

Uniquely

AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast

ARMAC - June 2008

This Too Could Happen To You

Kane's Story: How an owner's mistake can change everything

By Jodi Marcus

This story begins as a phone call, as usual. But this time the call came from my husband, Charlie, who works for our local fire department. He called to say there had been a medivac from an area in our county for wounds from a dog bite. My first thought was "please don't let it be an Akita." Later Charlie talked to one of the firefighters who had responded to the scene who described the dog as being "huge, hairy, pointed ears, curly tail". I groaned. A few days later, I received an email from the owner of the dog; it was an Akita. I called him and spoke with him about the incident. He wrote the following story about what happened with his Akita and a nephew, believing he may have to euthanize his beloved pet.

*This story is written to help other dog owners avoid a tragedy.
By Dave Goodman*

"My wife and I got Kane when he was 6 months old. His owners were unable to keep him because he was wreaking havoc with their other dog. They kept him in a crate for 14 hours per day and knew they had to give him up. We had a farm and we thought it might be a good place to bring him up. We already had a ten year old Akita whose health was failing and we thought he would make a great new friend for us. From the moment we got him we knew he was awesome- he was friendly and stayed with us all the time. When he was about a year and a half old we slowly introduced a new dog to him, a little 51 pound dog we got from the pound. Our older Akita seemed to be hanging in there so Kane and his new buddy Katie lived in a large run with a horse stall of their own inside with our horses. Introducing him to the new dog took several months but eventually they were inseparable. Kane was dominant but never hurt Katie (although the rough housing sometimes looked a little over the top). We installed a radio fence on our property and the two of them roamed freely around the property. They were one of the family and interacted well with everyone including small children; they swam in our pool and lounged on the deck in the sun. All was fine for close to two years. I especially remember he always wanted to be the first one in the barn so he could catch mice. The garage door would barely start to open and he would crouch down and slide himself in. Eight months ago we moved for a new job opportunity and went to a 20 acre farm which we thought would be great for the dogs too. Koko our older Akita had been put down just before the move as her arthritis became too painful and she was suffering. We created a 40 x 60 outdoor run area with an 8 x 14 mini barn with pet door for them to lounge inside and stay warm.

All seemed fine; we were waiting for spring so we could lay out a new radio fence so they could interact with us once again.

During the 8 months everyone went in and played with them from our 5 year old grandson to adults. Never did he have any issues. One thing was different this time, we never allowed people to feed treats to them while in visiting because there was always a competition for the treats which Kane would always win. They shared the same food bowl as free feeders and never fought over food, it was only treats which caused competition, but never anything major. Anyone feeding treats or chew bones had to feed from outside the kennel. The one thing that always concerned me was that Kane was 130 pounds and thought he was a lap dog that could just brush up against you. He was so powerful looking that he could be intimidating but he was so friendly we never worried. And then it happened. On Friday morning we were all planning a family outing with 5 young nieces and nephews. All seemed like it was going to be a fun day. Just before leaving, my young nephew who was 12 years old, had a couple of the dogs chew bone treats and was asking my wife how to get in the kennel, I immediately asked "Why does he need to go in?" I was concerned with food and the fact that he had only known Kane for 1 day. My wife said "oh its ok" I let my guard down because he seemed like such a good boy that even though I am always cautious, I just did not stop him. I went inside the house and within minutes heard my wife screaming my name. I immediately knew something had happened - I figured they got loose and were running all over and I would have to get them back, but no it was much worse. I came out and there was my nephew outside the kennel with his head wrapped with a towel being held by his mom- lying next to a tree and my wife was crying and I could see the blood on the dogs paws and on my nephews face. The nightmare had happened, my nephew went into the kennel and although I did not see what actually occurred we knew he went in with the treats, I am sure Katie and Kane both got excited and were vying for the treats while he held them. We are sure the two dogs started to fight for it and my nephew got caught in the middle. Kane being 40 pounds heavier took him down and probably held his head in his mouth. My wife went in and lifted the dog off of him and he moved aside. My brother in law got him out of there. My younger 6 year old nephew was in there to and was traumatized but not injured. The injuries seemed bad but not at a level where I felt the dog had severely attacked. There was a couple of small punctures on the top of head but then there was a long gash above his eye and down the side of his face which required over 60 stitches internal and external with a few other smaller lacerations. Luckily he is going to be ok but we recognized that any of those injuries placed just millimeters either way could have meant his death or severe disfigurement...

We called 911 and the paramedics arrived. It was determined that it was best to fly him over to the nearest quality medical center. Meanwhile Kane seemed to know something bad had happened because he was cowering over to the side of the run area; his shots were up to date and the animal control officer let us quarantine him in his area which is supposed to last 10 days. (continued on page 2)

:: ARMAC DOG TAGS ::

We have changed over to real "dog tags" for the Akitas. These are embossed tags similar to the ones used by the military that will not wear out as the engraved ones are prone to do. We also have silencers to go with them:

they are a rubber ring that goes around the tag to cut down on clinking and come in patriotic red, white and blue.

With a group of dogs, the silencers do not last long but one or two should not be a problem.

If your Armac ID tag has worn out, or you want it replaced, **please contact Jodi @ 703-730-0844 or Jodi@akitarescue.org.**

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At first I thought ok – this happened because we were stupid and allowed him to go in the kennel with food so this was completely our fault for setting up a situation that turned ugly. But now after many discussions with friends and the Akita rescue people we feel he is going to have to be euthanized by around May 5th 2008. We have too many children who come here and feel the risk is too great since he passed what we were told is called the “bite barrier”. There is no greater pain than knowing if we had just not made the mistake of getting too comfortable with his demeanor we would have prevented this accident. Our inaction has caused this innocent animal (and I refer to him as animal because it was his animal pack instinct which probably caused this) to be put down. I dread the day 2 weeks from now when I am going to have to bring him in and have him put down. If only we were cautious, if only. I urge other owners of dogs like this to never let their guard down and always protect your animals from harm and from harming others. We are going to miss him and we are very sad. I will never forget his intuitive face.”



After the initial furor died down and his nephew had seen the doctor for a follow up appointment, Dave, the owner and his family took a step back and reviewed the situation. Here is what Dave wrote to me:

“My nephew went to the doctor today and the news was great- no muscle and no nerve damage-- and the most staggering thing is that he said it would heal without any major scar---I looked at it the night before and was floored by how smooth and straight the cut was - no puncture wounds--- I looked up pictures of dog bites and this was nothing like that-- it was two scratches 1 - 3+ inches the other about 2 inches under the chin- that is it. Now that the dust cleared a little and I had been able to question my wife-- she originally said she lifted the dog off my nephew-- but my brother in law says when he saw what was happening he shook the fence hard to get him off and Kane backed off. My wife thought about it and realized that when she went in she moved the dog aside but that he was near but not on my nephew-- we are really trying to do the right thing here- it just does not look like a bite attack. I am sure he could have done damage with a bite-- I see him playing with the other dog all the time- he snarls and opens his mouth but never ever has he broken skin - all who have seen this seem to think it was a deep scratch wound--- we are definitely confused now--- if he is not cited as a danger we really want to keep him and re-socialize him-- I would love for you to come out and maybe see him and see his actions and get an opinion as someone who knows Akitas--- is this possible?”

Now we had some new information. The cuts in the young man's face were straight with no torn edges. Anyone who has ever been bitten or dealt with a bite knows very few bites have almost razor straight edges. In further review, Kane backed away immediately when he was yelled at by the boy's father. Dave's wife did not have to pull Kane off the boy, she pushed him away while she was trying to see and tend to the nephew's injuries. We were quite happy to go ourselves and evaluate him, hoping that we would not have to recommend euthanasia. Myself, Charlie and Hillary went out. Kane and his female companion were kept in a huge run with trees and a building for shelter. After talking to Dave initially, I suggested he may want to padlock the gates to the run to make sure that no one could get in without supervision. He had already done that by the time we arrived to evaluate Kane.

The dogs obviously fed off each other and were acting a little wild, but calmed down considerably when separated. I could see how a young boy, entering the run, and rushed by the two of them could be easily knocked over. I also noticed that Kane had long, very sharp

nails. Yes, they could tear open a boy's face. We watched him from outside the run, he came over and was friendly. Having no bad feelings about his behavior, we entered the run. He was friendly, let us pet him, and let us take a rawhide bone from him. There were no signs of aggression of any kind. I told the owner that we did not feel this was an aggressive dog. From the length and sharpness of his claws we could see exactly how the child could have been clawed in the dog's eagerness to get the treats.

Prior to moving here, Kane had been on cement which kept his nails filed down. Dave and his family were still making trips back and forth to their old home and just had not realized how long the nails had grown. I asked what the animal warden had said when he responded. The warden told him he did not feel Kane was aggressive or they would have taken him immediately. Dave was not charged or cited with anything. Dave had pretty much decided to ignore the urgings of his brother and other family members to euthanize Kane and keep him. Our visit confirming that he was not an aggressive dog further strengthened his resolve.

Kane was lucky. He had an owner who did not react in the heat of the moment. He gathered information and sought assistance before making his final decision.

This story illustrates how a moment of inattention, letting the boy go into the run with no supervision, could have cost Kane his life. This is why we in rescue harp so much on always being aware of what your dog is doing and who is around them. It is up to us to protect our dogs from situations that could end their lives.

It's Summer – Beware!

Dog Bite Prevention Awareness

The vast majority of dog bites are from a dog known to the child—his or her own pet, a neighbor's or a friend's. You can help prevent this from happening to your child. Please discuss with him or her the appropriate way to behave around dogs. The activity below will help you and your child understand the difference between safe and potentially dangerous interactions with dogs.

The following is a list of pledges that you can recite with your child:

1. I will not stare into a dog's eyes.
2. I will not tease dogs behind fences.
3. I will not go near dogs chained up in yards.
4. I will not touch a dog I see loose (off-leash) outside.
5. If I see a loose dog, I will tell an adult immediately.
6. I will not run and scream if a loose dog comes near me.
7. I will stand very still (like a tree), and will be very quiet if a dog comes near me.
8. I will not touch or play with a dog while he or she is eating.
9. I will not touch a dog when he or she is sleeping.
10. I will only pet a dog if I have received permission from the dog's owner.
11. Then I will ask permission of the dog by letting him sniff my closed hand.

Additional pledges:

12. I will not sit on or try to ride on any dog.
13. I will not try to take any bone or toy away from any dog.
14. If my dog has one of my toys, I will ask an adult to get the toy from the dog.

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Planning a Hike? Read this first!

Be careful while walking on public lands this summer with your pet

If you hike your dogs on any PUBLIC lands, they are at risk of the following:

<http://footloosemontana.org/index.html>

<http://www.wtvf.com/Global/story.asp?S=7825187>

Foster homes needed

Ever thought of fostering? Maybe in the future?

If you can find it in your heart and home to foster, we urge you to complete the paperwork now.

When or if you decide to foster, the time taken to scramble and complete the paperwork could mean life or death for a pup in need.

Please visit our website for more information.

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

Bloat 101:

Know the 411 before you need 911!

Recent studies are shedding more light on gastric dilatation volvulus (GSV), otherwise known as bloat. GDV is the second leading cause of death in large-breed (50 – 99 pounds) and giant-breed (100 pounds and over) dogs. Approximately one in four large-breed dogs and one in five giant-breed dogs may develop GDV during their lifetime, with some breeds at even higher lifetime risk. GDV strikes suddenly and has a mortality rate as high as 30 percent. In GDV there is a rapid accumulation of air in the stomach, causing distention and often rotation of the stomach, cutting off blood supply at both ends and causing the dog to go into shock. GDV is an acute emergency and rushing the dog to immediate veterinary care is essential. The risk of a dog developing GDV increases with age. Other factors that increase a dog's risk are having a first-generation relative with a history of GDV, having a deep and narrow chest or abdomen, being thin, experiencing a major health problem before age 1, and having a fearful or nervous temperament. Research primarily at Perdue University by Dr. Larry Glickman, VMD, Ph.D, (an AKC Excellence in Canine Research Award winner), and Dr. Malathi Raghavan, DVM, Ph.D. has identified a number of feeding management and dietary factors that **increase the risk** of GDV. These include eating only one meal a day, feeding food with only small particles, and feeding a large volume of food per meal. Other feeding factors **found to increase** the risk of GDV were eating rapidly, increased physical activity before and eating, restricting a dog's water intake before and after eating, moistening dry food before feeding, and eating from a raised feeding bowl. Thus, some of the **recommendations**

commonly made to prevent GDV were shown by the research to actually increase the risk of GDV. In the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 17, No. 10, Glickman wrote, "In addition, in univariate analyses, many of the recommendations commonly made to prevent GDV, such as raising the food bowl, moistening dry food prior to feeding, and restricting water intake before and after feeding, were associated with a significantly increased risk of GDV."

THE LATEST RESEARCH

Recent research, not yet published, has shown an increased risk of GDV in dogs who consumed dry foods containing fat among the first four ingredients, and an increased risk in dogs who consumed dry foods listing citric acid as a preservative – with this risk rising when foods with citric acid were moistened. Although not **statistically significant**, researchers found that a modest increase in risk of GDV was seen with the consumption of dry foods that listed more than one corn ingredient among the first four label ingredients, while in contrast, a pattern was observed of decreased GDV risk with an increasing number of protein ingredients of animal origin, including beef, poultry, lamb, and fish among the first four ingredients. *Dyann S. Rivkin is a writer and video producer . who lives with the 14-year old daughter of her first Irish Setter and his grandchildren.*

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Feed two or more meals a day
- * Feed no more than one cup per 33 pounds of body weight per meal when feeding two meals a day (for fully mature adult dogs only)
- * Feed an energy-dense diet, to reduce volume, but avoid a diet where a high amount of calories are from fats.
- * When feeding dry food, also include foods with sufficient amounts of meats and meat meals, for example: beef, lamb, poultry, and fish.
- * Feed a food with larger particles, and include larger pieces of meat to the diet and avoid moistening dry foods
- * If your dog eats rapidly, find ways to try to reduce his speed of eating
- * Avoid raising the food bowl – place it at ground level
- * Try to minimize stress for your dog. Stressful events have been reported to be precipitating factors in GDV occurrence.
- * Restrict vigorous exercise one hour before and two hours after meals.
- * When you are not in close proximity to your dog, use a baby monitor to alert you if your dog is in distress.

Learn to recognize signs of GDV, which include pacing and restlessness, head turning to look at the abdomen, distention of the abdomen, rapid shallow breathing, nonproductive attempts at vomiting, and salivation. These symptoms can progress rapidly to shock and death. Get to your veterinarian or emergency hospital the moment you suspect GDV.

Xylitol Sweetener Toxic To Dogs

The dangers of chewing gum

By Douglas Herman

Last Friday evening, I arrived home from work, fed Chloe, our 24 Lb. Dachshund, just as I normally do. Ten minutes later I walked into the den just in time to see her head inside the pocket of Katie's friend's purse. She had a guilty look on her face so I looked closer and saw a small package of sugar-free gum. It contained Xylitol. I remembered that I had recently read that sugar-free gum can be deadly for dogs so I jumped on line and looked to see if Xylitol was the ingredient. I found the first website below and it was the one. Next, I called our vet. She said to bring her in immediately. Unfortunately, it was still rush hour and it took me almost a half an hour to get there. Meanwhile, since this was her first case, our vet found another website to figure out the treatment. She took Chloe and said they would induce her to vomit, give her a charcoal drink to absorb the toxin (even though they don't think it works) then they would start an IV with dextrose. The Xylitol causes dogs to secrete insulin so their blood sugar drops very quickly. The second thing that happens is liver failure. If that happens, even with aggressive treatment, it can be difficult to save them. She told us she would call us. Almost two hours later, the vet called and said that contents of her stomach contained 2-3 gum wrappers and that her blood sugar had dropped from 90 to 59 in 30 minutes. She wanted us to take Chloe to another hospital that has a critical care unit operating around the clock. We picked her up and took her there. They had us call the ASPCA poison control for a case number and for a donation, their doctors would direct Chloe's doctor on treatment. They would continue the IV, monitor her blood every other hour and in 2 days test her liver function. She ended up with a central line in her jugular vein since the one in her leg collapsed, just as our regular vet had feared. Chloe spent almost the entire weekend in the critical care hospital. After her blood sugar was stabilized, she came home. They ran all the tests again before they released her and so far, no sign of liver damage. Had I not seen her head in the purse, she probably would have died and we wouldn't even had known why.

Three vets told me this weekend, that they were amazed that I even knew about it since they are first learning about it too. Please tell everyone you know about Xylitol and its danger to dogs. It may save another life.

<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/oct06/061001b.asp>

Like Owner Like Pup?

How Dogs and Their Owners' Personalities are Similar

Survey Conducted by Carrie Ann Pryor

My friend and I had to take a statistics class in college. We found this class quite tedious, so we decided to 'liven' things up a little, as we came up with an idea that would become our semester project for this class. We passed the class with a fairly good grade, and we had immense fun doing what we loved best- playing with dogs, and their owners. We got a list of dog owners, that had been 'in the breed' for a while, the following criteria for the survey was followed: been in the breed for more than five years, owned more than four of the same breed, consistently returned to this breed, had more than 5 years solid knowledge of the breed, people who found things in common with the breed they selected. Then we created a questionnaire. We did telephone interviews, and asked them to fill out sheets of questions. In compiling the results of the survey, we found criteria that seemed constant, and based on these, we entered a critique.

Summary for Japanese Akita Owners:

The Japanese Akita owners, things found most commonly by a margin of 77%: The Akita owner was found in this study surveyed to be suspicious and a little aggressive on the outside, but in time this study found, to be an elaborate wall this breed lover builds. Although this breed lover can become staunch when defending his personal interests, he has a redeeming compassionate heart on the inside. Again, with this breed lover, what you see is not always what you get. The Akita lover does not offer trust randomly, as he prefers to assess new people carefully. This breed lover has a limited patience with strangers, and once trust is revoked by this breed lover, he or she is difficult to redeem. In this study, the Akita owner almost unanimously stated he prefers to discuss an issue that is bothering him and to 'clear the air'. This breed lover is not shy about expressing an opinion or proclaiming against what he felt unjust. When prompted, the Akita owner was helpful and considerate, but he will wait to be asked before he becomes involved, with the exception of when he is personally attacked. If personally attacked, this breed lover is very competent in protecting himself, and is indeed "street wise", argues well, and supports his points with hard facts and data. This breed lover has a soft and romantic place inside that he keeps hidden. This breed lover is bright, quick witted, and uses his gift to his own advantage. This breed lover is headstrong and will not quickly bend to accommodate other's beliefs. The Akita owner is capable of making a hard decision without shadow of a doubt, but those closest to him will know he is touched.

INCLUSIVE FACT: (44%) In this study surveyed have no intentions of abandoning their breed for another, while (29%) in this study surveyed, have no intentions of owning a dog of another breed.

Letters from Home: Takara Update

Another Successful ARMAC Adoption

By Carol Marek

Dear Jodi,

Takara is a delight and adjusting well. Her to us, us to her. Right now she is under my home office desk. I wouldn't think a hamster could fit under there but she finds a way. Jeff is over at the garden plot so she has to be close by me. The best news: she is house trained just fine. I know that was a big concern for Jeff since he is the lighter sleeper of the two of us. She will go over to the door to the screened in porch when she has to do her business. We give her the requisite praise. Saturday night Jeff let her out about 1:30am but last night she was fine throughout the night and I let her out at 6am. She sleeps on Jeff's side of the bed. How do dogs know instinctively who is best suited to tend to their needs during the night? I think Takara's name should be "Lightning" she is so damn quick. Potato couch Akita she is not. The spooky thing is we never hear her. I'll look down and there she is. She loves the back yard. She has already found the mud holes and could be a digger if she's left to her own devices. She tests the limits in the house. She has tried out all the people chairs but once we say off she leaves it alone. I was doing dishes yesterday and noticed she wasn't stretched out on the floor anymore and it was awfully quiet. Trouble. I found her in the bedroom, sitting on the bed just pleased as punch. I was very stern with her and she had her nose out of joint for a few minutes. She exhibits typical puppy traits of picking up stray socks and flip-flops so we've decided to put all temptations in the closet out of her reach. She's even taken one of Jeff's baseball caps off the living room table. Takara is training us to be neat. Ha. That's a good thing. She is doing well on her walks. She very much wants to lead so that will take time/training. So far we haven't encountered many dogs when we've had her on the leash so can't say how she reacts. We've not left her alone in the house yet. Jeff plans to buy a crate this week. I think she would find too much mischief if left to roam the house when we are not there. Takara takes a big interest in the door and the comings/goings. I'm afraid she will scoot on out so we are working on having her stop and stay. She likes to jump up and see if her peeps forgot about her so that's another training opportunity. We are trying, trying, trying to call her a she. That's a big adjustment after two male Akitas. She is definitely a people person and you can see how hard she is trying to please. It breaks my heart to think of her being passed around so much in her young life. Our wish is to give her love and stability. Thanks again for matching us with a wonderful dog!!

From Chef Hillary's Kitchen:

Stay cool, dog!

Beat the dog days of summer with this all natural frosty treat that you and your pup can share! Who needs the ice cream truck?

By Hillary Parlow

Our ARMAC rescue, Senshi, loves frosty paws. But packaged dog treats have dozens of chemicals even Alex Trebek can't pronounce! With a diet of all natural organic dog food and filtered water, the only thing missing from her diet is homemade dessert! Below you will find the recipe to this easy and affordable sweet treat you both will bark for! You can even clip along the dotted lines and stick on your freezer door ✂

Homemade Frosty Paws

Ingredients

- ~ 32 ounces all natural vanilla yogurt
- ~ 1 banana, ripe and mashed
- ~ 2 tablespoons organic honey
- ~ 2 tablespoons all natural peanut butter

Directions

- ~ Blend all ingredients together and divide up into 3-ounce paper dixie cups or small pyrex dishes and freeze.
 - ~ Microwave just a few seconds before serving.
-



Arf! Senshi gives this recipe 3 out of 3 treats!

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:

hparlow@yahoo.com

Dogs Available

*CURRENT LIST OF AKITA RESCUE
(ARMAC, Inc.) DOGS (June 2008)*

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!**

Maverick – a/m, dob 1998, red and white pinto with black mask and broken ears. This guy is a GEM! He lived with Silas, the intact 4 year old male Akita and together they escaped to locate their owner after she was evicted from her home of many years. Instead they were incarcerated by the county. Mavvy is housebroken, good with dogs, walks beautifully on lead, crate trained. He's a bit of a garbage hound, but a nice guy who would also love to find his permanent and SECURE retirement home. **Update:** Mavvy came to us with a previous injury to his eye (suspected car encounter) which we thought was healed. It turned out that the exterior was healed, but the interior became infected and in spite of treatment he became blind in his right eye. Doesn't slow him down one bit!

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.

Asa – a/m, dob 6/22/07, golden red with black mask and white markings, is coming up on his 1 year birthday and is the only one left from the litter of 9 puppies we took in July 2007. He loves people from infants in strollers to elderly in walkers. He is a great companion, happy to interact, or just hang out if his person is busy. He plays with all the "girls" in the house, and the boys with supervision. Another dog who has been a poster child for wonderful at adoption events, giving kisses to all who stop and being polite to the other dogs. Why he has not found a home is a major mystery, unless it is because he is a mix.

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. She will NOT do cats (or will, but not in the fashion a cat owner wishes).

Aniko – s/f. 16 mos., white with half a dark mask on face and ears,. She was picked up as a stray and found to be very pregnant when spayed (another one of those very thin girls with surprises!). Aniko is very willing to learn and has responded quickly to commands. Aniko is an all around great puppy with lots of potential, currently living with an a/m boxer and cat.

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 has graduated to being with her foster's dogs (several of different sizes). However, 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 was not getting along with siblings or dam. But has settled in to a routine in her foster home with several smaller mixed breeds. Whereas she is still very pushy, she sits with 'the gang' for treats. She is still very bossy and dominant. We suspect she would do best as an only pet, but could be swayed to try a nice mellow boy pairing.

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, 90% housebroken when loose in the house, ignores cats, and like so many, just wants to be in her own home.

Mori – a/m, 18 mos., silver fawn with heavy black overlay and white markings. Owner surrender, owner moved and left Morie with roommates who didn't want a dog. Mori needs a foster home who will be willing to work with him and take him through obedience school. He is currently being boarded because we had no place to put him and he was too nice to let die. Mori is a friendly and gregarious guy! **Adoption pending

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.

Carrie – s/f, 2-3 yr old female, lovely classic fawn with black mask and white markings, will not be available until mid-July. 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 was transported to Richmond, spent the night there, and then to Woodbridge, where she will stay and chill until her foster parent returns from out of town. 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

All ARMAC orphans are vet checked, up to date on vaccinations, spayed/neutered and are heartworm and fecal negative

Military Working Dogs

Cooling Vest Project



Mission: To provide cooling vests, and other protective gear such as Doggles, MuttLuks, and any other necessary gear to help the Military Working Dogs in Iraq's extreme conditions,

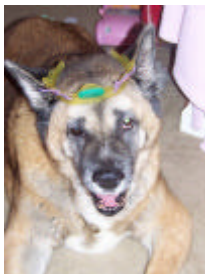
who in turn protect and serve our Soldiers.
<http://supportmilitaryworkingdogs.org>

In Memoriam



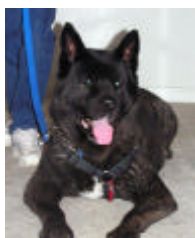
Beau Dog, beloved companion of the Harris family

November 1996- April 23, 2008



I am standing by the seashore. A ship at my side spreads his white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. He is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last he hangs like a peck of white cloud just where the sun and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, 'There he goes! Gone where? Gone from my sight - that is all. He is just as large in mast and hull as he was when he left my side and just as able to bear his load of living freight to the places of destination. His diminished size is in me, not in him. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, 'There he goes! ', there are other eyes watching him coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout : 'Here he comes!'

Becky Heath in Memory of her "Good Ole Man" Titan



Connie Young in memory of her beloved Dakota

November 1996 – April 27, 2008

My dearest Dakota:

When I first met you, over seven years ago, I can honestly say that I loved you the moment I laid eyes on you. You were four years old when you came to me from Denise, who did a wonderful job raising you those first four years of your life. Although it had to be scary for you, going to a new home and leaving the only family you knew. But it had to be, and little did you know how close we would become and the good times we would share together. You brought me so much joy and happiness over the last seven years. You taught me something that no human being was ever able to teach me – unconditional love. You always showed such a strong unconditional love for me – it was wonderful. I loved being your mommy, taking care of you, playing with you on the floor and going for walks with you. I will never forget how when my Dad passed away five years ago, you comforted me every night until he was buried. You slept curled up next to me in bed all night, every night for a week. Since that was definitely not normal behavior for you, in doing that, you let me know that you knew that I needed you close to me. Now you are with my Dad and all of our other loved ones that have gone on to a better place.

I miss you terribly each and every day.

Losing you has been harder than I even thought it would be.

Please know that there are many others who miss you too.

I have no doubt that we will be together again one day.

Please wait for me at the Rainbow Bridge.



Carolyn Stanek and The American Council on Education - In memory of Copper, beloved companion to Wanda and Anthony Thomas.

Although Copper will be gone from my life, he will never be absent from my heart.



:: Thank you for your donations ::

Craig Foisey! Becky Heath!

Polly Sack! Edith Upchurch!

Jerry Burke! Kevin Lanigan!

:: Congrats on your adoption ::

Gryffy ~ Draco ~ Tootie

Babe ~ Sen ~ Takara





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