

Uniquely

AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast

ARMAC - October 2008

How's your summer been?

By Puller Lanigan

Well, ours started with usual tidal wave of calls...starting with our very own 'Hachiko' story...Kiwi, a 3-year old Akita was left behind when her owners lost their home. She was turned loose and surprisingly stayed on the front porch of her home for weeks until someone called Animal Control to come pick her up. She was ultimately at risk of euthanasia at this shelter (rural) and garnered a HUGE fan base after the story was leaked to the press.

How could we let this modern day Hachiko be killed? Kiwi, fortunately went to a home quickly. Followed by Mori and Mavvy and I guess we were feeling cocky with the placement of Mori and Maverick, so as usual, we jumped in feet first. We have a couple of irons in the fire, Romi was another girl left behind when her owners lost their home. A neighbor fed her for 2 months in the yard, before taking her to the shelter the end of June, one week before the July 4th 'dump'. She wooed the staff and as a result, I was contacted. We attempted an introduction for the shelter, to a family and canine who thought they would like to adopt her, but she could not tolerate the unruly male dog's demands. She then went through a difficult spay and has been chillin' in the Blue Ridge foothills with Stacy and company.

We really need a foster for Ms. Romi (who adores Stacy's 5-year old daughter), so we can figure out the best home environment for her.

While at the shelter, a dopey mixed Akita was brought in. He was found wandering the aisles of a local Giant Food. VERY friendly guy! Think 'Pluto' with a brain. His patron took him home from Giant after scouring the parking lot to see if he escaped a car (shame on you owner who would take a dog out in 85+ weather!). But no owner was located. She had 3 Min-Pins and this Gulliver Galoot just walked right in as if he had lived there forever. Alas, he could not, so he was taken to the shelter. He spent a month in the pokey (he was already neutered and also a GREAT guy!), and through a fluke, we ended up bailing Mr. Henry.

(continued on page 2)

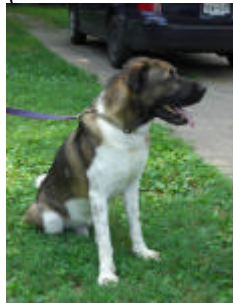
Dale's Tale

By Claire Liston

This is a story that's still being written. Dogs, especially Akitas, are known for loyalty. Yet only those who work in dog rescue see the true nature of this loyalty. It's a loyalty to the human race, an eagerness to forgive us for unspeakable sins committed by other humans. Less than 6 months ago, he was starving and neglected in a pen north of Baltimore. His owner was on the run from the law and the woman who occupied the house had released herself from caring for him. Dale and his companion, a male pit bull, were watching each other starve to death. Eventually the pit bull was removed to the garage, where his emaciated body was later found. They had been in that pen for at least 18 months. One neighbor feared that Dale would suffer the same fate without intervention, and decided to take action. She began feeding and watering Dale twice a day, but when she moved away from the neighborhood the trek to care for Dale became a 40-mile labor of love. She turned to the internet for help, where she found support, advice, a sponsoring organization (ARMAC) and a foster mom—me. I welcomed hundreds of dogs in my home and know that committing to take a dog "sight unseen" is not wise. But this Good Samaritan worked with dogs every day as a groomer, so when she talked about bringing her toddler into the enclosure while she fed this 3-year-old, un-neutered male Akita, I knew he was something special. His Good Samaritan groomed him that first day, and reported that Dale was all kisses even as his toenails were filed down. He was a hit at the vet's office, where he bounced and smiled his way into everyone's hearts. And when I met him, he was hovering on two legs—because he had been told just once not to put his feet on the counter. He came into my house un-neutered, another NO in my rulebook, but a necessity because he tested positive for Lyme disease and an immediate neuter may have been dangerous. But he loved being crated in an air conditioned room, and was supremely grateful for plentiful walks, cuddles and food. He bonded with the pack of neighborhood children his first day here, immediately sorting out the tentative ones and approaching them slowly with gentle kisses. After Dale's neuter two weeks later, he blossomed into an even better dog than I could have imagined. *(continued on page 2)*

AKITA NEWS

(Summer: continued from page 1)



Henry, pictured at left

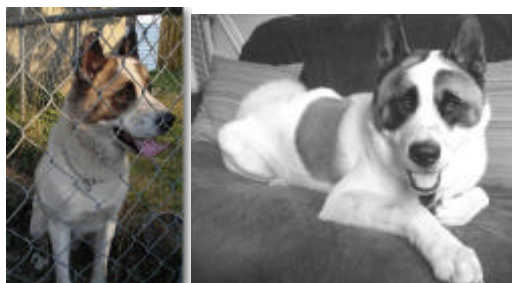
Many thanks to Julie Eisenburg and the amazing Tamira who helped Henry find his FOREVER home! Then we got a call from a shelter on a sweet '4 year old' neutered male Akita. Poor Smokey's owner had deteriorating health problems and had to move to an assisted care facility. As a result, Smokey and his feline companions lost their home. He was 8 years old and had a massive mouth infection and topical fungal infection. He was a mess. Many thanks to Mike Mason for transporting Smokey from the shelter to Bill and Lynne's home. Smokey got his mouth fixed and his spa day at the vet and went on to fill the void another great dog, Dodger, left in the home and heart of Finka Cathay. Then we got the photo of GumDrop...and that will be in our next issue.

(Dale's Tale: continued from page 1)

He was so eager to play with my dogs that he willfully subjugated his hormones faster than the natural decline—you could see him thinking about each move as he made it. Within days, he was approaching each with appropriate play bows, gentle mouthing, and submissive body posture. It was, and still is, a joy to watch. For all these reasons and more, Dale has stolen my heart. When you meet him he'll steal yours too. He is a stunning beauty and has a million-dollar personality—but when you also consider his story, you begin to understand his strength. Dale is looking for a human to love and trust and amuse and snuggle, with no pause to consider what his past humans did. The two qualities that make a dog easy to train are intelligence and eagerness to please, and Dale has a surplus of both of these. He'd be a fantastic companion to a single person, or a great addition to a dog-centric family. Dale could even be an agility dog! Just PLEASE give him all the attention he deserves... he's waited patiently his whole life. Dale needs someone to adopt him and love him forever!

Dale before:

Dale now:



To stay up to date on Dale's progress, you can check Claire's website: www.ibelieveindog.com/adopt

Toy Story: Buyer Beware!

By Daniel Rechelbacher

On Sunday, June 22, 2008 my 10-year old lab mix, Chai, sustained a severe injury from a product that the company Four Paws Inc, produces. The toy I'm referencing is the pimple ball with bell. While chewing on the toy, a vacuum was created and it effectively sucked his tongue into the hole in the ball. From speaking with my vet, this likely occurred because there is not a second hole in the ball preventing the vacuum effect from happening. I became aware of this when Chai approached a friend at my home whimpering with the ball in his mouth. She tried unsuccessfully to remove the ball but the tongue had swollen and could not be released. (photo taken of ball after vet cut away portions in order to dislodge Chai's tongue) Chai was taken to the Animal Medical Center (an emergency care facility in New York City) and was treated by Dr. Nicole Spurlock to have the ball removed.

Because the size of the opening on the ball was so small, all circulation to his tongue was cut off. The doctors had to sedate him in order to remove it. Once the ball was removed, his tongue swelled to the point that he could no longer put it in his mouth. Chai was sent home with care instructions and to be observed overnight for any changes. By the following morning Chai's tongue had swollen even more. He was taken to his regular vet, Dr. Timnah Lee, for treatment. He was admitted and kept sedated for a period of three days during which time they were treating his wounds and waiting to determine how much of his tongue could be saved.

On June 26, 2008 Chai had his tongue amputated. He was kept in after-care for an additional three days. On Sunday June 29th I brought Chai home from the vet with a barrage of home care instructions, to last for an additional 7 days. His next visit was to have his mouth re-examined and have the feeding tube in his neck removed. On the way home from the vet we stopped at Petland Discount where I purchased their product to speak to the manager on duty. Upon meeting Chai and seeing his condition, he removed all of the balls in question from the shelves. He also gave me the customer service number to their corporate headquarters to request that they refuse to continue purchasing all Four Paws products, but I have not called them as of yet. Additionally, I shared my story with friends who have a French Bulldog named Petunia. Upon hearing my story their eyes widened. They explained that the same thing happened twice in one night with a smaller version of the same ball to their dog. Fortunately, they were able to pull it off before the tongue swelled, but not without tremendous effort and pain to the dog. They recalled how horrific it was to hear their dog screaming while they had to pry the ball from her tongue.

(continued on page 4)

Chef Hillary's Kitchen:

Let the fall harvest begin!

By Hillary LaMay

My husband and I love this season! One of our favorite autumn activities is to visit our local pumpkin patch or farmer's market. We pick our own pumpkin to carve in creative ways to display for the neighborhood. Below you will find a fall-inspired healthful addition to your pup's daily menu AND you can use up that leftover pumpkin! *No time to hit the farmer's market? No worries! Pick up a can of pure canned pumpkin on your next grocery run.

Clip along the dotted lines and stick on your refrigerator door ✂

Pumpkin Pooch Profiteroles

Ingredients:

- ~ One 15 oz. can mashed pure pumpkin (NOT the spiced pie filling) **or** 2 C leftover pumpkin meat from your carving
- ~3/4 cup cream of wheat **or** rice cereal if your dog is wheat-sensitive. You can mix this dry--no need to cook it first
- ~1/2 cup dry powdered milk
- ~1 tbs vanilla nonfat yogurt

Directions: Preheat oven to 300 F.

Mix all ingredients together. Drop small spoonfuls (I use about half of a tablespoon) onto a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 300 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

If you'd like to make these cookies for smaller dogs or training rewards, use a pastry bag (or a ziploc bag and cut a small hole in one corner). Squeeze out rosettes the size of a dime for tasty bite-sized cookies.

Get the kids involved! Armed with spoons, task them to dig out the 'pumpkin guts'. Guaranteed an afternoon of delight! Check out your local dollar store for fun and easy carving patterns to keep them entertained while you bake!

Pumpkin is Great for Dogs AND Humans!

The pumpkin dog treat above is loaded with beta carotene and anti-oxidants such as vitamins C and E. These vitamins help to lower cancer risk, cataracts and heart disease!!

Bow Wow Wow Yipee Yo, Yipee HEY YOU!

Do you have a yummy recipe your pup loves?

Is it healthy and easy? We'd love to put it in the next newsletter! Please email Chef Hillary with your submission: HJLaMay@yahoo.com

Paw Prints on the Environment

Easy tips that you and your furr-legged friend can use to help the environment!

BY HILLARY LAMAY



As beautiful autumn leaves and the chill of fall settle in, the beauty of nature at this season is awe-inspiring. It makes us appreciate the world around us and beg the question, "How can I keep it this way?" As dog owners, there are many simple ways we can alter our habits to make a positive impact on the environment.

With over 74.8 million dogs in the US, it's a good bet that your pup is leaving a mark on the environment. How can you help your pup be more green?

Here are some quick tips you can do today and everyday!

- Make your own dog toys! Empty plastic water bottles and milk cartons, old towels, empty cardboard paper towel/toilet paper rolls make excellent chew toys. When your pup flattens your plastic and ripped your paper to shreds, separate for recycling. Who knew you had your very own free trash compactor? Reuse and keep your pup healthier and happier- just supervise to ensure they aren't swallowing plastic/paper bits!
- Use all-natural fertilizers for your yard. Nasty chemicals can have harmful effects on you AND your pup.
- Feed your pup all natural organic foods and treats to help them be healthier! If you can't pronounce it, it's not good for you OR your dog.
- When it's bath time use a doggie shampoo without nasty chemical-laden soaps.
- Plant a tree for your dog and watch both grow AND help the environment at the same time!
- Use environmentally-friendly cleaning and household products for a healthier pet and environment. I recommend Method brand found at your local Target discount store!
- Spread the word! Share helpful information with your fellow pet owners. You might ignite a whole community's power to make a difference one paw at a time!



(Toy Story: continued from page 2)

To date, my veterinary bills total over \$5,000.00 and I will have regular follow up appointments for some time. Additionally, Chai now requires a much more expensive form of food because of this injury, averaging approximately \$200 per month. Also - I am Chai's sole caretaker and the regime required to care for him following his surgery has forced me to lose a great deal of business. I am a hair stylist and my salon is in my home. Given that Chai needs constant attention, and given that he has been wailing in pain, I have not been able to see clients. Additionally, I now have to re-teach my dog to eat, drink and adjust to life without his tongue. Just walking him requires about 30min twice a day and for at least this first week he is not to be unattended for more than 20 minutes at time. I sent this information to Petunia the french bulldog to Four Paws Inc, and it is their position that there just aren't enough instances to do anything about this. I told their Insurance company's case manager that was not a good enough excuse, It was inferred that my dogs value wasn't much and that his pain and suffering don't count as he is just a piece of property. This should never happen to another animal again!

For more information on how you can write to the CEO of All Four Paws or to see the graphic photos, please visit the link below:

<http://www.thechaistory.blogspot.com/>



I taught my **good dog**, Maggie,
"Lay down," when I commanded.
I also taught her "Set,"
Whenever I demanded.

"I'll teach her now to speak," said I.
She **labored to comply**
And when she learned to speak she said,
You twit, it's 'sit' and 'lie!'"

McRae

Chew on this: Rawhide 101

By Jenny Thompson

My dog Shula is a Brittany with an unusual obsession: She eats paper. She doesn't just chew it – she eats it. When I come in the house, she'll actually try to snatch the mail out of my hand, hoping I'll let her enjoy a Publishers Clearinghouse treat.

Leaving the cover off the paper- recycling bin is like an invitation to feast. No doubt, paper is not good for the digestive tract. But neither is rawhide* – a chew prize for dogs that's very common and more dangerous than most people imagine. A friend recently reminded me about some of the problems with rawhide chews:

- Partially chewed rawhide pieces are a choking hazard
- Rawhide is non-digestible so large pieces can create intestinal blockage
- Vomiting and diarrhea may occur if dogs consume rawhide too rapidly or too often
- Some countries use an arsenic-based preservative in rawhide treats
- Salmonella has also been detected in some rawhide products
- While not a health issue, rawhide *may* give your dog a taste for leather so shoes, pocketbooks and sofas...watch out!

In 2006, the ASPCA received nearly 4,000 reports about health problems caused by rawhide products for dogs. Cow hooves are even more dangerous because sharp fragments can prompt dangerous and painful intestinal blockage. Try either natural bones or Bully Sticks if you're looking for a safe option that will keep your dog occupied and happy.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.hsibaltimore.com/>

***** Some vets do not recommend natural bones because they could harm the dog's teeth.***

Orphans Available

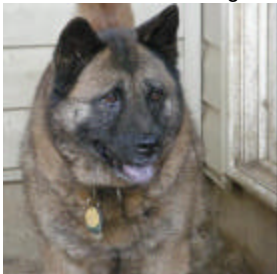
*CURRENT LIST OF AKITA RESCUE
(ARMAC, Inc.) DOGS*

www.akitarescue.org to view photos

The majority of these dogs came from animal shelters, therefore "owner surrender" does not necessarily mean they were received directly from a home.

Nakita — s/f, dob 9/02, Red fawn and white pinto with black mask. BIG GIRL. She has grown immensely in the 3 years we have had her. Very pretty! Very 'lovey' with people. Prefer home with children teenaged or older. Obedient, but still dog aggressive on lead. Needs experienced Akita owner. Calm and housebroken in the house. **Needs to be ONLY pet!**

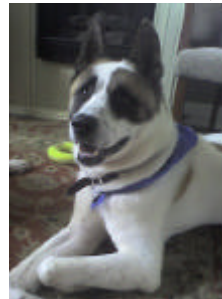
Cora — s/f, dob 2002, RED with white markings and black mask. If this girl doesn't scream 'Cadillac' (for all you older Akita fanciers), then nothing will. She is a classic 'old style' Akita with a very loving personality towards humans. Doesn't seem to give a whit about other dogs, but hasn't been tossed to the lions either after whelping 9 puppies in a shelter. Cora is very, very "peoplecentric". She is a total love bug. No cats, no small dogs.



Carrie — s/f, 2-3 yr old female, lovely classic fawn with black mask and white markings. This pretty fawn with a black half mask and kabuki eyes came from a shelter in Roanoke where she passed all temperament tests with flying colors. She LOVES everyone she has met so far, is not aggressive to the resident dogs when they sniff or pass her crate, has not yet been exposed to children or cats. Initial assessment is that she is a very people-centric dog, who just wants to be in her own home, hanging out with her own people. No cats!



Dale — dob 2/14/2005, white and red pinto. He is indeed a Valentine baby and would love to warm your heart! Intelligent, friendly, dog social (to date), unknown with cats, loves all people. Is currently learning some leash manners, housebroken, crate trained.



Princess — UPDATE, s/f, dob 2005, fawn with black mask. Our beautiful 'Classic Beauty' has been stricken with Pemphigus. She is responding well to treatment, but will have to be maintained on Prednisone the rest of her life. She graduated to being with her foster's dogs (several of different sizes). On the Pred she needs to be monitored VIGOROUSLY as pred makes dogs snappy. So sad, as she came to us a 'wild Indian' when first taken in, having been dumped by her breeder who admitted to having too many dogs and not enough time. She settled in to a routine in her foster home with several smaller mixed breeds. We suspect she would do best as an only pet, but could be swayed to try a nice mellow boy pairing.



Gum Drop- 9/07, is a little dynamo. Found running at large in a Richmond park. She was sighted several times, but managed to elude capture. Finally someone lured her onto their porch and she was taken to the shelter. She was wearing a pus and blood encrusted tshirt, and only weighed 43 lbs...a walking skeleton. She had a severe case of demodectic mange and secondary infection from scratching and biting. She is currently being treated for the mange. She loves all people. Has no "doggy" manners, but does like to interact with the other dogs...they are not so sure. She rides well in a cars. She is small for an akita, possible due to lack of early nutrition. She is still currently under treatment for mange. She won't be available for adoption until she is declared free of the mange mites and is spayed. A very charming companion who will bring light and joy into anyone's life.



Autumn — s/f, dob 2002?, red fawn and white pinto with black mask. Wonderful with people, a total love bug! **NEEDS TO BE ONLY PET!!!** Housebroken.

Tora – s/f, dob 2006, flashy brindle with white markings. Tora is housebroken, good with kids, currently living with a grumpy old male Akita so there is no love lost there. Was temporarily kept by a family with a Dachsund and got along fine with the Dachsie, but probably best with a dog of her choosing or only pet. Tora was initially a shelter dog who was seen on our website under shelter listings...’adopted’ by a young man whose parents did not want a dog and within 24 hours was deposited in another shelter in another state! When he surrendered this hard luck girl, he told the shelter he got her from ARMAC and we were contacted. Pieced together the details and the initial contact agreed to foster for us, so ultimately, she ended up in Rescue.



Mr. Handsome- Red/fawn pinto, black half mask, Kabuki eyes, dob 11-17-2001. Was pulled from a local shelter after he was picked-up as a stray. Although initially aloof he warmed up to his foster parents and is showing new and interesting facets to his personality. He knows how to sit and down for his treats, and behaved very well at his vet visit. He jumped right into the crate in our van. He loves car rides. Once he gains a little weight will he be a head turner. He needs an experienced Akita owner, in a home with no cats or small dogs, and older children (mid-teens). He requires a home where he is walked on leash all the time or with a very, very secure fence.



Sarabie- s/f, dob 9/07, black, with red highlights, white markings, curly tail very sweet and submissive little girl who has done well at adoption events with people and other dogs. She plays well with the dogs in her foster home from a good size male akita to a very dominant female. She is extremely athletic, and would make a great obedience, agility or flyball competitor. She is crate trained, housebroken, when loose in the house, ignores cats, and just wants to be in her own home.



Romi – F. 2 yrs., fawn w/blk. Guard hairs, black mask, white mkgs. (classic fawn with black mask). Remy is also recovering from spaying. Was a housepet, owners moved out and left her behind. Neighbor fed for two months before taking to shelter. Haven't had her long enough to know her likes and dislikes. She is accepting of most dogs, wants to play with puppies, will respond to a direct challenge with aggression (what else is new). The latter could also be because she is stressed. Doesn't currently seem to have high prey drive. The vet offices love her and she's been great with all people she's met including kids. No food aggression that we've noted (vet tech has been putting and pulling stuff out of her bowl and shoving pills down her mouth).

Jodi's Poetry Corner

“Living Memories”

I gaze out on my backyard.
I know if I look really hard
Very soon I will see
All the dogs who lived with me
The shades of those I've loved and lost
Knowing them was worth the cost
There's Noelle, my golden girl
Still chasing after that crazy squirrel.
And Shadow, brown eyes dancing still
Running up, up over the hill.
Sassy, what a crazy gal
Yet a wonderful and loving pal
Sammy, such a good, good dog
Head resting lightly on that log
My loving Baby, so intense,
Fixedly staring through the fence
Gizmo, halo 'round his head,
Mr. Perfect, enough said.
Sinbad with his happy face,
Found with us a loving place
Champion Teddy, with his magnificent head,
Gentle and sweet, huge and red.
Nicky with that puzzled brow
Knows exactly where he belongs now.
Emmy, such a lovely sprite,
Looks at me with eyes so bright.
Snookie, a Noelle clone
Had with us her permanent home
Booboo, with his crooked legs,
One paw waving, he would beg.
Tiny Tina, a miniak, (mini-akita)
Loving eyes so dark and black
Dino, with his wiggly butt,
Loved all children, a happy mutt.

Jodi Marcus Updated June 2008

DONATE THROUGH UNITED WAY

We need your help! If you can find it in your heart and wallet, please make a donation to help ARMAC orphans in need. Log on to UnitedWay.org. The ARMAC donation number: 784389

LETTERS FROM HOME

MAVY

Hi Jodi,

Just wanted to let you know Mavvy has very quickly become a beloved part of the household. He and Bella are constant companions (well when he's not on my heels)...he instigates play with her sometimes and I love watching them run around the big dog yard together. He hasn't given the cats a second look, is eating well and all bodily functions are working appropriately. I have a train that goes by my house a couple times a day...when they sound the horn Mavvy has taken to howling with it. Otherwise he's quiet and docile but a very good watchdog. He's a warm, funny, happy companion...sometimes I'm sure he's laughing at me. It feels like he's been here forever.

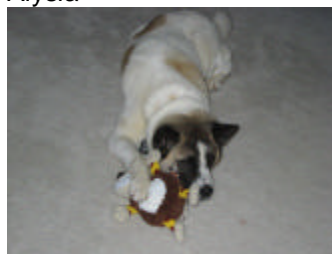
~ Lydia Pugh

CAMY

Jodi,

Camy is doing absolutely fabulous. She would be the best dog for even the worst dog owner. She doesn't bark unless she has good reason which isn't very often. When I leave her at home I know I'm going to come home to the same house as I left it. She doesn't do anything wrong. Not that it would matter, but my point is that she is just amazing! I'm so proud of her. Something to smile about... I have to tell you the cutest thing. Camy buries her bones all around the house. She'll scratch as if she's actually digging, place the bone in the spot and then cover it with the closest item she can find. My favorite is when she covered one with a teddy bear. She knows where they are too because she goes back and gets them to chew on. Thank you again for checking up on her. And thank you so much for working so hard to get her to me so quickly. I can tell that ya'll really have a heart for Akitas and love what you do. I admire you! I have to admit I was a little hesitant with going through the whole adoption process but I'm so glad I did! It is really worth it.

Proud mommy of Camy,
Alysia



Thank You For Your Donations!

Roger Pudwill Kim Cotton
Craig Foisey Rich & Dee Marrone
Candy Clary Bank of America
Jeffrey Olsen Gordon Dreher & Dancer
Kevin Lanigan Elea Warf
The Goldman Family

Congrats On Your Adoption!

Aneko * Smokey * Phoenix
Hooray!  Hooray!



About ARMAC

Akita Rescue, Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. (ARMAC), is one of the oldest Akita rescue groups in the United States, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ARMAC was founded by a small group of concerned Akita owners and has been serving the Mid-Atlantic seaboard since 1984.

Our highest priority is to save and rehome Akitas in area shelters, however, we also address a wide variety of Akita needs such as educating potential owners, referrals, support for Akita owners, and evaluations of dogs in private homes and shelters.

If you can find it in your heart to foster, adopt, donate or volunteer, please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved:

<http://akitarescue.rescuegroups.org/>

ARMAC UPCOMING EVENTS



**Prince William SPCA
Pet Adopt-A-Thon and Fall Fest**

Saturday October 18th, 2008 10AM until 4PM
Location: Prince William County Fairgrounds
10624 Dumfries Road Manassas VA





ARMAC

313 Quaint Acres Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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