still had hope in humanity, even if her human had abandoned her. She was named Penny after haunting Pennsylvania Avenue for 4 months. We hope to provide Penny a new lease on life once we get to know her a little better.

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

Visit the Akita Club of America's Website for a detailed list of Akita rescue organizations throughout the United States.

AKITACLUB.ORG/RESCUE/RESGROUPS.HTML

STOMACH CANCER STUDY

One of our recently placed orphans, Osamu aka Sammy, has been diagnosed with stomach cancer. We also placed his 4 puppies. I contacted this researcher, Dr. McNeil, after being made aware she was studying this stomach cancer in Chow Chows who have shown a greater prevalence of this cancer. Her response indicates that it is also more prevalent in several other breeds, including Akitas. If anyone would like to assist her in her research by sending blood samples of dogs with stomach cancer, or healthy dogs over the age of 8. If available, pedigrees would be nice also. Sammy came from a backyard breeder who dumped him and four of his 8 week old puppies in an outside run in the middle of that freezing cold winter in 2009. Sammy was in rescue until May 2010, when he found his forever home. His new owner has had him less than one year and will now lose him to this cancer. Please send samples so that maybe in the future another Akita owner, who may be you or me, will not have to undergo this heartbreak. Thank You, Jodi Marcus



WHAT IS THE STOMACH CANCER STUDY?

The Tufts University Harrington Oncology Program in collaboration with Dr. Elaine Ostrander at the National Human Genome Research Institute is conducting a study to determine the cause of stomach cancer in breeds that have an increased risk. Stomach cancer (gastric carcinoma) is a highly malignant cancer and it is almost always fatal. Early detection, prevention, and improved therapies depend on recognition of factors that contribute to causing stomach cancer. In general, stomach cancer is rare in dogs. Veterinary databases indicate that about 0.1% of dogs (1 in 1000) received this diagnosis. However, certain breeds are diagnosed with stomach cancer much more frequently. Chow Chows have between 10-20 times the risk of stomach cancer compared to other breeds and we have been studying this cancer in Chows for a number of years with the goal of identifying the gene(s) that lead to stomach cancer predisposition. Now we are also investigating stomach cancer in other breeds that demonstrate an increased risk 1) based on data from the Veterinary Medicine Database or 2) in which we have identified a familial pattern of occurrence. These breeds include the **Akita, Belgian sheepdog, tervuren and malinois, Bouvier, Irish setter, Keeshond, Norwegian elkhound, and the Scottish terrier.**

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF STOMACH CANCER?

The signs of stomach cancer can be very vague and subtle. Any of the following could indicate stomach cancer:

- Vomiting
- Dark tarry stool
- Loss of energy
- Diarrhea
- Weight loss
- Bloat
- Lack of appetite

NOTE: Not all dogs have all the signs!

HOW CAN I HELP FIGHT STOMACH CANCER?

We are interested in collecting blood samples and pedigrees from dogs of the breeds listed above that either have:

STOMACH CANCER:

- The dog is showing signs of stomach cancer or has been diagnosed with stomach cancer.

OR

NO EVIDENCE OF STOMACH CANCER:

- The dog has no signs of stomach cancer and is at least 8 years old.

If you would like to participate or need more information, please contact us:

Kristin Simon, BS
 Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
 Phone: 508-887-4422
Kristin.marshall@tufts.edu

Elizabeth McNeil, DVM, PhD
 Tufts Medical Center
 Phone: 617-636-4715
Elizabeth.mcniel@tufts.edu

BLOOD SAMPLE SUBMISSION



Stomach Cancer Study Enrollment Instructions Tufts Harrington Oncology Program

- **Blood:** 6ml of blood in an EDTA tube.
- **Completed participant information form below**
- **Please FedEx the samples:** *Please call us for a FedEx account number*
- Use Standard overnight
- Write "Please refrigerate upon arrival" on the box.
- **Please Address to:**
 Kristin Simon, BS
 Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
 200 Westboro Road
 FHSA Room 215
 North Grafton, MA
 Phone: 508-887-4422

If samples are taken on a Friday: please refrigerate blood. Ship out on Monday.

✂-----Return Below Portion with Shipment-----

Affected participants: *(Please include biopsy report if available)*

Date of Diagnosis _____ Biopsy Diagnosis _____

Owner Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dog Information

Call Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Registered Name: _____ Breed: _____

AKC (or Other) Registration #: _____ *Please attach pedigree if available*

Sex: Male Male Neutered Female Female Spayed

Biopsy Location _____ Other Disease _____

Please Acknowledge and Sign:

I give Dr. Elizabeth McNeil and her direct collaborators permission to use this sample for research purposes. I understand that any pedigree information or data specific to my dog will be kept confidential and any publications resulting from these studies will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a subject. In addition, I understand that I will not receive individual results regarding my dog as a result of these studies.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG PROFILING HAS PET PARENTS GROWLING

Reprinted with permission of author, Michele C. Hollow. Original article appeared on petnewsandviews.net April 12, 2012.

I've written about how some insurance companies charge pet parents of breed specific dogs more money than owners of smaller "friendlier" looking dogs. It strikes me as odd what we consider "dangerous" versus "friendly." What may look "dangerous" to me may seem "friendly" to you.

The list of "dangerous" dogs, mostly dubbed that way by the media, include: Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Presa Canarios, Chow Chows, Doberman Pinschers, German Shepherds, Pit Bull Terriers, Rottweilers and Siberian Huskies.

It's What We Know

I took care of a neighbor's Pit Bull Terrier while she was away. I got some comments ahead of time from people that never met this dog that I must be extra careful. I think if this dog didn't know me and I entered the house, he would have shared his toys with me.

And while I was living in New York City, my next door neighbor lived with a Doberman Pinscher named Lex. He was quite regal looking. My first encounter with Lex was getting off an elevator—the kind where you can't see who is on the other side of the door. I had a bagel in my hand, and Lex gently snatched it. I was a bit shocked, but he didn't grab any skin—just the bagel. I was fine, and Lex and I got to be buddies.

Looking at an individual dog and deciding if it is dangerous makes sense. Looking at an entire breed and making that same decision is wrong. Unfortunately, a number of insurance agencies and now some small towns are profiling.

Dog Discrimination

The resort town of Elephant Butte, NM, has made headlines because its local city council is requiring owners of Pit Bulls, Rottweiler's, and German Shepherds to buy special liability insurance. Owners of these dogs are required to insure their dogs for \$100,000 worth of personal property liability.

"These are the top three breeds according to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) that are more likely to attack people," says Alan Briley, City Manager of Elephant Butte. "I know our council wanted to be proactive and make sure if something like this happens, that our public is protected."

Chasity Cervantes, a resident of Elephant Butte and an owner of three Blue Nose American Pit Bull Terriers, has called every insurance company from Elephant Butte to El Paso. Finding affordable insurance has been so difficult that she fears she will have to move or put her dogs down. She recently found one company that may cover her dogs, but she said the cost would be more than double of what she pays for her annual home insurance now.

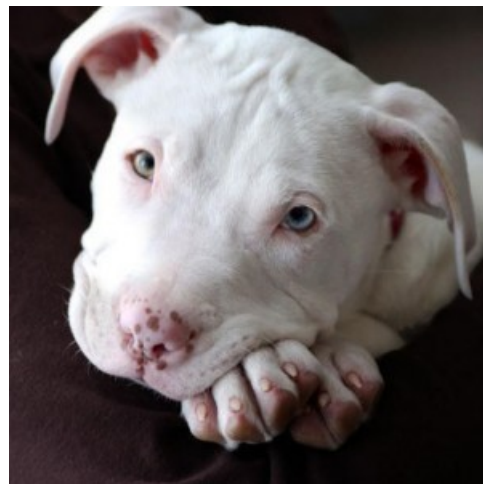
Why Towns are Getting Involved

The reason towns are creating and enforcing liability laws is to make sure the victim of a serious dog related incident is compensated. "Unfortunately, profiling an entire breed doesn't work," says Ledy VanKavage, senior attorney for Best Friends Animal Society and owner of three Pit Bull Terrier rescues.

"Today 12 states prohibit canine profiling because it doesn't work," says VanKavage. "Ohio is the latest state to abolish canine profiling."

That's welcome news for Julie Lyle, Chief Dog Warden of Lucas County in Ohio. "Now all dogs will be treated equally based on their behavior and not how they look," she says.

Paul Johnson, Vice President of Brooks Insurance in Ohio thinks differently. "Insurance companies are going to continue to look at it from a breed standpoint rather than an individual dog," he says.



Continued on page 5

DOG PROFILING CONT.

Some confusion with this new law exists. According to my lawyer friend, Laura Allen who writes the blog Animal Law Coalition, "Ohio allows home rule, which means some cities and towns can pass their own laws on this issue as long as they don't violate the state and federal constitutions. Many simply followed the old state law or at least the discriminatory spirit of it, and I would expect with the new law that many if not all of these will be changed to follow the new law."

Stopping Towns from Imposing these Laws

"Here in Omaha, NE, the city council was seriously considering a ban on bully breed," says LeAnn Nussrallah, who works as a groomer at Nebraska Humane Society. "We all were freaking out on the number of dogs we would be getting into the shelter that would have to be PTS (Put to Sleep) simply for the way they look. Our lawyer and shelter administrative staff came up with a compromise. Omaha bully-breed owners must have their dogs muzzled (the wire basket type) and harnessed when outside their securely-fenced yard. They also must have 100K in homeowners insurance. The dogs can pass a Breed Ambassador test and the muzzle is waived and the dog wears a vest instead." (A Breed Ambassador test is to prove that a dog is well trained.)

States Prohibiting BSL

The following states have passed laws prohibiting the passage of Breed Specific Legislation are: Florida and Pennsylvania (although bills are currently pending to repeal this prohibition in both states), California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

What You Can Do If Your Town Proposes BSL

Best Friends Animal Society put together a comprehensive action plan. Visit their website, www.bestfriends.org for further information on how you can prevent breed specific legislation in your community.

Obedience Training

DC/Maryland

Mutt Magic Training Services
Baltimore (410) 889-9352

Bark Busters
Timonium (410) 308-3768

Capital Dog Training Club
Silver Spring (301) 587-5959

Virginia/West Virginia

Best Behaved Dogs
Fairfax (703) 931-8521

Club Pet Int.
Chantilly (703) 471-7818

Paw Paws Canine College
Paw Paw (304) 492-4075

Kennels/Boarding

DC/Maryland

Country Critters
Millersville (410) 787-9592

Stacy King
Myersville (301) 293-1737

Virginia

Dana's Dog Care
Manassas (703) 794-7576

The Bigger the Better Canine Camp
Nokesville (703) 328-7884

Akita Friendly Vets

DC/Maryland

Friendship Animal Hospital
DC (202) 363-7300

Norbeck Animal Clinic
Silver Spring (301) 924-2416

Palmer Animal Hospital
Myersville (301) 371-3333

Virginia/West Virginia

Ballston Animal Hospital
Arlington (703) 528-2776

MapleShade Animal Hospital
Dale City (703) 670-7668

New Baltimore Animal Hospital
Warrenton (540) 347-0964

Regional Vet Referral Center
Springfield (703) 451-8900

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

Morgantown Vet Care
Morgantown (304) 599-8269

VOLUNTEER HEROS



**Katrina Owens,
Brenda Cumbie and
Off. Tanya Roberts**

**for their help is catching and caring for
Penny (aka Ghost)**

THANK YOU!

AVAILABLE ORPHANS

CURRENT LIST OF AVAILABLE ARMAC ORPHANS

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

Naomi

Spayed female, estimated age 5 years. Naomi really loves all the humans she has met, including children. As with many dogs who are so human oriented, there is sometimes some separation anxiety. Her anxiety levels seem to be improving. She is good with kitties, rides very well in a car, walks well on leash, loves attention and play. She has shown no aggression to date with other dogs. She panics in a crate, but does no destruction when left loose in the house. For a dog who was so badly neglected, she has a shining personality. Once her coat comes back she will be an adorable fluffy Akita.



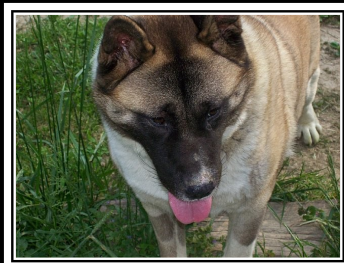
Obie

Neutered male, age 12 years. This wonderful old soul was the meet and greet dog for a local bed and breakfast, that closed down. They tried to put him to sleep but no vet would do it. Obie is super social, but not clingy. He gets along with other dogs, ignores cats, doesn't seem fazed by large crowds and is good with children.



Princess

Spayed female, estimated age 5-6 years. Princess is a stunningly beautiful female who 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.



Hanna

Spayed female, estimated age 3 years. Hanna was a stray who recently had puppies, although they were never found. Despite her initial health problems, she is gentle, sweet and love everyone, including children. Hanna is fully housebroken, walks well on leash, rides well in the car, loves children, and is very easy to approach. She enjoys being around people. Please, no cats, other dogs, or small animals.



Wyatt

Neutered male, estimated age 14-18 months. 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 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.



Spirit

Spayed female, estimated age 3 years. Spirit was rescued after having run stray long enough to lose her trust in people. She is wary of strangers but learning to trust. She is beautiful! She is playful and also a talker. Spirit is a survivor and still remains gentle. She is housebroken, ignores the other dogs and cats too! Spirit needs someone with Akita experience to win her trust and bring out the social butterfly that is peeking out behind her wary façade.



POSTCARDS FROM HOME



~ Tamira ~
"Ah, the life!"

Courtesy of Julie Eisenberg



~ Blondie ~

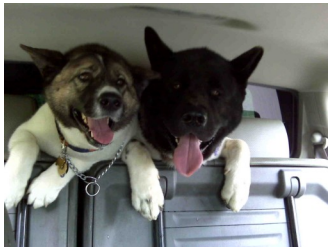
Blondie playing Fort with Sutter.

Courtesy of The Gabel's

~ Koji & Suki ~

Life is Good!

Courtesy of The Pollock's



~ Yukon ~

Yukon finally stands still for a close-up.
Courtesy of The Rae's

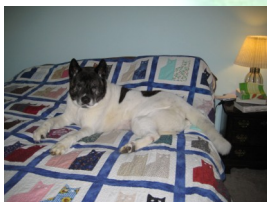


RAINBOW

Our deepest condolences to the following...

The family and friends of Richie Marrone, long time adopter, friend and supporter of ARMAC. We miss you Richie!

To Michele Kirk and her family on the loss of her husband William Martin.



Tim Simstock and family on the loss of Teddy. Teddy originally belonged to Tim's mother, Pat, who lost her battle with cancer two years ago. Both are sorely missed by all who knew them.

Ron and Cindy Walker on the loss of RIKA - "She was loved and was a very happy and spoiled girl, it was totally Rika's WORLD"

Thank you for your generous donations!!

**Benjamin Bressman
Noelle Elsberry
Silvia Gutierrez
Robert Harvey
Rebecca Heath
Irina Krasnokutsky
Jonathan Lareau
Dee Marrone
Cecilia Ortiz-Carmean
Katrina Owens
Off. Tanya Roberts**

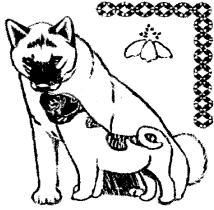
ABOUT ARMAC

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. has been serving the eastern seaboard for over 25 years. We fulfill a wide variety of Akita needs in the greater Washington DC area. We help educate potential Akita owners; we offer support to Akita owners, not only those who adopt from us, but all Akita owners regardless of where they got their Akita. But most importantly, we save the lives of Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters. All of our fostered Akitas are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and temperament evaluated prior to adoption. Potential adopters are screened carefully and thoroughly to ensure we have a perfect match between family and Akita. Our assistance doesn't stop at adoption. We offer support to our adoptive families throughout the lifetime of their Akita.

Please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved:

www.akitarescue.org

Congratulations On your adoption!!
~Natasha~
~Sumo~



ARMAC

10489 Lake Jackson Drive
Manassas, VA
20111-2827

10489 Lake Jackson Dr., Manassas, VA 20111-2827

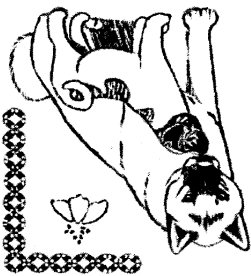
Please mail subscription request with check for \$20 made payable to ARMAC:

Yes _____ E-Mail Address: _____
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 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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- Puller Lanigan (301) 680-0788 puller@akitarescue.org
- Jodi Marcus (703) 730-0844 jodi@akitarescue.org
- Betty McDade (703) 524-9163 jodi@akitarescue.org
- Lisa Gray (571) 237-7335 lisa@akitarescue.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:
FREDERICKSBURG PET EXPO
 SEPT 22 & 23, 2012
 10 AM-4 PM
 FREDERICKSBURG, VA
 WWW.BMGEVENTS.COM/
 FREDERICKSBURG/PETSHOW/



ARMAC Contact