

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.

May/June 2015

Featured Orphan

Brownie is a 5 y.o., heartworm positive male from rural Kentucky adjusting to life in a foster home.

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Refresh your understanding of heat exhaustion & heat stroke.

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An annual campaign to reduce bite incidences. Top 10 situations to avoid, per AVMA.

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In Appreciation & Postcards from Home

Thank you to our wonderful supporters. Former ARMAC orphans in their forever homes.

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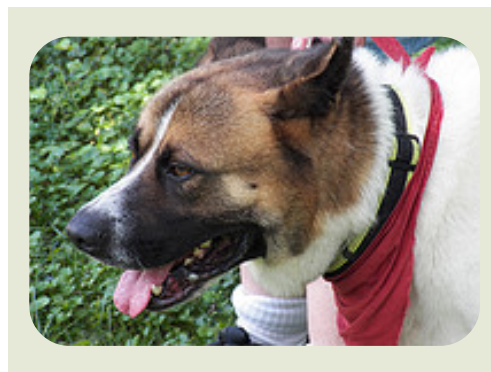


Featured Orphan: Brownie

By Puller Lanigan

Brownie is a 5 year old male Akita who was surrendered with a similar aged male “companion” named Dollar. We will probably never know the true reason these boys were relinquished to a small rural animal shelter in their home state of Kentucky. Purportedly, the female Akita at the house had a history of roaming at large and terminating cats, but no one had ever seen the males loose. It is suspected both males were kept exclusively for breeding. Brownie and Dollar had seen better days as both were thin and dirty, retaining unshed winter coat in summer and poor Brownie's ears were eaten nearly in half by flies.

Strangely, the same day the males were surrendered, an older female Akita was picked up a stray. She, too,



was in poor shape. What were the chances of three Akitas coming in to this small shelter that normally took in Beagles and Hounds? Their chances of adoption in this rural area were slim to non-existent. Fortunately, these three Akitas had some friends in Kentucky who scour the local shelter ads weekly and discovered them. They made arrangements to meet the dogs, take photos, and share the information with the national Akita Rescue network. I think that week there were somewhere in the realm of 15 Akitas

in shelters east of the Mississippi and in Texas. Those were terrible statistics a mere 2 weeks before the 4th of July. And of course all of the shelters were brimming to overflowing with dogs and cats, puppies and kittens as everyone dumped pets before taking off for their vacation.

The three Akitas were pulled from the rural Kentucky shelter and taken to a veterinarian for boarding. Then began the long process of transporting them several hundred miles away to rescue. In the meantime, the dogs finished vaccinations, received worming (all had hooks and whips), baths, and heartworm tests. While Ruby and Dollar were spayed and neutered, Brownie was not, as he tested positive for heartworm. Brownie was sedated and x-rayed to check his lungs and heart to see if he was a candidate at for heartworm treatment.

— Continued on Page 3.

Yearly Warm Weather Caution

By Jodi Marcus

Dogs do not sweat like humans; they have a few sweat glands on their feet and pant to reduce their body temperature, which means it is much easier for them to suffer heat exhaustion or heat stroke than humans. The more humid it is, the less your dog is able to cool himself and more likely to suffer from a heat related illness. Our Akitas have heavy double coats, even in the summer, which can also increase the chances of heat problems.

The best time to walk your dog is in the early morning or late evening. Once higher temperatures become constant, the longest walk should be done in the early morning, as the air and ground are at their coolest. The hours between 10 am and 3 pm are when the sun is at its most intense and should be avoided as much as possible. The earth absorbs the sun's heat and then reflects it back up, which means if it is 80 degrees at your head, it could be 100 degrees at your feet. Avoid asphalt as much as possible; its dark color absorbs much more heat than cement or grass. Dark colored dogs overheat more quickly than light colored ones; they absorb more heat because of their color.

Familiarize yourself with the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Below are two websites with excellent information about heat exhaustion and heat stroke, both of which are medical emergencies. We strongly recommend you keep the information in a readily accessible place, such as your refrigerator. We also included a place to write down your primary and emergency vet phone numbers.

**http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/cardiovascular/c_dg_heat_stroke

**<http://www.today.colostate.edu/story.aspx?id=8872>

— Continued on Page 3.

Signs of Heat Exhaustion

Heavy panting

Huffing and puffing or gasping for air

Begins to weave when walking due to dizziness

Lies down or collapses and cannot get up

Becomes unconscious

Mentally dazed

Vomiting

Muscle cramps (seizure-like tremors)

Abnormally rapid heartbeat and rapid breathing

Muscle weakness

Primary Vet #: _____

Emergency Vet #: _____

Signs of Heat Stroke

Rapid or erratic heartbeat/pulse

Rapid breathing, or struggling for breath

Exaggerated, loud, increased, heaving, irregular panting, or the sudden stopping of panting

Very high body temperature (normal is 100°F to 102.5°F)

Excessive drooling, or frothing at the mouth

Dark red gums or vomiting

Barking or whining

Anxious, vacant, or staring expression

Dizziness or confusion

Listlessness, weakness, or incoordination (stumbling and/or trouble standing or walking)

Shaking or seizures

Collapse or unconsciousness

Yearly Warm Weather Caution (Continued)

Never leave your dog unattended in the car. Like dark dogs, dark cars heat up more quickly than light colored ones. The metal beds of pick-up trucks heat up rapidly, especially if they have a black liner or covering. Pick-up trucks with cabs are not much better unless the covered part is air-conditioned. A crate or other transport type box in the pick-up bed does not really provide any relief from the heat. Look at the chart below to see just how quickly the temperature rises in a vehicle. After 10 minutes at a 70 degree external temperature, a car's internal temperature is almost 90 degrees, which is way too warm for your dog!

Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Chart source: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/pets-in-vehicles.aspx>

Leaving the window(s) open does not help reduce the car's internal temperature. Veterinarian Ernie Ward published a video in July 2012 of an experiment where he sat in his vehicle for 30 minutes with all four windows cracked one inch. The SUV's internal temperature reached 106 degrees in 10 minutes. Even though there was a breeze, Dr. Ward described the inside of the car as "oppressive;" he could not feel the breeze that was outside. He was visibly drenched in sweat. While humans can perspire in an effort to reduce their body temperature, dogs do not have that ability. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/JbOcCQ-y3OY>.

Featured Orphan: Brownie (Continued)

Transportation for Brownie and Ruby required getting to Nashville, TN, which was three hours away. We are extremely grateful to the Kentucky Team - Cynthia, Dee, and former ARMAC adopter Kelly (and anyone I may have overlooked) for all of their assistance with these guys. We were told Brownie wagged his tail furiously when he saw Ruby, which leads us to believe they knew each other, but this was their final goodbye. They boarded transport and a day later Brownie arrived in Hagerstown, MD and that evening, Ruby arrived in New Jersey.

While treated well, Brownie was happy to be off transport. He rode nearly the entire way to his foster standing up. About 15 minutes from arriving in Rockville, he finally lay down, exhausted. He was totally confused about the transfer, but was a complete (if not reticent) gentleman when he met his foster family, Bill and Lynne. I think he was thrilled to be able to crash in air conditioning and inside a home.

Steadily, Brownie has been coming out of his shell. According to his foster, he now comes when called (previously, he removed himself from the room) and will sit for having a lead put on for a walk. He was extremely curious about his new environment, but something kept him hiding or keeping a low profile and he was more comfortable being within earshot, but not seen. He flinched as if he was hit or beaten when you reached for him. I believe this is subsiding. He ran if you rushed towards him or reached too quickly for his collar. His last life was not good prior to coming to rescue, but I think he must have known a good life at some time. When I had to depart to return home, I called out, "Goodbye Brownie, I will see you soon." And he got up and came to peek around the corner into the kitchen to let me know, he heard me.

Note: Brownie's heartworm treatment has been quoted at \$1,300. We are actively seeking donations for his treatment in 30 days. His recent bill for bloodwork and exam and heartworm tabs for pre-treatment was \$400. This should be a good reminder to anyone to keep your dog on heartworm preventative year round in this area.

National Dog Bite Prevention Week

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) helps sponsor National Dog Bite Prevention Week every third week in May. This year, the awareness and prevention campaign took place May 17-23. Their slogan is “70 million nice dogs ... but any dog can bite.” The AVMA reports that roughly 4.5 million people are bit each year, children being the most commonly bitten, followed by senior citizens. About 1 in 5 of those bitten require medical attention. Most children are bitten during everyday activities and while interacting with familiar dogs.

There are a variety of preventative measures you can take in order to avoid dog bites, ranging from properly training and socializing your pet to educating your children on how (or if) they should approach a dog. A 2013 peer-reviewed journal article examined 256 human dog bite-related fatalities from 2000-2009. Their study found seven major co-occurring factors, of which breed was not one. Four or more of these factors co-occurred in 4 out of 5 deaths:

- Absence of an able-bodied person to intervene (occurred in 87.1% of cases)
- Incidental or no relationship between victim and dog (85.2%)
- Owner failure to neuter dogs (84.4%)
- Compromised ability of victims to interact appropriately with dogs (victims were either <5 years old or had a limited physical or mental capacity) (77.4%)
- Dogs kept isolated from regular positive human interactions vs family dogs (76.2%)
- Owner’s prior mismanagement of dogs (37.5%)
- Owner’s history of abuse or neglect of dogs (21.1%)

Basically, we can avoid many incidents by spaying/neutering our dogs, always monitoring dog-human interactions, teaching children how to interact with dogs, and observing dogs’ body language. Here are the “top 10 scenarios” the AVMA says to avoid (not listed in any particular order):

- If the dog is not with its owner.
- If the dog is with its owner but the owner does not give permission to pet the dog.
- If the dog is on the other side of a fence, don’t reach through or over a fence to pet the dog.
- If a dog is sleeping or eating.
- If a dog is sick or injured.
- If a dog is resting with her puppies or seems very protective of her puppies and anxious about your presence.
- If a dog is playing with a toy.
- If the dog is a service dog. Service dogs are working animals and shouldn’t be distracted while they are doing their jobs.
- If the dog is growling or barking.
- If the dog appears to be hiding or seeking time alone in its special place.

The next page includes an excellent infographic demonstrating both appropriate and inappropriate ways to greet dogs.

Sources: <https://www.avma.org/public/Pages/Dog-Bite-Prevention.aspx>
<http://imnotamonster.org/any-dog-can-bite/>
<https://www.avma.org/public/Pages/Top-ten-scenarios-to-avoid.aspx>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lilita/5752353881/sizes/o/in/photostream/> (infographic)

HOW TO GREET A DOG (AND WHAT TO AVOID)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Human to Human INCORRECT



Avoid reaching into their safety zone.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interactions without asking.



Avoid staring at people. This is scary.



Avoid looming over.



Avoid reaching into personal space.



Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.



Avoid touching inappropriately.

Human to Dog INCORRECT



Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.



Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.



Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.



Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.



Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.



Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.

Human to Dog CORRECT



Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.



Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).



Ask if you can interact first.



Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.



Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.



Let the dog approach at his own rate.



It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.



Pet gently.



ASAMI: This long-legged girl is about 2-3 years old. She is sweet, affectionate, and fairly energetic. She can also be a bit skittish.

Available



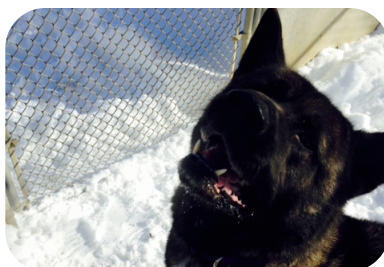
Orphans



BELLA/MOSHI: About 5 years old enjoying life in a foster home after living on the streets. She is eager to please and food motivated.



CHASE: 5 years young and just started heartworm treatment. His foster home is working on his generalized and separation anxiety issues.



NAOKI: A big, friendly boy who loves going for car rides. Came from a home with other dogs and is leash trained.



ZENZIBAR: Renamed to Zenzibar because there is a bit of spice in this older gent of about 7 years. Knows general commands and LOVES people.

We Need You!

ARMAC is an all volunteer organization. Like you, we have jobs, families and other responsibilities. Therefore, we are always in need of additional "man power", especially in the following areas:

- Foster an orphan
- Conduct house checks and interviews with prospective adopters
- Evaluate dogs at shelters
- Assist with transport
- Help with mailings
- Photograph available dogs for the web site
- Assistance with website updates/maintenance
- New artwork for ARMAC merchandise

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact Lisa or Jodi. If you would like to contribute your own artwork, please e-mail info@akitarescue.org.



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!

Becky Heath

Morgan Stanley

Cristina Cea

Nicole Deaver

Greater Baltimore Akita Club

Rebecca Manners

Judy and Roger Pudwill (on

Sue Gensel

the occasion of Rosie's 5th
birthday)

V. Glynn

Yevgeny Lapin (in honor of Raiden & Ginger)

Keith Venezia (for Brownie,
in loving memory of Zac)

Kenny Low

Marilyn Eisenberg



Postcards from Home



Aja

"She's so at home now [and] she has [her daddy] twisted around her paws. She makes him walk her 10 times a day, unless the A/C is on then and then she's lying near it."



Senna & Niko

"He is doing awesome. Him and Senna have bonded quite well already (see the attached pictures). He has really become part of the family."

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We want to hear from you!



Please direct any comments, pictures, and/or suggestions regarding *Uniquely Akita* content to:

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May/June 2015

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