

# UNIQUELY AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast Inc. (ARMAC)

Jan/Feb 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Pemphigus* 2

*When your Akita injures Another dog* 3

*Keeping your Akita safe in the winter* 4

*Bloat Study & Webinar* 5

*Available Orphans* 6

*Postcards from Home, Rainbow Bridge, Donors* 7

## ARE YOU READY FOR YETI?

By Puller Lanigan

Yeti (fka Champ) came to our attention by a call from a local shelter. They had a 'gorgeous' white polar bear of a dog that had been surrendered, with papers, by his owner. He was a little over a year and would we be interested in him? First order of business was to have a volunteer meet this fellow and then find out who his breeder was. Being that volunteer, I went to meet him and he was a typical 13-14 mos. old Akita. Like a sullen teenager, he stood and let me run my hands over him. He just watched the other dogs and really didn't want a lot of interaction with a stranger. The young shelter employee took him into a run area and threw a ball for him. He ran after the ball and then sniffed it and looked at us and trotted happily back. He was neither effusive nor seeking attention from either of us. He was low key and non-aggressive towards the other dogs. I felt he was in a state of shock at going from being "household Prince"...to death row.

We located his breeder, who offered to pay to board him until a home was found....in North Carolina! The breeder offered no plan as to how the Akita would get to North Carolina. We politely declined the offer.

So why was this Akita surrendered? Because his owner wrote 'no time' for a growing puppy. He had been a house pet and slept in the house every night. He was in gorgeous condition. The shelter was anxious for us to take him as they were beginning to get the unusual inquiries on attractive dogs...like the household of college kids in West Virginia. That's not to say single people make poor owners, but a houseful of college students is not our idea of a great home. So we decided to take Yeti into our rescue program.

An interesting observation I made while reading the shelter paperwork on Yeti, an employee commented that he thought Yeti might be deaf. I didn't think he was deaf, but I also noted his former owner had been Asian. So....a woman had purchased Yeti as a puppy, but it's a man that dumped him at the shelter. I felt Yeti was probably trained in a foreign language and had no clue about English.

Yeti went to the kennel where he has blossomed. He now plays and runs around and recognizes his name. He's a typical Akita that is need of structure, boundaries and training. Preferably in English. He is large. He did not live with other pets, nor children and due to his size he will not be placed in a home with children. He likes some dogs and not others, therefore, he would do best in a home without other pets. Yeti still thinks of himself as a Prince in search of his next Kingdom.



## Graphic Artist

### Needed



Great volunteer opportunity for an art student or anyone with graphics experience

Contact Lisa Gray

[lisa@akitarescue.org](mailto:lisa@akitarescue.org)

## PEMPHIGUS

Pemphigus is a very serious autoimmune disease that can affect dogs, particularly as they get older. Certain breeds are more susceptible, such as Akitas, Dobermans, Schipperkes, Chows, and Finnish Spitzes. There are four types of pemphigus in dogs: foliaceus, vulgaris, vegetans, and erythematous; as a group it is referred to as Pemphigus Complex. Diagnosis is **usually** determined by the depth of skin affected and the area of the body.

1. **Pemphigus foliaceus:** usually affects the top layer of the skin on the nose bridge, eyes, groin, ears and footpads
2. **Pemphigus vulgaris:** affects the mouth, nose, prepuce, anus, vaginal area
3. **Pemphigus erythematous:** attacks the skin on the face and on the ears
4. **Pemphigus vegetans:** warty growths that may ulcerate.

All types affect the dog's skin and mucous membranes at various skin depths. As the immune system responds to the disease, the mechanism that keeps skin cells attached begins to erode, causing the skin to literally fall apart. The visible signs are rashes of scaling skin, scabbing, lesions, and possibly pus filled sores. If left untreated, some forms of this disease can be fatal.

**Symptoms:** A dog suffering from pemphigus may lose his appetite and develop a fever. Rashes, lesions, blisters or sores will begin to form on the head, ears, face, legs and feet. Certain types will affect the groin or other areas of the body. This disease can be extremely painful and is often fatal if treatment is not prompt.

**Treatment:** The goal of treatment is to slow down or suppress the immune system while simultaneously protecting against secondary infection. Your dog's vet will most likely recommend oral corticosteroids combined with other medications, which is a treatment plan with a good success rate. However, you should not hesitate to discuss with the vet the side effects from treatment, which can be difficult to manage.

**Prognosis:** Once the disease is under control, the vet may put your dog on other medication or on decreased dosage. But treatment will be for the remainder of the dog's life. About half of all dogs with pemphigus foliaceus and pemphigus erythematous can be kept symptom free, but the other two forms of this disease are more difficult to treat.

**Tips:** Sunshine can make the symptoms worse. Keep your dog out of the sun as much as possible, and use canine sun block such as Veterinarian's Best, applied according to directions.

**Natural Aids:** The use of a skin and coat tonic during recovery may help the body heal itself and repair the coat and skin. Ask your vet if this is advisable in your dog's case. Other natural remedies that may offer relief include acupuncture, acupressure, and Reiki or Meridian therapy.

*Reprinted with permission of author, Akita Planet Jul/Aug 2013*

---

## ABOUT ARMAC

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. has been serving the eastern seaboard for 30 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](http://www.akitarescue.org)



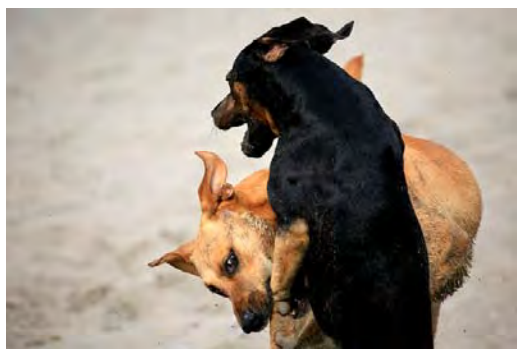
Like us... [www.facebook.com/AkitaRescueMidAtlantic](http://www.facebook.com/AkitaRescueMidAtlantic)

## WHEN YOUR AKITA INJURES ANOTHER DOG

Author, Jodi Marcus

You are walking your dog, maybe not paying full attention...talking to someone else, checking your phone, whatever reason. Or you are working in your front yard and decide to have your dog out with you, tied to a tree. You are distracted by something or go inside to get another tool. No matter how it happens it does. Your dog gets away from you or breaks the rope or cable tethering him and attacks a dog being walked by its owner.

First and foremost you separate the two dogs anyway you can. If you are with someone else, one of you takes your dog back to your house. The other person should help the owner check out their dog for damage while apologizing profusely, offer to drive them to the vet if necessary. If the owner refuses this offer, make sure you get contact info and offer to pay all vet bills. Get this info **immediately** If you are alone, ask the owner to wait while you secure your dog and then follow the above advice. If the owner is taking their dog to the vet, call to check on the dog's condition either that day/evening or the next day. Do not wait days to offer assistance and an apology, doing so may lead the owner of the other dog to become angry at your lack of concern or responsibility. Be proactive from moment one.



Let's talk about consequences. Most people whose dog is attacked are understandably upset and will call animal control. The best case scenario is that animal control comes out, tickets you for having your dog running at large, checks to make sure the rabies vaccine is up to date and you will have to appear in court. If your dog has no previous incidents you may be fined and the dog will have one strike against him/her on record. If you are very lucky, the judge will give you a probationary time period and if no further incidents occur, the incident is cleared. The worst case scenario is that your dog is taken into custody for attacking a companion animal and causing damage. Your dog will stay in custody until the court date; you will be liable for boarding charges covering the time period your dog is in custody. Your dog could be declared a dangerous dog by the court. If this occurs, there are restrictions placed upon owning the dog.

Most restrictions include one or all of the following: special dangerous dog registration which has to be renewed annually, having a special enclosure in your fenced yard, dangerous dog signs posted, the dog has to be muzzled at all times when not in the enclosure or in the house, special collars, and carrying a minimum amount of liability insurance. If you can find a carrier willing to provide the needed coverage, it will be very expensive. Most animal rescues can't rehome a dog who has been declared dangerous or vicious. This declaration by a court could be a death sentence for your Akita.

Then there is the civil liability angle. If your dog attacks someone else's dog, they may decide to sue for all expenses related to the incident as well as emotional trauma. This may involve you securing legal services to defend you in a civil suit. If you get sued over this and your insurance pays, expect to be dropped.

It is our responsibility as Akita owners to make sure our dogs are not put in a situation where something bad can happen. Being proactive is best. This means pay attention to your dog at ALL TIMES; while walking, at a dog park, while in your yard, but most especially around children and other dogs. Control all situations involving contact with your Akita; including who meets your dog and how they meet. Remember, even the nicest dog has a breaking point. It your responsibility to make sure your dog is safe! Our dogs' lives are in our hands; we have a tendency to forget that fact, becoming careless and complacent.

Familiarize yourself with the dangerous dog laws in your state or locality. For info on the dangerous dog laws in MD, VA and DC, go to our webpage and scroll down under "Pages of Interest" until you get to "Dog Laws VA MD DC" and click on that link.



### Little Known Akita Facts

Recent DNA testing proves that the Akita bloodline is one of the most primitive bloodlines among all the canine species.

# KEEPING YOUR AKITA SAFE AND HEALTHY THIS WINTER

By Lisa Gray

With record low temperatures and arctic blasts I just wonder if this winter will be end up being one of the coldest on record. The thought makes me envy our Akitas, with their natural, thick fur coats, no shoveling snow and maybe some lazy time by a fireplace. What could gone wrong?

According to animals lovers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine’s hospital there is no shortage of dogs during the cold months. The story of a puppy that was seen at the hospital last winter, it had fallen into a swimming pool, he was comatose after being in the fridge water for about a half hour. When he arrived at the ER his body temperature was 63 degrees. Aggressive warming techniques were used and the puppy survived.

These dedicated vets have tips for keeping your pets healthy when the weather turns frightful. To avoid hypothermia keep dry, don’t allow your dog to be outside while wet.



Wipe your dog’s paws off after a walk; dogs perspire from their pads. When ice forms there, it can be painful and these little ice balls should be removed. Street salt used to melt snow and ice can also become imbedded in canine footpads and it stings. Worst of all is the combination of salt and extreme cold. Under these conditions, little booties help. If you or your dog refuses the idea canine footwear, consider placing a jar of warm water and a rag outside your front door or in an entrance area of your home. For one thing the dog won't be tracking salt and snow indoors on your carpet, and for another it will prevent the pooch from licking up salt, which can cause an upset tummy. Your dog can get frostbite on their paw-pads

so avoid prolonged contact with frozen ground surfaces.

To pets, antifreeze taste like honey but this green molasses is as lethal as arsenic. Less than a teaspoon can kill a small dog or a cat, and as little as a couple of tablespoons can do in your Akita. (Consider using less toxic antifreezes with a chemical called Propylene glycol; these kinder and gentler antifreezes include [Sierra](#) and [Sta-Clean](#)).



## NWS Windchill Chart

		Temperature (°F)																	
		40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98	

Frostbite Times: 30 minutes (light blue), 10 minutes (medium blue), 5 minutes (dark blue)

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V<sup>0.16</sup>) + 0.4275T(V<sup>0.16</sup>)

Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/01

If your dog is shivering and has a blue tongue can be suffering hypothermia. Normal body temperature for a dog is 100 to 102. Don't bathe your dog; the moisture may actually keep your animal cool. Instead, throw as many blankets and towels as you can find over your pet, preferably near to a radiator or heat vent. If the dog doesn't return to normal within 15 minutes, call your vet.

Keep your dog's nails in good trim. Dogs can easily break long nails walking on ice.

If outside surfaces are too slippery for you they are dangerous for your dog as well. To avoid leg and hip injuries consider using paw wax, is a simple way of giving your dog traction on icy surfaces. Give [Mushers Secret](#), or [Canine Earth Organic Apple Paw Balm](#) a try.

Don't forget to use ice melt that is safe for animals, an added bonus, their safe for vegetation as well. Try [Safe Paws Ice Melt](#) or [Morton Safe-T-Pet](#).

For additional winter safety tips visit the [Association of Dog Trainers](http://www.apdt.com/petowners/tips/safety/safety_winter.aspx) website, [http://www.apdt.com/petowners/tips/safety/safety\\_winter.aspx](http://www.apdt.com/petowners/tips/safety/safety_winter.aspx).

Have a safe, happy and healthy winter!

## BLOAT INITIATIVE

### AKC Canine Health Foundation Takes Significant First Step to Prevent Bloat in Dogs

RALEIGH, N.C. (October 8, 2013) – The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) has taken a significant step toward the eventual prevention of the devastating condition commonly known as bloat. CHF is pleased to announce the approval of two research grants which will work to establish the causes and pre-dispositions for gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV), or bloat. These studies will provide the insight necessary to one day prevent the condition.

The two grants will provide \$485,000 in bloat research. The first study, headed by principal investigator Dr. Claire Rebecca Sharp, BVMS of Tufts University will evaluate the complex genetic basis of bloat. Importantly, Dr. Sharp’s grant will support the beginning of a biobank of samples that will facilitate the study of bloat by other investigators in the future. The second study, headed by principal investigator Dr. Laura L. Nelson, DVM of Michigan State University seeks to determine the abnormalities in the stomach’s ability to contract and how this might predispose large-breed dogs to bloat.

According to Dr. Shila Nordone, CHF Chief Scientific Officer, “Bloat is a major health concern for many dog owners and through our Bloat Initiative we aim to better understand this condition and ultimately equip veterinarians and dog owners with tools that will protect dogs from this devastating illness.”

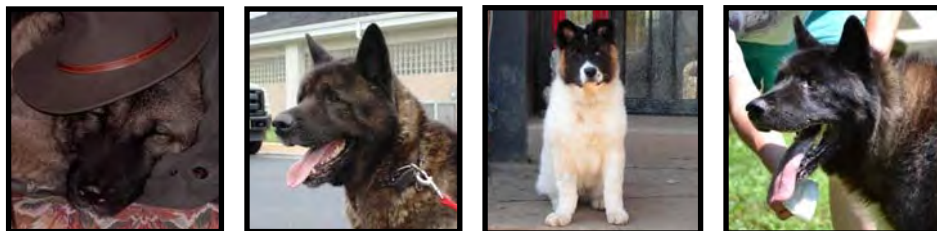
Gastric dilatation–volvulus, or bloat, can develop in any dog, although it is particularly common in large-breed and deep-chested dogs. Bloat develops when the stomach fills with air and then twists on itself, preventing air and liquid from leaving the stomach. Over time, the stomach gets larger and larger. This cuts off circulation and prevents blood from getting back to the heart from the rest of the abdomen and the rear legs. The stomach wall itself can also be severely damaged from loss of blood flow as can the spleen. Bloat requires immediate stabilization and prompt surgical correction, and may still be fatal in some severely affected dogs.

As part of the Bloat Initiative, CHF has released a [free webinar](#), “BLOAT: What every Dog Owner Should Know”, which features Dr. Elizabeth Rozanski, a key opinion leader in the study of GDV. In this webinar Dr. Rozanski present the signs and treatment options for bloat along with current options for prevention.

For a full list of Bloat Initiative sponsors, as well as information on how you can support this effort, please visit [www.akcchf.org/bloat](http://www.akcchf.org/bloat).

REMEMBER, Bloat is ALWAYS an emergency. Every dog owner should know, and recognize, the symptoms of bloat. Visit our [BLOAT page](#) and learn more about this life-threatening condition and watch the [video](#) of an Akita in the early stages of bloat (he survived this bloat incident), the knowledge you gain may one day save your dogs life!

Just a few of our beloved Akitas whose lives were taken by bloat.



From left to right, Mocha, Manny, Griffy and Roscoe

### Obedience Training

#### DC/Maryland

[Mutt Magic Training Services](#)

Baltimore, MD (410) 889-9352

[Bark Busters](#)

Timonium, MD (410) 308-3768

[Capital Dog Training Club](#)

Silver Spring, MD (301) 587-5959

#### Virginia/West Virginia

[Best Behaved Dogs](#)

Fairfax, VA (703) 931-8521

[Club Pet Int.](#)

Chantilly, VA (703) 471-7818

[Paw Paws Canine College](#)

Paw Paw, WV (304) 492-4075

### Kennels/Boarding

#### DC/Maryland

[Country Critters](#)

Millersville, MD (410) 787-9592

Stacy King

Myersville, MD (301) 293-1737

#### Virginia

[The Bigger the Better Canine Camp](#)

Nokesville, VA (703) 328-7884

[NV Pet Care](#)

Northern Virginia (703) 851-8387

### Akita Friendly Vets

#### DC/Maryland

[Friendship Animal Hospital](#)

DC (202) 363-7300

[Norbeck Animal Clinic](#)

Silver Spring, MD (301) 924-2416

[Palmer Animal Hospital](#)

Myersville, MD (301) 371-3333

#### Virginia/West Virginia

[Ballston Animal Hospital](#)

Arlington, VA (703) 528-2776

[MapleShade Animal Hospital](#)

Dale City, VA (703) 670-7668

[New Baltimore Animal Hospital](#)

Warrenton, VA (540) 347-0964

[Regional Vet Referral Center](#)

Springfield, VA (703) 451-8900

[Animal Medical Center of Cascades](#)

Sterling, VA (571) 434-0250

[Morgantown Vet Care](#)

Morgantown, WV (304) 599-8269

# AVAILABLE ORPHANS

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

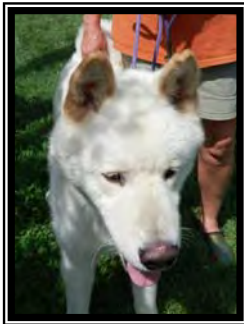
## Apollo

Neutered male, age 9 years.



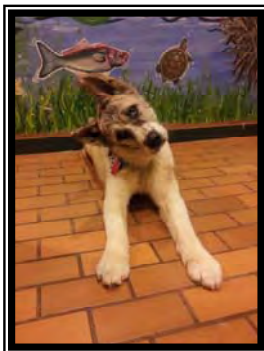
## Yeti

Neutered male, age 2-3 years.



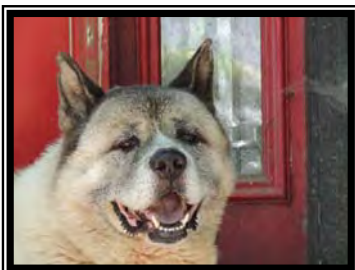
## Baby

Spayed female, age 8 years. A true love bug!



## Zach

Neutered male, age 5 years.



## Trey

Neutered male, age 2 years.



## Gabby

Spayed female, age 2 years.



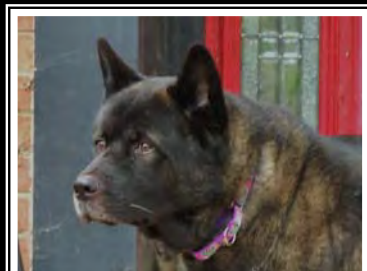
## Stevie

Neutered male, age 1 year.



## Chazzie

Neutered male, age 3 years.



## Sugar & Spice

Spayed females, age 9 years.



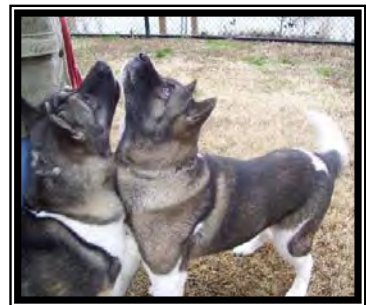
## Honey

Spayed female, age 6 months.



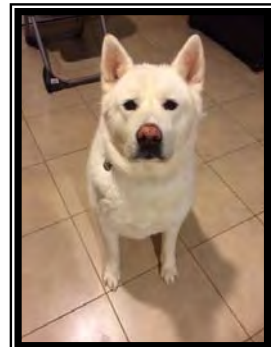
## Rika & Shinju

Spayed females, age 4 years.

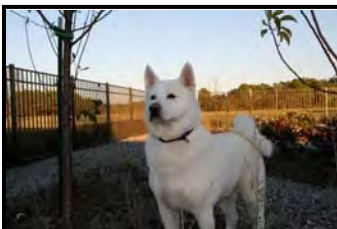


## Rayo

Neutered male, age 6 years.

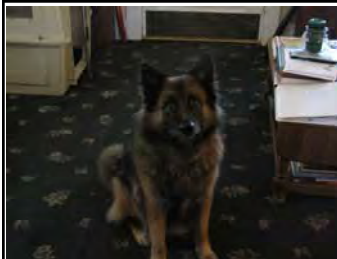


# POSTCARDS FROM HOME



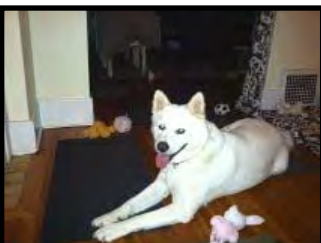
~ Cole ~

"Our beautiful boy, Cole. He is in my garden in Cambridge, MD. He likes to help me pick the kale."  
 Owners, William & Candace Christopher



~ Mojo Jojo ~

I was saddened to hear of Cora's passing. I feel, even though she never found a forever home, she was happy and healthy with you. Jim and I adopted one of her pups and I have attached a current picture of Mojo Jojo. He is a healthy & happy 5 1/2 year old.  
 Owners, Stephen & Jim Powers-Hill



~ Peaches (aka Hanna) ~

"Thank you" once again for helping me adopt Hanna aka Peaches!! This coming weekend marks our one-year anniversary!! She is a character and very, very loving!!  
 Owner, Stephanie Heher



~ Senna ~

Full of puppy and growing by the day.  
 Owners, Scott & Lesley Parthree

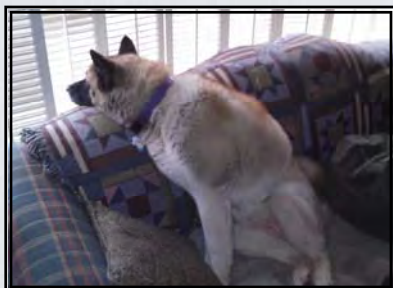
**Congratulations**  
**On your adoption!!**

~ Gabby ~  
 ~ Stevie ~  
 ~ Toban ~

**Thank you !**

*Sylvia Springer & Barbara Johnson  
 Dawn & Garth Jones (In honor of Niki & Bob Pino)  
 Dorie Sparkman  
 Michael and Joan Gariazzo (For Chaz)  
 R. Lee Harvey  
 Darrell Amaral (For Chaz)  
 Pamela Cockrell (In memory of Roxam's Wonderland By Nite)  
 Beverly Hewitt (For Chaz)  
 Cynthia Walker (For Charlie/Chaz)  
 TORGSYN Antique/Estate Jewelry  
 Richard Martin (For Chaz)  
 Nicole Spencer (In memory of Keyko)  
 Ariane and J. Sweeney  
 The Gabel Family (For Rayo)  
 Doug Dziak  
 Jo Ann Dimon  
 Candace & William Christopher  
 Aaron Hoskins (in memory of K.C.)  
 Susan Smith / Anastasia's Arts and Crafts  
 John Reinecker (For Chaz)  
 Elvira Summers  
 Robert Fisher  
 Tracy West (For Chaz)  
 Patricia Etherington  
 Charlene Gischel  
 Tracy West (For Chaz)  
 Lisa Jukes (For Chaz)  
 Catherine Parsons (For Chaz)  
 Jan Pavloski (For Chaz)  
 Robyn Swanson (For Chaz)  
 Jeff Dewey (For Chaz)  
 Marlene Kosinski (For Chaz)  
 John Washington (For Chaz)  
 Kenneth Kurras (For Chaz)  
 Gordon Dreher (For Chaz)  
 Vicki Johnson (For Chaz)  
 Karol Rosengarth (For Chaz)  
 Noelle Elsberry (For Chaz)  
 Linda Wroth (For Chaz)  
 Becky Heath (For Chaz)  
 Semiramis de Miranda (For Chaz)  
 Silvia Gutierrez (For Chaz)  
 Elizabeth Cook (For Chaz)  
 Language Exchange Translation Services  
 Ernie's Lock Co., Inc.  
 John and Joy Stroheker (For Sugar & Spice)  
 Marlene Kosinski  
 Noelle Elsberry  
 Thrive Pilates  
 Lisa Jukes  
 Shelly Keyes  
 Linda Wroth  
 Lynne Wellenstein*

## RAINBOW BRIDGE-      Our deepest condolences to ...



*The Stoll family on the loss of Xena.*

*Xena Inu 04/22/03 - 10/06/13. Warrior Princess.*



*The Hall family on the loss of Indie.*

*"You can now play in the snow everyday & nobody will wipe your feet when you come inside"*



# ARMAC

13238 Kurtz Road  
Woodbridge, VA  
22193-4919

Please mail this subscription request with a check for \$20 made payable to ARMAC:  
13238 Kurtz Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22193-4919

Would you like to receive your newsletter in an email?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

City: \_\_\_\_\_  
States: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Up to 6 issues annually) for \$20/year

**YES! I would like to subscribe to "Uniquely Akita"**



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

MARYLAND DOGFEST, MAR. 8-9TH  
CHARLES CNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
LAPLATA, MD

SUPER PET EXPO, MAR. 21-23RD  
DULLES EXPO CENTER  
CHANTILLY VA

- ARMAC Contacts
- Fuller Lanigan (301) 680-0788  
[fuller@akitarescue.org](mailto:fuller@akitarescue.org)
  - Jodi Marcus (703) 730-0844  
[jodi@akitarescue.org](mailto:jodi@akitarescue.org)
  - Betty McDade (703) 524-9163  
[lisa@akitarescue.org](mailto:lisa@akitarescue.org)
  - Lisa Gray (571) 237-7335  
[lisa@akitarescue.org](mailto:lisa@akitarescue.org)