

UNIQUELY AKITA

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast Inc. (ARMAC)

Mar-Nov 2016



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ARMAC NEWS

By Puller Lanigan

This is our "catch up" issue. Now that Deb Good has volunteered to do the newsletter, we will hopefully be getting them out on a regular basis again.

I'd like to apologize for the delay in the newsletter. Our previous newsletter editor, Katie Hoskins, did a fabulous job but once she started furthering her education found her time limited and was unable to continue. Lisa Gray then stepped up in an attempt to finish the newsletter, however, she found herself unable to commit the necessary time. Lisa wears many "hats" for ARMAC, including treasurer, volunteer and events coordinator. Expecting her to take-on further responsibilities was simply unfair. I then stepped forward to try and finish it. Unfortunately, I proved to be technologically challenged and was unable to finish the newsletter either. Deb Good has stepped up and completed this long overdue edition. Thanks Deb!

Needless to say, ARMAC has been super busy these past several months. We took in a monumental amount of dogs. We had several people step forward as new foster homes; Facebook is serving us well. We still however don't have enough fulltime foster homes for all the Akitas in need. Therefore, we had to board seven more Akitas, causing our boarding bill to jump to nearly \$2,100 a month.

On the face, rescue seems pretty straight forward, we rescue dogs and we find them homes. But, what isn't so clear is all the behind the scenes work that occurs with shelters, other rescues, transporters and evaluators. Many times evaluations have to be done during the week, especially if shelters are short on room. If an experienced evaluator is not available, then Jodi or I must make arrangements to go meet the dog. Having dogs transported can be a long and complicated issue at times. In the last few months Charlie, Jodi's husband, had to drive nearly 22 hours to save Akitas at risk of euthanasia. Add to that all the trips to and from vet offices. Just recently we had two Akitas that required surgery (Trooper and Balto). Transporting them to/from orthopedic evaluations, surgeries, several trips for rehabilitation, and post surgical follow-ups, were quite burdensome. We were so fortunate that the Renegar's offered to foster Trooper. So Jodi only had to deal with all the travel for Balto. Even after all the surgical appointments, the chaos continued. Balto required crating (something that he was not accustomed to) and being leash walked 5-6 times a day, a requirement necessary for the healing process. In addition to caring for Balto's special needs, Jodi had to care for other fosters in her care, her own dogs, conducting rescue business such as, application processing, answering phone calls and conducting most of the home visits. . . So as you can see, there is much more to rescue than just rescue and place.

We're critically short staffed and need many, many more volunteers, especially in the areas of social media, website management, marketing, volunteer coordination, transporting and publication. Some unpaid volunteer gave of their time to help save your rescued Akita, please pay it forward. Please give of your time and talents. We need YOU!

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

HEALTH NEWS

SA and VKH Genetic Study

There is study to try to find a genetic marker for Sebaceous Adenitis (SA) and VKH. If you have an affected dog and have its pedigree, PLEASE participate in this study. It will help our breed and maybe help stop these genetic conditions in our breed.

Saija's contact information is saija.r.tenhunen@gmail.com. For affected Akitas of any type, Saija needs at least the vet diagnosis and either a pedigree (or link to one) or a photo. She'll log those and then contact VGL to assign a code for a free test to that person. Once VGL emails the code to the owner or rescue, then that person can fill out the form online, using the code, and VGL will mail the swabs. They can go back in an ordinary business envelope.

SA ~ Making a Difference for Mira

By Niki and Bob Pino (edited for content by Lisa Gray)

Mira, 4 year old white Akita. Came down with unidentified symptoms in March 2011. After a lot of vet visits and a biopsy to rule out other auto immune diseases, in addition to drugs, sulfur dips, trial and error with no improvement.. here is what made a difference:

1. START WITH THE Dog food- Taste of the wild- Wild Salmon flavor - then add 2-3 TBL of Salmon Oil per meal, 1 vitamin E tablet and 1 scoop of Nupro in the am. I feed twice a day so she was getting about 6 TBL of the salmon oil.
2. Pharmaseb, an Anti fungal Shampoo- At least 1 time a week.
3. Jojoba Oil Rub- 2 times daily. ALL OVER. Esp. in affected areas. You may want to crate your dog after this. The oil will stick to your carpets and that will collect dirt. Believe me! The oil will begin to loosen dark scabs in time and with a lot of patience - you slowly peel away to new skin. Hair will start growing soon after.
4. Benadryl 1 daily at night. Mira needed it for 2 months then I reduced to every other day until a few weeks ago she's is now off of it.

Currently we have cut back on the salmon oil and I've replaced with olive oil, and it seems to be fine and a little cheaper. I stopped the Benadryl once healthy skin was exposed and new hair growth began. She still gets oil rubbed on her nose once a day.

ABOUT ARMAC

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. has been serving the eastern seaboard for over 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



Like us... www.facebook.com/AkitaRescueMidAtlantic

WE'VE BEEN BUSY IN 2016!

Dogs Welcomed to ARMAC since February/March

Bruno & Eva were seized during a cruelty case by local Animal Control. A total of four Akitas were removed. One was returned to the owner, one was adopted from the facility and ARMAC took 'Bonnie & Clyde'. Eva found her forever home with the Robinson family and is happily being spoiled!! Bruno, a 3 yr old male, will probably prefer to be the only dog in a home with no other animals.

Cosmo was a 9 month old male who was turned over to a shelter by his owners., who contacted us when Cosmo was 4 months old. We spoke with them at that time, offered advice and assistance but never heard back. Cosmo is a big energetic young guy!! He found is his home with the Cherneski family, who are one of our early adopters. They were happy to be in a position to adopt from us again.

Jack & Dakota are "Huskita" (Husky/Akita mix) brothers, they were surrendered, in bad shape, to a local animal shelter 4 years ago by their breeder. ARMAC was contacted to see if we could take the two, but we were full at the time. They were adopted and lovingly cared for four years. Unfortunately, their owner, a gov't contractor, was called overseas, and so he dutifully returned the 'Blues Brothers' (relating to their gorgeous blue eyes) to the shelter. We hope to get them into their forever home(s) soon.

Mikono is an elderly stray who found himself at a local shelter. He was fortunate to go directly into foster care with Christopher and Anthony Pino, who are a second generation foster home!!! Mikono was so nice that they fell in love and adopted him. The best kind of "foster failure"!

Simba now Cosmo was part of a litter of Akita puppies who were whelped at a shelter. Their dam was surrendered after a near fatal altercation with another dog (she lost a leg in the attack). BEAR was initially contacted, and in turn put out the word for puppy homes/fosters. Unfortunately, several of the puppies turned out to have heart defects. One of those was Simba/Cosmo. Despite knowing he may not live out a full lifespan, previous ARMAC adopters Jenn and Bill Stabley decided to keep Cosmo/Simba for as long as he lives. Kudos to them!! Living with a dog with these issues can be heartbreaking, but so very rewarding!

Mufasa now Mojo was a long-coated puppy in the same litter as Simba/Cosmo. We had a previous adopter waiting for quite a while for a long coated male puppy and he was thrilled to adopt Mojo!!

Thor was a 1 year old male surrendered by his owner to a shelter. Thor was discovered to have serious aggression issues after getting in to foster care. For the safety of all, he was euthanized.

Sakura is 1 year female, who was found as a stray by local animal control. This bouncing golden bundle is still looking for her forever home. She is very sweet but has a ton of energy and will need training.

Aoki now Trixie is a 6 month old stray from Atlanta Ga. She was running at large with a male companion who was rescued by ARSF. A little shy when she first meets people, she is a very sweet little girl. Trixie was adopted by the Rowe family. She now lives with her feline companion in perfect harmony.

Missy I is a 2 year old female who was a stray in Durham, NC. She impressed everyone at the shelter with her friendly, outgoing personality. She was adopted by the Rogodzinski family who are thrilled to have her.

Balto is a 14 month old male who came to ARMAC from a local vet after his owners were unable or unwilling to pay for knee surgery for Balto and gave permission for Balto to be euthanized. The clinic staff all loved Balto and could not bear the idea that this 14 month male would die. He is $\frac{3}{4}$ through his post surgery recovery period and doing well. Once he is fully recovered, he will be immersed in obedience boot camp and made available for adoption. Despite his great personality, he will need someone with a good deal of Akita experience to be his owner.

August Sophie is a 5 year old female. She was given up by her owner because he could no longer take care of her. She was adopted by the Torres-Herrera family.

Bono, was a very old (possibly 12-13 yrs) male who was found abandoned. The good samaritans that found Bono too him to a vet. The clinic staff were so impressed by his good nature they put out a call for help on social media. One of our foster families, Barbara Renegar, saw him and offered to foster him. Bono loved having people come visit him, showed a very playful side, and endeared himself to everyone who met him. Barbara only had him for 3 months when Bono passed away.

Brownie, a 5-6 year old male, was returned to ARMAC. He is a bit fearful around strangers, but does very well once he gets to know someone. Brownie would do best in a home with a regular routine and people he knows and loves.

Yoko Ono is a 7 month old female who was surrendered to ARMAC after her owner decided that an Akita was not the right breed for him. Yoko Ono has attended several adoption events and was a hit at every one! She has several adoption applications pending at this time.

Titan aka Tito aka Titus. (6 months) arrived in ARMAC at the tender age of 9 weeks. He was rescued from an Amish breeder by a good Ssmaritan. Titan had heat burns down his back and needed immediate medical attention. He was adopted by Anthony and Sonya Williams, the family who adopted Zady in 2015. Zady also had chemical burns on her back.

Continued on Page 4

WE'VE BEEN BUSY CONT.

Continued from Page 3

Hank is a 6 month old male. He, and the rest of his litter, were taken off the auction block by Zak's Mission, an organization dedicated to taking Akitas out of puppy mills. BEAR took in some of the puppies and ARMAC agreed to take two. Hank is a handsome, laid back guy who has a sly sense of humor. He has several adoption applications on him.

Ryan is Hank's brother. He is more energetic than Hank and will probably be best in a home with another dog. He has the most interesting markings: white face, light red skullcap and occasional light red spots on his body.

Munches, Roses and Champ ARMAC received a call from a concerned neighbor about a backyard breeder who lived next door. He had a mom dog (Munches) who was about 4 years old and a returned female puppy, (Roses) in his yard. The neighbor had been feeding them both for several months because they were so skinny. ARMAC agreed to take Roses and ended up taking not only both girls, but Roses littermate, Champ also. (story to come). They are all very sweet dogs who need their forever home.

Hanabi is a 7 month old male. He found himself at the shelter after his owners moved and could not take him. Hanabi was adopted by Dakota's mom and dad, they simply fell in love with him!

WE FOUND OUR FOREVER HOMES!

The following Akitas were adopted within the past several months. Congratulations!

Lula, joined former ARMAC alumni, Chazzie.

Asami, our shy Baltimore girl found her forever home with the Good family. You may have caught some of the Facebook videos of her playing with the foster home resident Trey, a 3-legged Akita. Not only was Asami adopted, but she got her very own 'Trey' in the form of 'Trooper'!!!!

Bear/Teddy Bear, went to be fostered by a Elizabeth Larson, a previous adopter. He blended so seamlessly into her household full of felines that Elizabeth simply couldn't part with him.

Cosmo, adopted by the Cherneski family.

Dakota, who was with us way too long, found his forever home with previous ARMAC adopters Chuck and Lauri Wright!!! We couldn't be happier and neither can Dakota

Echo, the Russo family fell in love with him and he is living the 'high life' with his new sister, Sachi.

Trooper aka Miashi, see above

Simba now Cosmo see above

Mufasa now Mojo see above

Mikomi,

Eva, see above

Missy, see above.

Trixie/Aoki, see above

Rokuku now Hoku, went to live with previous adopters, Matthew and Stefanie Davis.

August Sophie, see above

Soba, Hinoki's mom and dad came out to meet him. You can see pix and video of them on our facebook page. They did very well together and he joined their family.

Gin, went to live with ARMAC co-founder, Betty McDade.

Titan, went to live with ARMAC Alumna, Zady/Sherry

Sakura, went to live with the Lautieri-Parkhurst family, first time Akita owners.

Hanabi, went to live with Chuck and Laurie Wright and ARMAC alumna, Dakota.



Did you know... in Japan, the highest reverence is given to all white Akitas.

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Volunteering is the #1 way you can give back to ARMAC! Do you have a few hours of time on a weekend that you volunteer at an event? Follow our event schedule on our website or use our **Signup** page, <http://signup.com/go/DPDxMB>.

Do you have special talents that could help ARMAC? We all have talents, some are natural and others are acquired. Regardless, I'm sure that we could put your talents to work for the good of the Akitas. Please contact Lisa or Jodi to discuss the many areas that ARMAC needs.

Visit our **PoundWishes** link, <https://poundwishes.com/wishes> and help fund some of the critical medical expenses we need covered. ARMAC will create a PoundWish campaign for an urgent medical need. Then you and the Poundwishes community of pet lovers respond with a donation or by sharing the PoundWish with your connections.



Animal Rescue Aid offers quality pet beds, directly from the manufacturer – and makes them available to shelters and rescue groups **AT COST!**

All shipping costs are covered. Our Akitas in boarding could use these beds.

Support us when you shop this holiday

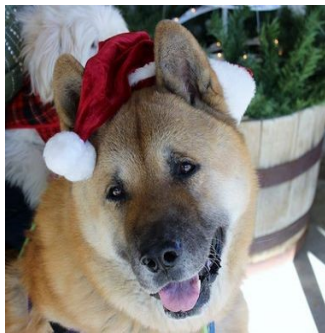
Amazon donates when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

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Don't forget to use **Amazon Smile** for all your shopping! Amazon Smile lets you select ARMAC to support with every purchase you make. Amazon donates 0.5% of the your total purchase price to ARMAC. But you must shop using <http://amazonsmile.com>.

Substitute your own gift for a donation. When someone asks what they can buy you this year, request that they instead make a donation to ARMAC in your honor.



Participate in the **Santa Paws** program through Akita Planet. Around the Holidays, Akita Rescue organizations like ARMAC send Akita Planet the names and pictures of needy Akitas in their care which are published on the Akita Planet Facebook page. Readers select which dog (s) they want to sponsor, and then send gift packages and/or funds for the dogs they select. It's fun for "adopters" to choose a dog and create boxes of toys, treats, food, etc., and it's fun for the rescue workers and dogs to receive the surprise gifts from "Santa"! Last year more than 70 dogs throughout the United States

and Great Britain were helped via our Santa Paws program.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR US!



Obedience Training

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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

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Country Critters
Millersville (410) 787-9592

Stacy King
Myersville (301) 293-1737

Virginia

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

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.

Champ



14-18 month old altered male, very sweet. He is currently at a kennel. Travels well in a car. **Foster home needed.**

Jack & Dakota



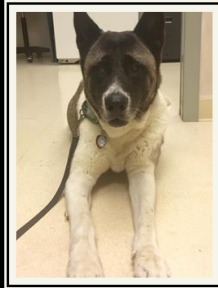
6 year old Huskita brothers. Altered. Adult home, no other pets. These guys are wonderful and affectionate with people. Need some leash work. Were house pets for three years before owner was deployed

Bruno



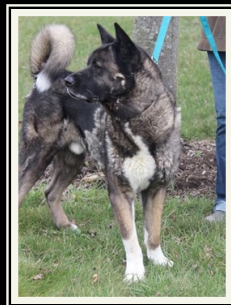
4 year old altered male, came in with a female Akita. Adult home only as we have no idea how he is with children. NO CATS. May be able to live with a female dog.

Ladybug



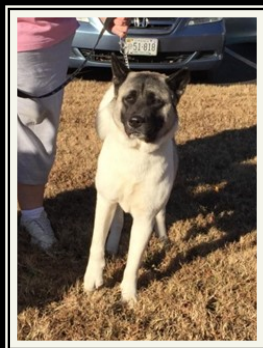
4 year old spayed female. Very sweet. She is currently at a boarding kennel. Needs a foster home.

Naoki



5 year old altered male. Adult only home with another dog. Naoki suffers separation anxiety and may need a dog run for when no one is at home.

Roses



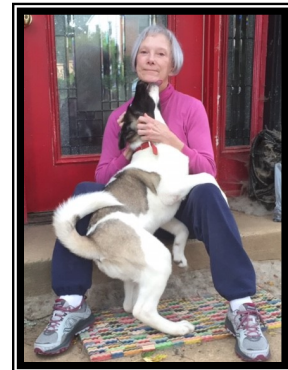
14-18 month old spayed female. Very sweet and soft natured. Travels well in a car. More info. to come.

Snowbelle



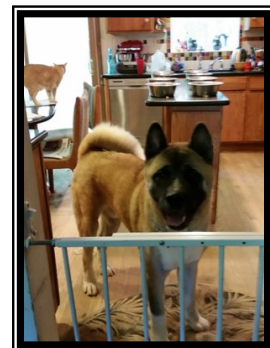
4 -5 year old spayed female. Adult home only, no other pets. Large dog experience required. Snowbell is a real charmer, but has a very strong personality. Unable to be crated.

Yoko Ono



Est. age 7 months. Spayed female. Yoko is a very sweet girl. She is extremely food motivated and should train easily. She has many adoption applications on her.

Balto



18 month old altered male. Experienced Akita home required. He had surgery for an ACL injury as well as patella correction and meniscus repair.

POSTCARDS FROM HOME



~ Ree & Skye ~

Not surprisingly, this latest issue of Uniquely Akita had me in tears again with your story and tribute to Gemma. I think I told you one other time that in just about every issue there is a story that makes me tear up. I am probably not the only one but you have to quit doing that to me.

You can see that Ree's face is still almost all black except for right under her chin and above her top lip while Skye is getting pretty grizzled. She will be 10 next month and he will be 9. Hard to be-

lieve. They are both on anti-inflammatory meds since all of a sudden a couple months ago Ree was having a very difficult time getting up off the floor and the meds were recommended after a vet visit for her. They both take Cosequin DS with MSN and she also takes Quellin, Pet Meds product and she is much better. She is still a little punk and very independent and controlling but I love all of that and have her figured out. She is so much fun and I laugh at her all of the time and tell her how cute she is.

I think of you off and on and am always glad to receive the little publication. Love to you, my little friend. Beverly

RAINBOW BRIDGE - Our deepest condolences to...



Beloved Suiki, left for the Bridge January 2016. Loved and missed by Lazlo and Jane Britt Vasahelyi



Baka crossed over the bridge Oct. 2015. Loved by all that met him. Run free dear Baka! Loved and missed, Jesse Malpass



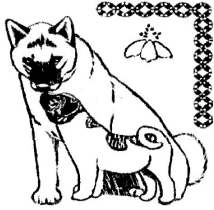
Run free Oso, dear friend, until we meet again. Owned and loved by the Larson family



Saber crossed the bridge January 5, 2016 at the age of 13. Loved and dearly missed by Jacquelyn and Shawn Conrad

Thank you for your donations!!

Valerie Aaron
 Anonymous (in honor of Maki)
 Mary Becka (In memory of Robert Smith, "Bear & King")
 Walter and Mary Belchick
 Terry Boone
 Lisa Boren
 Cozanne Brent
 Debra Brown (In memory of the love of my life, Meadow)
 Pasquale Carlucci (In memory of "Sasha" Ashworth)
 Scott Carter
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 Keith Venezia (In memory of Nakodo's Deja Vu, "Apple", owned by Judith Kelly John Washington and Melissa Low (in honor of Zen and Lucy)
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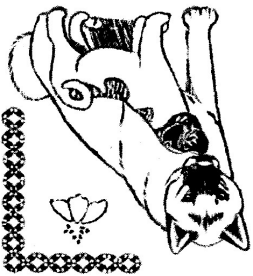
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YES! I would like to subscribe to "Uniquely Akita"



UPCOMING EVENTS:
MARCH 17-19, 2017 SUPER PET EXPO
CHANTILLY, VA

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lisa@akitarescue.org
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lisa@akitarescue.org