

UNIQUELY AKITA

Serving the Mid-Atlantic states since 1984 through education, support, and rescuing wonderful Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters.



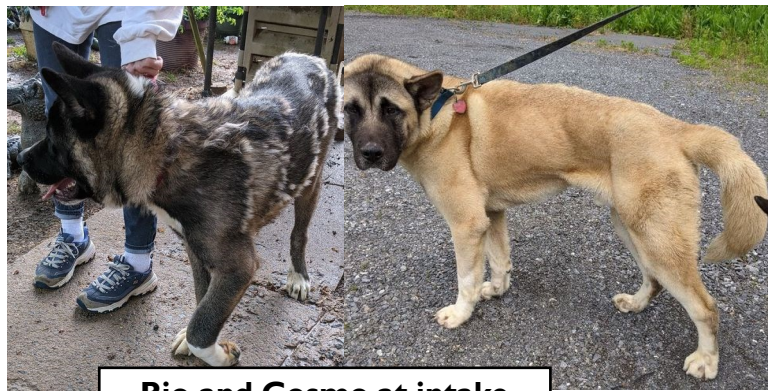
Summer 2021

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Featured Orphans: Rio and Cosmo

By Jodi Marcus



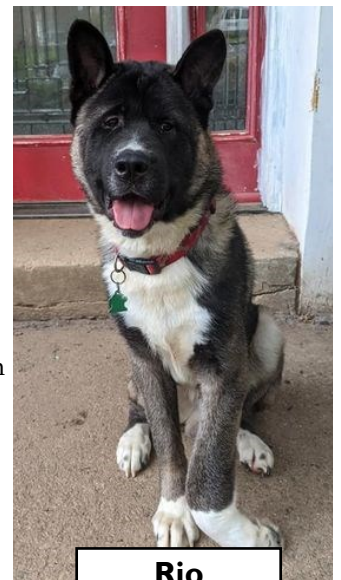
Rio and Cosmo at intake

The story starts several months ago with an email from Katherine who had adopted Coco earlier this year. She had overheard a conversation at work about an Akita puppy needing a home. She took the lady's phone number and emailed me. I called the woman. She did not have a

puppy, but had found one and traced the owner through the tags. When the owner came to pick up the puppy, he mentioned he had another male Akita and was looking to re-home both because his girlfriend was pregnant, and they needed to move to a larger place. The lady gave me the owner's number. I called and left a message offering assistance with placing their dogs. I didn't hear back.

Fast forward to May 21 when the owner called saying they were moving, and the dogs had to go by the middle of the next week. I called Lori and asked if she could go meet and evaluate them. She made an appointment for Saturday. After meeting them, she said they were really nice dogs. I called Stacy and made arrangements to board them. Lori called the owner and made arrangements to pick them up and bring them to me. Charlie and I would then take them to Stacy's. When Lori arrived to pick them up on Wednesday, May 26, the youngest puppy's paw was wrapped in a towel tied up by ribbon. He was not putting weight on it. The owners claimed he had been injured at the park the day before when several other dogs attacked him. He had not yet seen a vet. Lori asked if we still wanted to take them. I said of course. I immediately called my vet and explained the situation. Bless them, they said to just bring him in when he arrived. Lori packed them up and while en route, her truck broke down. She called her husband who picked up her and the pups and brought them to me. Koko and Ryu, now Cosmo and Rio, were very, very thin. Lori had unwrapped Rio's paw. It was pretty swollen and looked to be broken. However, there were no puncture wounds or signs that he had been attacked by dogs.

Charlie and I loaded them up and went to the vet. X-rays showed an old, untreated break. Lori said Rio was putting weight on it and walking normally on Saturday. Perhaps



Rio

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Don't forget to use **Amazon Smile** for all your shopping! Select ARMAC as your charity to have Amazon donate 0.5% of the your total purchase price to ARMAC. You must shop using

<http://amazonsmile.com>

Additional Orphans

Rebel



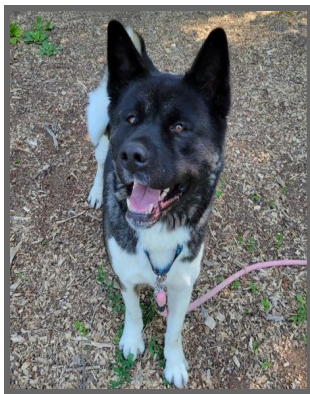
Two and a half year old male. He is a cute, stocky guy, and a favorite at the kennel. He has been an outdoor dog all his life, so will need introduction to an indoor environment (ceiling fans, etc). He loves coming in at night and crates well.

Bear



Bear is a nine month old male. Although Bear is a very nice guy, he is a big, untrained, energetic teenager testing his limits. He loves people, and is a really good looking boy. We are just getting to know him. Experience with the breed is preferred.

Gloria



Four year old female. Turned over to shelter by owner for fence fighting with the neighbor's dog. Ignored other dogs at the shelter and passed her food aggression test. She was a staff favorite at the shelter, spending time in their offices. She rides well in a car. Our kennel owner loves her and says she is very sweet and easy to care for. She exhibited no aggression toward other dogs at the kennel so far.

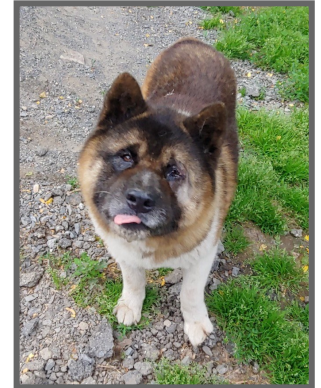
Nori

Nori is a two year old female. She is typical Akita, aloof initially, but warms up. She lived in a house prior to being turned over to the shelter. Stay tuned for more information as we get to know her better..



Duke

Duke, formerly Klondike, is a very sweet eight year old male. The transporter fell in love with him. He will be available after completing his evaluation period and recovering from eye surgery and neutering.



Foster Failure!

Hachi and Kuma are staying with Tom and Annette Wilson



Rainbow Bridge

Hinoki

Our condolences to the Dahmers on the loss of Hinoki



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!!!

Ever thought of fostering? If you can find it in your heart, we urge you to complete the paperwork now. For more information, please visit: www.AkitaRescue.org

Volunteer Needs

By Jodi Marcus

Thank you to everyone who has reached out and offered to help ARMAC. We are grateful for the staunch support we receive from our adopters, donors, volunteers, and business partners. Many have asked what they can do to help, so I will be specific about our needs.

1. **Foster Homes** – We currently have **only one** foster home. This means we are boarding most of the dogs who come to us. Second to medical expenses, boarding is our biggest expense. For many of the dogs, we prefer that foster homes have Akita experience. Foster homes are in some ways more important than adopters. What makes a successful foster home? Communication is very important during the fostering process to keep us informed of any potential issues whether behavioral or medical. Training is another critical part of fostering. Taking the foster Akita through obedience (ARMAC pays), along with teaching the foster “house manners”, and smoothing out any “rough edges” makes for a quicker, more successful transition into an adoptive home.

For each Akita that is adopted, there is that someone behind-the-scenes, who put tons of their time, effort, patience, and love into helping a rescued Akita reach his full potential. For those of you that have adopted in the past, remember, someone had to pick up and transport, foster or board, see to the physical and emotional needs of the Akita you once adopted. Be that someone in whatever way you can. Foster families are the unsung heroes of every animal rescue.

Fostering is a bittersweet job. While you are sad to see each foster go, you are overjoyed that they found their forever homes. Each successful adoption that a foster home has is the opportunity to save another Akita. Because, sadly, there will always be another Akita waiting in the wings. Fosters are the lifeblood of a rescue, and literally the orphan’s saving grace.

2. **Event & Volunteer Coordinator** – This volunteer will help with event planning, preparation, and volunteer coordination. We attend about a half dozen adoption events a year including a couple multi-day events. The planning, volunteer organizing, and successful execution at these events is important to our mission of breed education. This volunteer position would also be responsible for coordinating the transport of Akitas into our custody, and managing our list of volunteers.
3. **Event Volunteers** - We need booth volunteers at adoption events. We are always holding our breaths hoping we get enough volunteers to help set up, man the booth, and help break things down. As stated previously, we attend about a half dozen events a year. Generally, we attend in cooler weather months or indoors if a facility is air-conditioned. We usually attend 2 or 3 big events in the early spring and late fall with an occasional winter or summer event. Events are usually well spaced out, but are occasionally back-to-back.
4. **Artists & Crafters** – We have been searching for artists to help update the designs on ARMAC merchandise. The CafePress and Zazzle merchandise available through the ARMAC Store are several years old, and sales have stagnated. In the past, crafty supporters have donated custom, handmade Akita merchandise such as Akita wooden puzzles, beaded purses, pencil sketches, etc. for us to sell or offer at auction. These one-of-a-kind items are always huge sellers at our events. So, if you enjoy crafting, we would love to see what you can do!
5. **Transporters** - Sometimes we need dogs picked up and taken to their foster home or our kennel. This can be time consuming but is very rewarding. It is also very time sensitive and requires a bit of dedication. You may have to rearrange your normal schedule, take leave from work, change some plans because some facilities cannot wait until it is convenient for someone to pick them up. Sometimes the need is immediate/urgent. Dogs may have to be picked up the same day or within 24 hrs. of the time that we are notified about them. Other times dogs can be held until we have someone to go pick them up, but they will not be held for an indefinite length of time.
6. **Dog Walkers** - The majority of our orphans are currently boarded at kennels that do a wonderful job of caring for our orphans. Dog walkers provide dogs socialization with new people and teach them leash etiquette.
7. **Donate** - If are unable to foster, transport or help in other ways, you can set up a monthly donation to ARMAC. It does not have to be a huge sum. \$5 a month is as appreciated as higher amounts.

Do not think I don’t know what I am asking of you. Charlie and I have done all these things for the last 37 years; through full and part time jobs, shift work, long term illness, surgeries, and family deaths.

We have had several offers to design a new website for ARMAC. While we genuinely appreciate all the offers, our current website costs very little in terms of hosting and platform, and it is extremely simple to use. Any of the ARMAC

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Upcoming Events - Volunteers Needed

Super Pet Expo

September 10-12, 2021

Dulles Expo Center
Chantilly, VA

SuperPetExpo.com/Chantilly

Fredericksburg Pet Show

September 18-19, 2021

Fredericksburg Expo Center
Fredericksburg, VA

FredericksburgPetShow.com/

PetOberfest

October 16, 2021

Stonebridge Potomac Town Center
Woodbridge, VA

<http://www.sptcpetoberfest.com/>

Rio and Cosmo

Continued from page 1

something else had happened to aggravate and inflame the area between Saturday and Wednesday, but we are unsure what. Because it was an old injury and did not appear to be painful when handled, we called our orthopedic vet and made an appointment...3 weeks away. The vet also weighed Cosmo. Both dogs had obviously been laying in urine. Their tummies were somewhat matted with urine-soaked hair. Their tails and feet were yellow with urine stain. They reeked...really bad.

Stacy is about 90 miles from us in the mountains of Maryland. We stopped halfway for a potty break. It is good that we did. Thunderstorms. On a good day, it is an interesting trip with parts of the journey on windy, hilly roads. The thunderstorms just made it more interesting. We arrived at Stacy's, got Cosmo settled in, and headed back home. We had not planned to keep Rio with us, but because of his paw and our proximity to the orthopedic surgeon, we are now fostering him. The rain stopped. We let him stay outside while we put up a crate. Once we got him inside, we fed everyone, let them out, and thankfully went to bed. Rio was not housebroken, would pee in his crate, and bark after going. I walked Rio and noticed his rear gait was really wonky. Back to the vet the next day. After examining him, the second vet was really concerned about his front leg also. Both vets contacted the orthopedic practice to push for an earlier date.

We were able to get Rio to the orthopedic surgeon on June 2, much earlier than expected! The surgeon confirmed it is an old injury, probably from the beginning of May. He also said Rio had no pain reaction when his paw was manipulated. His shoulder and elbow have a good range of motion. No nerve damage since he had appropriate reactions when his paw was pinched. He said we had the option to leave it alone because there is a bone callus forming well, and he is putting weight on it. In this case, we should do physical therapy by walking him slowly to make him use it and put weight on it. With this option, he will always have a limp, but will be pain free and functional. He should be rechecked in two-three months. The other option is to re-break and reset the bone. Because the break is just above the wrist, he cannot guarantee a good outcome. A bad outcome from this could mean amputation. As far as his hind legs, he is moving the way dogs who have had a front leg amputated move. His lack of muscle and tendon looseness contribute to the odd gait. His hips and knees look good. The doctor thinks his hind legs will improve with exercise, good nutrition and using his front paw.

Rio is quite a personable little dog. He is crate trained, in the process of being house broken, pretty good with my kitties (as long as they don't run, he won't chase them), not exhibiting aggression to my dogs, and rides well in a car. He will be available after he is neutered and re-evaluated by the surgeon. He is very people oriented and loved meeting the kids up the street on our walk.

Cosmo looks like a new dog after a bath and some good food. He seems to be very sweet. Cosmo is crate trained, rides well in a car, and behaved well at the vet. When he was evaluated, there were cats nearby and he was not predatory toward them. He will be available once he is neutered.



Cosmo

Volunteer Needs

Continued from page 3

Board members can make changes to the site quickly and easily. For several years we had a tech-savvy volunteer handling our website. He did an excellent job, but the logistics of getting webpage updates to him, along with the difficulty in having only one person with the knowledge and expertise to update the website, was frustrating. When this volunteer was unable to continue in the role, we were left unable to manage the website. Therefore, at this time, we will continue using RescueGroups.org for our webhosting and design.

We want to thank several very special people who answered our pleas for help over this past very difficult year. Kudos to Rick Fledderman, Anne Goodson, the Bianchi's, the Kunkel's, the Good's, Sara Smith Jocham Capozzi, Lori Anderson, the Jacoby's, and Cheryl Winslow for stepping-up and helping transport and evaluate Akitas.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Annette Wilson, our new Publisher & Editor, who got the newsletter started up again!! Speaking of newsletters, we always welcome articles and stories from our readers.



Akita Bloating Video: A Life Saving Video

Years ago, a foster home was video taping a newly arrived foster when they realized something was wrong. It turns out the Akita was bloating! He was rushed to the emergency vet in time to save him. The foster family was thoughtful enough to share the video on YouTube so that others could see what bloat looks like. The link to the video is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1WrT2719yo>

This video has been credited with saving the lives of multiple dogs as expressed in comments such as this one:

I saw this video many years ago randomly and last week, my brain must have recalled this when my 12 year old Weimaraner bloated. No one else noticed the symptoms and I am so thankful for this video and the knowledge it gave me to get our girl to the vet in time. You saved her life! Thank you

If you are unfamiliar with bloat, watching this video could save your dog's life.

There is information on bloat on the ARMAC website:

<https://akitarescue.rescuegroups.org/info/display?PageID=11156>

A couple of reminders to help prevent bloat (see webpage above for additional items):

- Feed your dog at least one hour after and one to two hours before strenuously exercising. This always your dog to cool down and stop panting after exercising and digest his food before exercising.
- If your dog has been out in the heat or exercising strenuously, don't let him gulp large quantities of water. Give him small amounts periodically until he is no longer panting



Have a vet, trainer, or boarding kennel you really like and would recommend? Let us know, and we'll add it to the list! Send recommendations to annette@akitarescue.org

Obedience Training

DC/Maryland

Your Dog's Friend
Rockville (301) 983-5913
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
Slanesville (304) 492-4075

Kennels/Boarding

DC/Maryland

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
Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital
Laurel (301) 776-7744
Palmer Animal Hospital
Myersville (301) 371-3333
Smithsburg Veterinary Clinic
Smithsburg (301) 416-0888
Park Circle Animal Hospital
Hagerstown (301) 791-2180
VetUrgency
Frederick (301) 288-8387

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) 599-3111

Postcards From Home



Ms Coco 2 is enjoying the lovely spring weather in her new home. She is enjoying her obedience classes and settling in with Katharine and West.

Things are still fantastic! Harry's been doing really well and I can happily say there's really been no issues at all. My family came to visit over Easter weekend and so he met two of my little brothers (5 & 7). He took to them within seconds and wouldn't stop cuddling up to them and playing soccer in the basement with them the entire weekend. He is definitely a special dog and definitely a lover of people. He also loves his car rides



Kitana Bennett with her feline friend Salem



Ginger and Raiden resting after a long walk

Warm Weather Reminders

- ◆ Do not let your dog out when it's really hot, especially if they are older or have health issues
- ◆ If they are outside, make sure there is shade and plenty of water available
- ◆ Do not leave your dog in a parked car even if it is in the shade with the windows cracked open
- ◆ Do not muzzle your dog
- ◆ Avoid areas like the beach, concrete, and asphalt where surfaces get really hot and burn paws
- ◆ If your dog starts showing signs of over heating
 - Move your dog to somewhere cool
 - Have cool water available IF the dog wants to drink. DO NOT force the dog to drink
 - If your dog is showing signs of heat stroke
 - Get a rectal temperature if possible
 - Start to cool the dog by placing cool towels on it. Also, wet the paw pads, ear flaps, and areas of no fur. Use a fan to help with evaporative cooling. DO NOT use cold water or ice
 - Get to the nearest vet hospital
 - Do not leave your dog alone for any length of time

Estimated Vehicle Interior Temperature Versus Elapsed Time

Elapsed Time (min)	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138

Source: American Veterinary Medical Association
<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/estimated-vehicle-interior-air-temperature-v-elapsed-time>

Thank You



Thank you to all the individuals and businesses who support us in so many ways: providing financial support or discounts, fostering, providing transportation, performing house checks, evaluating dogs, volunteering at events, etc.

We couldn't do this without all of our supporters!



Thank you for your donations!

Ken and Lisa Bennett
 Jeff Corzatt
 Barbara Davis
 Kathy DeWees
 The Fleddermans
 V. Glenn
 Lee and Melissa Harvey
 Beverly Hewitt
 Stacy King (King Kennels)
 KPMG
 Bill and Lynn Loewy
 Meredith Murtagh
 Diane Schad
 Ralph Weiner

Thank you to all who have chosen
ARMAC as your **Amazon Smile**
Charity!

Thoughts About Senior Dogs, Summertime and Boarding

By Jodi Marcus

Now that the heat and summer is here, Bertie, my almost 12 year old guy, has become very vocal about not staying out in the heat. It seems he has barely been let out and he wants back in. This triggered some thoughts about our seniors. Remember, they cannot regulate their body temperature as well as younger dogs. So, keep a close eye on your seniors when they are outside, especially when you are walking them.

Many seniors develop anxiety as they age. Even the calmest Akita can become anxious as they age. Is it because they are losing some of their senses: hearing and eyesight? I don't know. But what I can tell you about is the stories I have heard from people who went on vacation to come home to the news that their boarded, senior Akita bloated and did not make it. Now that restrictions have eased, many of you are planning vacations. If possible, consider having a responsible family member or pet sitter stay with your [senior] Akita while you are gone to reduce anxiety. Will this guarantee your dog will be okay? No, but they may feel better in familiar surroundings.

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ARMAC

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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 family-lives throughout the lifetime of their Akita.

ABOUT ARMAC



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PO Box 4266
Manassas, VA 20108**

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

(Up to 4 issues annually) for \$15/year

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Would you like to receive your newsletter in an email?

Email address
