

Uniquely Akita

Serving the Mid-Atlantic states for nearly 30 years through education, support, and rescuing wonderful Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters.

November/December 2014

**Featured Orphans:
Minnie Mouse & Asami**

Meet two girls looking for their forever homes.

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Featured Orphans: Minnie Mouse & Asami

By Jodi Marcus

Hi! I was the smallest adult taken in by rescue after a large scale backyard breeder was closed down. When the rescue people first came to meet me, I was not so sure about them or about what was going on. But after a short walk outside, I relaxed a bit and passed the "temperament test" with flying colors. I was called a "miniak" for mini-Akita and named Minnie Mouse. Then I was taken to a kennel. Soon they discovered that I was a very nice girl. I could run and play with all the guys, ignore the girls unless they really get in my face, ignore bunnies and kitties. I LOVE people of all ages!



I have been in rescue for almost 10 months now. You see, I am middle aged and so many people want young dogs. But really, I am in my prime. I enjoy playing, but when it is time, I can settle down and just hang out. Although I am having a good time here, I have seen other dogs come and go and wonder when "my" person will come get me. I am waiting patiently for you and have a ton of kisses and love to give to you. Where are you? Are you looking for me? If so, make sure you contact the ARMAC people so we can finally get together!



ARMAC received a phone call from two young women about a stray Akita in Baltimore. The girls were advised to call Animal Control to come get the dog and we would keep an eye on her once she was in the shelter. However, Animal Control said that the dog had to be on leash or confined for them to come out and pick her up. So these two intrepid young ladies followed the stray Akita around Baltimore until they were finally able to get a leash on her and then called Animal Control. Once her stray hold was up, ARMAC took her out.

Formerly known as Dusty, Asami is a pretty 2 year old girl who is a bit shy upon first meeting. She is coming out of her shell under the eye of Stacey and her girls at the kennel. She is a bit leery of men, but okay with them, very self-contained, and likes to scope out situations before proceeding. She has met Minnie Mouse through the fence and displayed no aggression. Asami should soon be ready for her new home. If you would like to be the one to win this girl's heart, contact us!

Congratulations

Our apologies to the Fleddermans for the misprint in the previous newsletter regarding their adoption of Rayo. Congratulations to Nicole Deaver on her adoption of Loki (formerly known as Luke).

Past Events



Home 4 the Holidays in Reston, VA was a lot of fun, especially for ARMAC orphans Beau, Luke, and Aja. The young brothers Beau and Luke tussled together when they weren't vying for attention or trying to get treats while Aja just wanted some loving. Sugar and Spice also made an appearance. We are thankful for our volunteers who helped out that day, especially those who traveled a good distance from Maryland.



Petoberfest in Woodbridge, VA had a great turnout. ARMAC orphans Beau, Luke, Sharkey, and Aja attended the event. Former ARMAC orphan Casey also made an appearance with his mom. Our thanks to the wonderful volunteers who attended and helped make the event a success.

Upcoming Events

We are considering attending several events in the next few months but we will not commit to attending unless we have sufficient volunteers. So everyone please check your calendars and give us a FIRM commitment on the days and hours you can attend.

Please let Jodi and/or Lisa know as soon as possible. The sooner we sign up, the less we have to pay for the booth.

There should be **two people per dog** minimum - one person to hold the dog and the other to help manage people and/or other dogs.



Friday-Sunday, January 23-25, 2015
Maryland State Fairgrounds
Timonium, MD

Volunteers are needed on:

- Friday January 23rd (2pm-8pm)
- Saturday January 24th (10am-7pm)
- Sunday January 25th (10am-6pm)

The Sunday afternoon shift will be longer than 6 pm because we have to breakdown and pack-up the booth. Admission for visitors is \$10/adult and \$5/child ages 5-12.



Saturday, March 14, 2015
DC Armory
Event runs from 10am-6pm

We need volunteers from about 9 am through 7pm to cover set-up, breakdown, and the actual event. There is no admission fee for visitors.

Dog vs. Human Years

It's a commonly held belief that one dog year is the equivalent of seven human years. The origin of this ratio

is unclear, but it definitely isn't accurate.

Dogs tend to age more quickly at the beginning of their lives and slower toward the end, as compared to humans. Smaller dog breeds tend to live longer lives than larger breeds in addition to maturing more quickly.

Find more information, as reported on Yahoo! and Priceonomics: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/no-dog-isnt-equivalent-7-233457570.html>

Happy Endings

By Jodi Marcus

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving we received a phone call from a very concerned adopter, Erika who lives in DC. She had adopted a young dog, an "honorary Akita" from us many years ago. The dog Sadie, now 16 years old, was missing. Being a senior, Sadie had many of the usual "old dog" issues: arthritis, hip problems, and was very thin. Erika had received a call on Tuesday from a young lady, whom we will call Number One. Number One found Sadie wandering around near Erika's home. She and her boyfriend tried to keep Sadie out of traffic and wanted Erika to come home to get her dog. Erika told them she was on the way, but it would take at least 30 minutes. She suggested if they were pressed for time that they could put Sadie in the back yard, where she had access to the house by means of a doggie door. Number One was highly upset at the dog's condition and what she perceived to be Erika's casual attitude. When Erika arrived home there was no one there.

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Happy Endings

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She tried calling the Number One quite a few times, but the phone was never answered. In the meantime, unbeknownst to Erika, Sadie had wandered further, with Number One and her boyfriend following her to keep her out of the street. Neither had a leash to secure her and were a bit reluctant to grab an unknown dog by the collar. Another woman pulled over and said she would go get a leash and some food to entice Sadie. We will call her Number Two. Number Two returned on foot with a leash and food, collected Sadie, and walked off while telling Number One she would take care of the situation.

Erika finally reached Number One, who refused to tell her any information about Number Two. Erika called Animal Control, who sent an investigator. She also called ARMAC, but unfortunately no one was home and the message was not retrieved until Wednesday morning. The ARMAC volunteer immediately called Erika and was filled in on the situation. Hoping that maybe Number One would talk to her, the volunteer called her and left a message saying the owner desperately wanted her dog back. If Number One did not want to return the dog to the owner, she could return the dog to ARMAC to whom she was microchipped. The volunteer also indicated that if there was no cooperation, ARMAC would have no qualms about legally pursuing the matter. Number One did call back in a huff, telling the volunteer about her outrage that the owner had not come

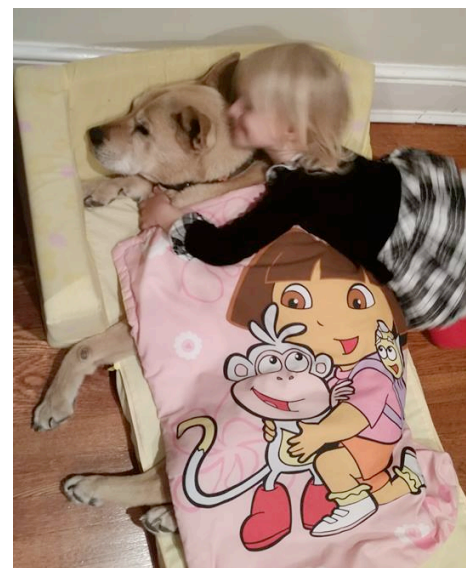
home and suggested leaving the dog in the yard and that the dog was so thin. The volunteer talked with Number One for a while, calmed her, and eventually she gave a good description of the woman who took the dog and of her car but unfortunately no license number. She said she thought Number Two lived in the neighborhood since she walked back with the leash. The volunteer called Erika back with all the info so Erika could pass it on to the authorities. Erika was also advised to call all the vet clinics in DC in case Number Two took the dog to the vet for treatment or euthanasia, and to plaster the neighborhood with lost dog posters. In the meantime, ARMAC posted pictures of Sadie on personal and ARMAC Facebook pages with special attention to DC residents. Many DC adopters put Sadie on their neighborhood list serves. Some volunteers were prepared to go door to door in the neighborhood looking for Sadie.

Wednesday night through Thanksgiving morning there was no word. Then the call came. Apparently Number Two was visiting her boyfriend in Silver Spring, MD with Sadie. He called DC Animal Control to ask about Sadie. Who knows what prompted him to call — conscience, Facebook posts, or something else. The important thing is that he did call. Animal control talked with him, telling him Sadie was considered a stolen dog since her collar had owner info and Number Two had made no attempt to contact the owner. They suggested the best thing for all involved would be to contact the owner and return

Sadie. Erika was contacted and they were thrilled to go and pick up their dog. Soon Sadie was home and being cuddled by her family again. A Happy Thanksgiving indeed! (For those wondering the housekeeper had unwittingly let Sadie out.)

We shared this story to remind you that ARMAC is here to help in any way possible, whether with finding lost dogs, helping with health issues, finding a good trainer or Akita knowledgeable vet. We are your support system for the life of your dog. Between the three cofounders we have over 100 years of combined experience in this breed and 90 years of rescue experience. That is all at your disposal if you need help.

Reminder: If you pick up a stray dog, please take the dog to the local animal shelter instead of driving home and taking it to your local animal shelter. It is a little more difficult to locate the local shelter and drive there, but doing this greatly increases the chances of the dog being reunited with its owner.



Sadie receives a warm welcome home.



Holiday Dangers

By Katie Hoskins

Many pets are curious about decorations or have a desire to nibble on stuff, but their fun with common holiday decorations can quickly turn dangerous. Symptoms range from mild indigestion and discomfort to intestinal puncture to death. Here are the effects of some popular holiday plants and decorations:

Poinsettias: Nausea and vomiting are the most frequent results from ingesting poinsettia leaves, as its sap irritates the tissues of the mouth and esophagus. Poisoning can occur if a large amount of leaves are eaten, but this doesn't often happen.

Holly and Mistletoe: The leaves and berries of these plants, dried or fresh, are more toxic than the poinsettia. Symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling, and/or abdominal pain. Mistletoe is also known for causing a sudden and severe drop in blood pressure, breathing problems, and even hallucinations (unusual behavior). Seizures and death may occur if large amounts are consumed.

Lilies and Daffodils: These beautiful flowers are popular in flower arrangements, but they can be toxic to

pets. In cats, Liliium and Hemerocallis genera lilies are the most dangerous. Eating even a small amount of the plant will have a severe impact on a cat's system, causing severe symptoms such as gastrointestinal issues, arrhythmia, and convulsions. Daffodils are toxic to both dogs and cats, especially the bulbs.

Amaryllis: A very toxic plant that can cause excess salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, abdominal pain, lethargy, and tremors in both cats and dogs. Consumption of the plant's bulb might be more dangerous than the flowers and stalk. Other names for the Amaryllis include Belladonna, Saint Joseph Lily, Cape Belladonna, and Naked Lady.

Christmas Cactus: While not toxic to dogs or cats, this plant can cause irritation to the stomach and intestine, leading to vomiting or diarrhea.

Christmas Tree and Assorted Decorations: The oils produced by fir trees can be irritating to a pet's mouth and stomach, causing excessive vomiting or drooling. Tree needles may also cause vomiting and/or diarrhea, but they can also obstruct or puncture the intestines. A tree's water is a potential source of poisoning, as some trees are treated with chemical

preservatives to keep them fresh longer, which can leach into the water. There is also the potential for bacteria, mold, and fertilizer in tree water.

Tree decorations such as flocking (an imitation snow product) and tinsel can be deadly. Tinsel especially is known for causing intestinal obstruction. Lights may burn your pet, while chewing of an electric cord can cause damage to mouth tissue and lead to long-term problems with eating. Broken ornaments are a potential source for cut paws.

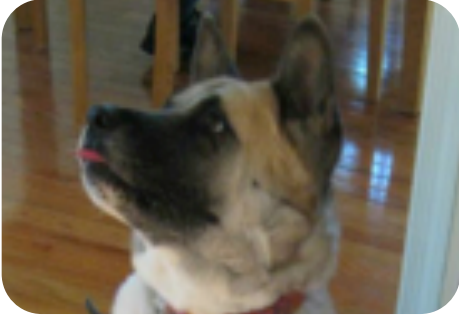
Call your veterinarian or poison control immediately if your dog or cat does manage to ingest any of these plants or decorations. A quick response has the potential to minimize damage. Sources for this article are below:

Holiday Pet Safety Tips: http://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_christmas_safety

Christmas Tree Decorating: http://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_dangerous_winter_decorations

Dangerous Holiday Plants: http://www.petmd.com/dog/seasonal/evr_multi_dangerous_winter_holiday_plants

Available Orphans



AJA: One of two females rescued from a backyard breeder in WV. She is friendly with people, but wary of other dogs at this time. She is also quite petite.



APOLLO: This handsome fellow is eager for attention and loves to go for walks! Apollo is good with children and small dogs.



ASAMI: This long-legged girl is about 2-3 years old and was found as a stray in Baltimore. She might be a bit dog aggressive, but is leash trained. Formerly known as Dusty.



BEAU: A little shy, but also a very inquisitive and adventurous pup. Would probably do best with a female dog companion.

*All I want
for
Christmas is
a forever home*



BELLA: About 5 years old enjoying life in a foster home after living on the streets. She is eager to please and food motivated, which has been helpful during training.



LINCOLN: A "happy go lucky" fellow who LOVES people. He lived with and enjoys children. Lincoln is being evaluated for the possibility of knee surgery.



MINNIE MOUSE: One of two females rescued from a backyard breeder in WV. She is a sweet and mini-sized Akita at 50 pounds.



ZACH: Zach has arthritis in his knees, although it only seems to affect his gait. He is still able to take half mile walks with no ill effects.



Rainbow Bridge

Annie, the Marcus Family



We will miss Annie, our little "Queen Bee" who was a patient foster mom for so many puppies! Rest in Peace, Annie love.

Malachai, the Rozell Family



He's had many great photos, but in this one, he couldn't avoid the camera. While we are sad to have lost Malachi at only five years old [from cancer], we are grateful for the two and a half years that we had with him. Malachi will be missed, not only by us, but by the many neighbors and friends who met him. We wanted to thank ARMAC for giving us such an important part of our family. We will always cherish each moment we had with our sweet Malachi.

Postcards from Home

We can't share videos in our newsletter, but check out our Facebook page for videos of Hinoki loving life in her forever home.

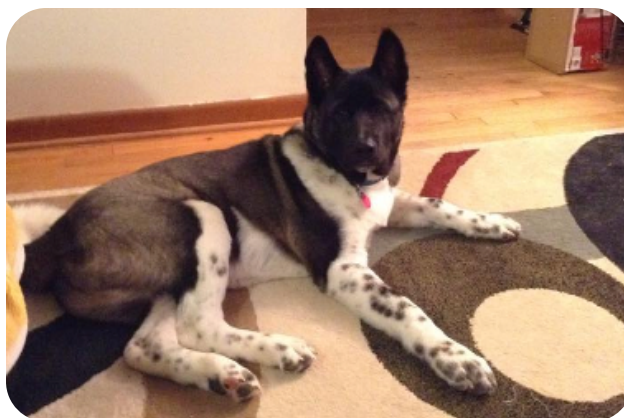
Tango and his Thanksgiving Turkey



Raiden and Ginger



Loki



In Appreciation

Your donations aid the boarding, transportation, registration fees, and medical care (routine and emergency) for all rescued Akitas, along with supporting the continued operations of Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast. A hearty thank you from us all!

Aaron Hoskins
(In memory of K.C.)

Beverly Hewitt

Caralyn Bushey

Danielle Dellinger (Virtual sponsor of Minnie Mouse)

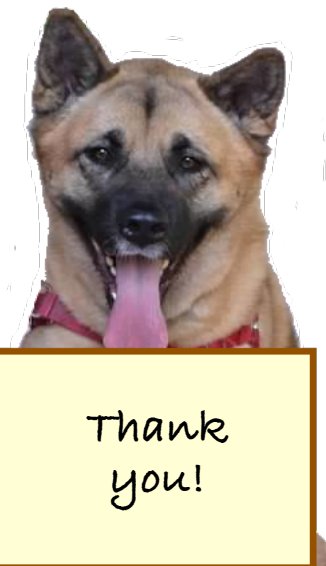
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Developed in Australia, our dog-friendly training techniques leverage the same communications methods — body language and voice control — that dogs follow as part of their instinctual pack mentality. All training takes place in the home. <http://www.barkbusters.com>

Best Behaved Dogs

Best Behaved Dogs LLC provides in-home obedience training and behavior modification to dogs and their families in Fairfax County, Arlington County, Alexandria, South Riding, and Washington, D.C. For more information: <http://www.bestbehaveddogs.com/index.htm>

Interested in becoming a **corporate sponsor**? For more information on the program and to complete an application go to: <http://bit.ly/P0XQhA>

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Please direct any comments, pictures, and/or suggestions regarding *Uniquely Akita* content to: info@akitarescue.org

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Mid-Atlantic

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast (ARMAC)

November/December 2014

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