

UNIQUELY AKITA

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



SPRING 2022

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Meet ARMAC's Newest Orphan



Maggie Mae

Maggie Mae is a lovely little girl whom everyone at the shelter loved. She is around 1 year old. The shelter had a big influx of dogs and contacted us about her to ensure she would go to a rescue who understands the breed. The shelter volunteers drove Maggie Mae several hours to meet our volunteer. She was very good riding in the car. Maggie Mae has totally charmed her foster mom, who let her sleep in the bedroom with her the first night she was there. She will be available for adoption after she is spayed and recovers. We are getting to know her better so stay tuned for more info.

Adoption Pending Introduction to Resident Dog!

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<http://amazonsmile.com>

Heroes of Rescue

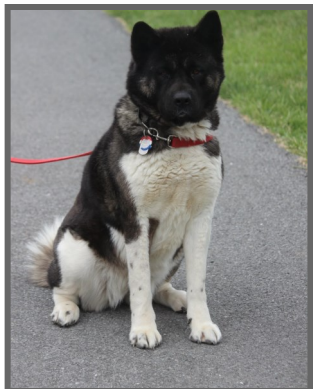
By Jodi Marcus

The often-unacknowledged heroes of a rescue group are its volunteers. In this issue, I would like to acknowledge some of the ARMAC volunteers that are and have been integral to keeping this group going. First, I would like to acknowledge Betty McDade, who introduced me to Akitas and was my mentor in the breed. Although Betty is no longer active in ARMAC, she is one of the co-founders and was very active for many, many years. In the early years, there were no Pet Expos. Almost every weekend in Spring and Fall, sometimes both days, was spent at dog shows where we were able to obtain a booth. As long as we gave her a ride, Betty was there. She was unable to foster dogs initially but generously supported us financially. Once she had her own home, Betty fostered multiple dogs for many years. During the years when we were part of the Cherry Blossom Parade, Betty was the person who managed the sweatshirt orders, a Herculean task at times. She was always available to talk to any Akita owner who needed help and did a lot of the phone duty from the start and during her time as an active volunteer. She is one of the cornerstones this group was built upon.

I would also like to acknowledge a more current volunteer, Lisa Gray. Lisa contacted us needing help with a dog she adopted who was supposed to be part Akita. She initially spoke with Betty and then with me. It turned out that her dog was probably more Elk-hound than Akita, but did have some behavior issues we were able to help with. After meeting Akitas in the all-Akita obedience class, at Betty's and at my house, she adopted from us. She went with me on several trips to evaluate dogs in shelters, took classes in dog behavior, and attended adoption events. Soon she started fostering and became our treasurer, organizing our finances and keeping our accounts

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Available Orphans



Gloria

Gloria is around 5 years old. She was turned over to the shelter by her owner for fence fighting with the neighbor's dog. She ignored other dogs at the shelter and passed her food aggression test. Gloria 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 has exhibited no aggression toward other dogs at the kennel so far.

Bear



Bear is approximately two years old. He has been with us for awhile. He is friendly, outgoing, attentive, food oriented and has an irrepressible joy for life. He is still in need of leash training (you could work it in to your daily workout), and some manners. The best thing is there does not appear to be a mean bone in his body. He was surrendered to a shelter at ~7 mos. of age due to 'allergies'. We suspect that he turned out to be more of a handful than they imagined. He needs a home with some breed experience and no small children.



Kumo

Kumo is around 5 years old. He is fairly standard for an adult male Akita. He was polite and came up to sniff our volunteer and allowed a pet and then it was time to move off. He has a

fabulously thick coat and nice bear head. He was surrendered to a rural shelter in Kentucky because his owner was 'moving'. He had a moment of silliness during his photo shoot and did 'The Bear Dance'.

Cassie



Cassie is a 2 year old female. She lived with a homeless owner who signed her over to the shelter. Initially she was fearful and wary of the staff. After a few weeks she warmed up and was friendly with them. When our volunteer went to meet her, she warmed up quickly and really wanted to be petted. Our volunteer said she would have taken her home if she did not already have a female. She has not been with us for very long, so she probably needs a bit more time to de-stress and 'come back to earth'. We will provide updates as we get to know her.

Heroes of Rescue Cont

Continued from page 1

straight. Even when she could no longer foster due to a change in her life, she did our newsletters in addition to attending to our finances. In time, she took on being the events coordinator, contacting the organization putting on the events, paying for our spaces, setting up the sign-up account and making the schedule. She had more life changes. While she remained our treasurer and events coordinator, she no longer had time to do the newsletters. Luckily Annette took on that job. Lisa took a huge burden off myself and Puller and continues to do so.

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

Enrichment for Senior Dogs

By Samantha Zurlinden, Veterinary Student Class of 2023

What is Enrichment and Why is it Important for Senior Dogs?

Enrichment is offering experiences and opportunities to animals to encourage healthy natural behaviors and enhance physical and emotional welfare. Enrichment is often broken into two broad categories: environmental and social. Environmental enrichment alters the animal's space either by making changes to the environment itself or by adding novel items such as toys, feeding puzzles, exercise, and things to smell and explore. Social enrichment involves offering positive social experiences for the animal with people or other animals.

Enrichment is important for all species of animals, including people! Sometimes we enrich our lives and our animal's life without even noticing, such as going for walks outside or eating a yummy treat. Sometimes enrichment takes planning, such as a vacation or assembling food puzzles for your dog. Understand that what is considered enrichment should be from your dog's perspective and each dog needs to be able to choose if they want to participate or interact with the enrichment item or not. We can entice dogs to participate by offering their favorite treats or petting in their favorite spots but ultimately it will still be their choice to interact or not.

Dogs can have several age-related diseases that can result in behavior changes and welfare concerns, such as arthritis, dental disease, cancer, diabetes, and other endocrine diseases. Additionally, dogs can develop canine cognitive dysfunction, a syndrome that is similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans. Pain is more likely to occur in senior dogs with age-related diseases, leading to decreased activity, increased anxiety, restlessness, and occasionally aggression. Due to these age-related challenges, we should find ways to enrich their lives and help manage these conditions. While senior dogs may not be able to participate in much physical enrichment, such as long walks, other forms can be mentally stimulating and tiring.

If you have noticed behavioral changes in your senior dog, work with your veterinarian to determine if there is an underlying medical condition that may be causing the behavior. You should also discuss your dog's weight and nutrition with your veterinarian to keep them at a healthy weight and as comfortable as possible.

By working with your veterinarian to manage age-related health conditions and providing individual and age-appropriate enrichment, you can enhance your pet's quality of life and improve your bond with your aging dog.

Enrichment Ideas for Senior Dogs

- Shorter walks outside – There is nothing like the great outdoors! Physical exercise, opportunities for social interaction, and new things to see and smell! Your walks may need to be a lot shorter than they were in younger years, but they are still beneficial. Just make sure to monitor how your pet is handling the walk and not to push your dog too far. Even sitting outside or taking a short walk focused on sniffing (sniff walk) can be enriching.
- Puzzle Feeders – There are many different puzzle feeders available for dogs. You can shop online, in pet stores, or make them yourself! You can use some or all of your pet's regular diet in the puzzle feeders, and you can also use special treats. For a simple DIY puzzle feeder, put some kibble in a plastic bottle without the lid, or save toilet paper or paper towel tubes and put kibble inside with the ends folded. Just make sure your dog doesn't try to eat the bottle or cardboard! Another simple idea is to feed your dog from a muffin tin; you can even put tennis balls on top of the muffin tin to make it more challenging. Sometimes, you can freeze food in puzzle feeders to make them last longer.
- Snuffle Mats – Snuffle mats look like extra shaggy rugs. You can purchase them or you can make them yourself. They can be used as a food puzzle or you can use them with scents. If you are adding scent, make sure that it is safe for dogs. Certain essential oils such as cinnamon, tea tree, peppermint, and wintergreen are not safe. Scents such as coconut, vanilla, ginger, and valerian are safe. Additionally, some dogs respond to catnip, and it can help them relax. Snuffle mats encourage sniffing and encourage normal foraging behaviors.
- Scavenger Hunts – Hide treats, food items, and toys around the house or yard. Some dogs enjoy playing hide and seek with their favorite toys. Hide items in safe places. Hide



This dog is having fun trying to get kibble out of a toilet paper tube taped shut. Photo by VIN.

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Warm Weather Reminders

Spring is here which means hot summer-like days will soon be here. Below are a few reminders to keep your pet safe on warm days:

- ◆ 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>

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



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

Enrichment for Senior Dogs (cont)

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items near places the dog frequents, such as by their bed or water bowl, and then expand from there.

- **Positive Reinforcement Training** – An old dog absolutely can learn new tricks! Positive reinforcement training will improve your bond with your pet at any life stage, and senior dogs are no exception. Positive reinforcement is rewarding your dog, usually with a food treat, for doing what you ask. Clicker training is a great way to use positive reinforcement to train your dog. You can teach useful behaviors such as sit, lay down, crate, and stay, or you can teach fun behaviors to your dog such as shake, target, speak, fetch. Positive reinforcement training is a great tool for senior dogs because it is mentally stimulating but does not require physical exertion.
- **Socialize with other Senior Dogs or Calm dogs** – If your dog enjoys the company of other dogs, arrange for play dates with other calm or senior dogs. Make sure that your dog enjoys this experience by monitoring their body language. Your dog should choose to engage with the other dogs, have loose body language, and be relaxed.

When it comes to enrichment, you can find something for all senior dogs no matter what their health or mobility status.

This article is reprinted with permission from Samantha Zurlinden and the Veterinary Information Network (<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/doc/?id=10506122&pid=19239>).

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VeterinaryPartner.com is not affiliated with Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast.



This 13-year old dog is eating her breakfast from a small box filled with kibble. Photo by VIN.

Rainbow Bridge



Money Penny

Gentle, forgiving, maternal, loyal--that was the beautiful Money Penny! She gave more than she received.

Loved and missed by Susan Petrie

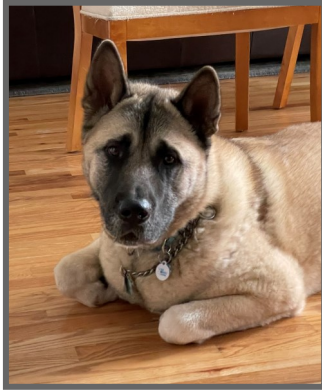
Bertie

Shown here with an admirer at the Timonium dog show. He was the best breed ambassador for AR-MAC his entire life.

Loved and missed by Jodi and Charlie Marcus



Adopted!



Henry (formerly Cosmo)
Adopted by Doug and Leigh-Anne

Postcards From Home



Keiko

Keiko is still looking good and feeling good at 10 1/2 thanks to her mom working closely with her vet to keep on top of a couple of health issues that cropped up.



Postcards From Home

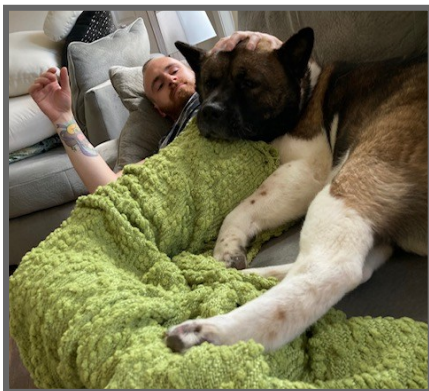


Quinn (aka Quinnie the Pooh)
Quinn resting in her favorite position.



Honeybear

Honeybear was in the Washington Post!
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2022/01/03/dc-snow-winter-storm-warning/>



Harry
Harry resting on the couch with his dad.



Hank and Rio resting at the Super Pet Expo

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!

Super Pet Expo

Many thanks to those who donated their time to help man the Super Pet Expo booth: Travis and Teresa with Rio; Erny and her daughter, Jasmine; Diane and Jill; Diane and Dottie; Donna, Ramzi and their son, Adam; and the regular ARMAC volunteers: Jodi, Charlie, Lisa, and Cheryl. Special thanks to Adam and Ramzi for their help in breaking things down and getting all the stuff to the car!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit or volunteered in the ARMAC booth. You made 2022 our most successful Pet Expo to date!

Thank you for your donations!

Christopher Anderson
 Travis & Teresa Dahmer
 Susan Eastwood in honor of Bertie
 Noelle Elsberry
 James Frost
 V Glynn
 Lee Harvey
 Derek Hirohata
 Kevin Lanigan
 Bill & Lynn Lowey
 Valerie Nichols
 Shelly Rae
 Sylvia Springer



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 We received \$220.02 last quarter!



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ARMAC

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www.akitarescue.org

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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