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URGENT:

FOSTER HOMES

NEEDED!!!

Ever thought of
fostering?

Maybe in the future?

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

Please visit our website for more information:

AkitaRescue.org

THE FUTURE OF ARMAC

BY JODI MARCUS

This September was our 27th year of hands-on rescue. I reflect back and think of all the dogs we have helped, all the wonderful people we have met, the issues we have solved for owners and feel pretty good. However, when I look to the future I don't feel so optimistic. Personally, I am tired! I plan to retire from rescue in 3 years if I make it that long. For ARMAC to continue operating, we will need volunteers willing to step in and take over; the only way for this to occur is for anyone who ever thought of volunteering in any capacity to get involved **now** in order to learn the ropes, to meet the shelter workers, to get a feel for this organization. If no one does so, there will be no ARMAC once the older volunteers retire.

If we do not have more volunteers helping currently, the three year time span will be a moot point. This organization is not operating at the level we should be; we have been limping along, doing the best we can with very limited resources. Our most pressing need is foster homes. If you have no place to put a dog, you cannot save dogs. An important feature of foster homes is experience with the breed. The organization relies on its foster homes to relay information about each dog to us to help in its placement. All of you who have lost companions in recent years, but have not yet acquired another because you are not ready yet for a permanent canine, consider fostering. You have that much needed experience with the breed that could make or break an Akita's transition into a new home. So if you are not ready to make a lifetime commitment again, please, please think about making a temporary one and save an Akita in the process. All adopters need to remember that if someone had not come forward to foster YOUR dog, you would not have or have had that wonderful companion !!

Foster homes are not our only need. Below is a list of positions that need to be filled by volunteers. I am serious in telling you that if we do not get more help, there will be no ARMAC for you to come to for your next Akita.

These first three are things that need some training and hands on experience. I am happy to provide the training and to take anyone along when I evaluate dogs.

House checks: This involves going to a potential adopter's home and checking the potential living areas as well as for hazards that could impact the Akita's life with its new owner.

Applications: This requires going over all the information on the application to initially decide whether the person will be a good home for an Akita. Most applications come to me first and if I think they are viable, I will give them to other volunteers to further check on the info provided. This can involve interviewing personal and vet references, basically prying into their previous ownership of their animals. It is uncomfortable for some references to talk to you and vice versa, but for the sake of the dogs, you must keep probing.

Evaluations of Akitas' temperaments: This can range from visiting Akitas in a home to evaluate their issues for the owners or if they are being given up, their potential adoptability, to evaluating dogs in a shelter. Dogs in homes can usually wait until an appointment can be arranged. Shelter dogs may die if a volunteer cannot get out to the shelter immediately...this can mean taking off work or re-arranging your schedule to fit the evaluation in immediately.

Event coordination: Armac is invited to various adoption events throughout the year. This position will require the volunteer to be the liaison between the organization putting on the event and Armac, keeping both organizations up to date on the various events.

(continued on page 2)

ARMAC FUTURE (CONT'D)

Volunteer coordination (VA & MD): The volunteer coordinator actively recruits and manages volunteers for events, transports, seminars, dog evaluations etc and keeps both ARMAC regulars and volunteers up to date on activities. We are in dire need of volunteers in all states, but more so in Maryland.

Grants: There are grants out there for rescue organizations for a variety of purposes. The grants volunteer searches for and applies for the various grants on behalf of ARMAC.

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, other websites): The ARMAC website is kept up to date by regular volunteers, but we need one or more volunteers to create and manage accounts with the above named social media.

Transports: Sometimes dogs need transportation from a shelter to a foster home or other location. Usually this can be arranged in advance, but not always.

Newsletter: We try to get the newsletter out every two months and mostly succeed (mostly due the persistence of the editor). The current editor would be happy to send her template and all other info to whomever wants to volunteer.

Foster homes: This is our most urgent need. As stated above, if we have no foster homes in which to place dogs, we cannot take dogs from shelters. We can temporarily kennel dogs, but the cost quickly drains any income or financial cushion we may have. After kenneling dogs as well as using foster home initially, we decided that the dogs did best in foster homes and we knew more about the dogs in foster homes which helped in making our placements permanent. Our organization was and is built on using foster homes. We currently only have 3 foster homes. If any of these cannot continue to foster, we will save fewer dogs. If we lose them all, there will be no ARMAC.

Fundraising-Auctions: Money is always an issue. We need volunteers who can come up with ways to fundraise, implement them, and manage them. Online auctions are very expensive to use and on top of regular fees, they take a percentage of whatever income is generated by the auction. We have found that ebay is not the best way to auction items. Generally an auction devoted to Armac raises more money than ebay auctions. So the only way we can currently run an auction is to show the items on the webpage and take bids by email. Volunteers can manage the bids, make sure the items once won are packaged and sent to the winners.

Armac Store: management of the online store the links to cafepress.com

Artists: Armac has not has any new designs for several years. Anyone with an artistic bent who would like to help make designs for sweatshirts, tees, cups etc.

WINTER DOG CARE

Senior dogs and puppies are the least able to regulate body temperature and the most affected by the cold. Make sure seniors with arthritis have a warm, cushy bed to lay on and, if necessary, get meds from the vet to help with arthritis pain.

Watch those feet! If your dog tolerates it, consider foot protection booties. They can keep your dog's feet safe from harm, such as dangerous objects hidden by the snow and salt on roads and walk ways. In addition, booties can help give your dog better traction and prevent slipping on ice. If booties are not possible, petroleum jelly rubbed on foot pads will help prevent issues from salt and de-icers. If the feet are exposed, always wash them with warm soap and water to remove salt from treated roads and sidewalks. Trimming the hair between the pads will help keep ice balls to a minimum.

Always keep a close watch on your dog and stay nearby. Don't allow your dog to run across frozen bodies of water; he could fall through thin ice!!

If you use a fireplace (indoor or outdoor) keep a safety guard around it to protect your dog from the flames, hot ash and soot. Don't leave him alone near open flames.

When outside, if your dog begins excessively shaking or shivering, get him back to warm shelter as soon as possible. If you suspect your dog is developing hypothermia, bring him to a vet immediately. Remember elderly dogs and young puppies are much more sensitive to extreme temperatures.

Avoid allowing your dog to eat anything on the ground, including snow. Dangerous objects or chemicals may be hidden in the snow. And eating snow can cause stomach upset and even hypothermia. Always keep fresh room temperature water available at all times.

Beware antifreeze - It is highly toxic! Antifreeze has a sweet taste that attracts animals, but even a small amount can kill your dog. Exposure to antifreeze is a risk all year, but the risk is much greater during the colder months. Keep your eyes on your dog at all times - and keep antifreeze out of reach. If you suspect your dog has had ANY exposure to antifreeze, get to a vet right away. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning include stumbling as if drunk, vomiting, depression.

With the holidays fast approaching be diligent about chocolate, makadamian nuts, poinsettias and other toxic substances. Our Winter 2011 newsletter will have more information on keeping your Akitas safe this holiday season.

Snow and ice equate to power outages. Be sure you have prepared for being shut in for several days by having sufficient pet food and prescription medications on hand. If your water is supplied by a private well be sure you stock water as well.

SASHA'S JOURNEY HOME

HI !! My name is SASHA !!! That is pronounced with the emphasis on the first syllable and in a two note lilt, with the higher note being on the first syllable.(SA-sha) I am also known as Sachi, Shachacha, and Sparkle Farkle. Here is my story...

Sasha: I was about 6 months old, hanging out in the yard with my male buddy. We were bored and decided to see what we could do to occupy ourselves. We managed to get out of the yard and set off on a journey of exploration. We were crossing a street and BAM !! I was hit by something big and it HURT !! My buddy ran home, but I was stunned. A nice man in a big white truck came and got me, took me to a vet who sedated and x-rayed me. I had a broken femur (thigh). The break was in a place that was difficult if not impossible to splint, so the vet gave the man pills for pain and to keep me sedated so I would do no more damage to my leg. I was then taken to a shelter. I had no collar or tags so they did not know to whom I belonged. I heard them talking saying they notified rescue that I was there, but until an owner showed up or my wait time was up, I could not go anywhere. My owner called the next day, and when he was told that I needed surgery said he could not afford to do it. The shelter suggested he come in and sign me over because rescue was willing to take me and have my injury fixed. He agreed to come in and release me.

I was feeling kind of woozy, but the sharp pain in my leg had dulled to an ache and the people here at the shelter were very nice to me. I even got to stay in an office part of the time. One of the workers brought me to a different area were two people, a man and a woman, were waiting. So this is "rescue". I did my best to let them know I was glad to meet them, but some movement caused me more pain. The lady scooped me up and gently put me in a well padded crate bottom and sat with me as we left the shelter. The car ride seemed long and once or twice we bounced which hurt my leg. I tried not to cry too much, but sometimes I could not help it. I was gently taken out of the car and taken into a room where they put a needle in my leg and blessed relief! I could not feel my leg at all. The two people hugged me, said good bye and that they would be back to get me as soon as I could be released.

The next day they DID NOT feed me!!! What's going on here? But before I knew, I was out in a deep dark sleep. When I woke up, I was aware of my leg, but the pain level was way down. I was walked and taken care of. Then the rescue lady and man came to get me and took me to a home.

Jodi: We had been notified about Sasha and I felt she was the perfect dog for Rob. Rob has been an adopter almost since our inception and in all the years he has been adopting from us has taken older dogs, non younger than 6 years. After he adopted Sanno earlier this year, he indicated he would like a female companion for him and if a young female were to be available, he would like to try going younger for once. So after telling the shelter we would take her, we were awaiting the call from the shelter to go pick her up. It came and we took off. We did the necessary paperwork and Ms. Sasha was brought out. Sedated and on pain meds, with her broken leg dangling like a branch in the

wind, she was still happy to meet new people. We got her into the van and with one of us driving, the other sitting with Sasha, we took off for the vet in Springfield. I prayed that we would encounter no traffic in the almost one hour drive and someone was listening because we had very smooth trip, although there were one or two whimpers from her when we hit a rough patch. They took Ms. Sasha in to evaluate her and get her on some IV pain meds. Her leg was broken high up near the hip end of the thigh bone. She would definitely need surgery and because of the location of the break, a plate and screws as well. She was scheduled for the next day. I waited anxiously to hear back how surgery went and was beginning to worry when the call came. Because of the length of time between injury and surgery, her muscles had contracted very tightly and even under anesthesia they had a difficult time getting them to extend so the bone could be set. They also put a pin in her leg for additional support. She was doing well.

Sasha: So the same people came and got me again and took me to a house. There were several dogs like me, Akitas, but they left me alone in my crate. I was a little stressed, but two of the other dogs, Annie and Bertie, came and laid down in front of me and next to me. I could feel their calming vibes and settled in. They hung out with me for the next few days whenever they could until I felt comfortable and got into the routine.

The man and woman took me out for walks, fed me, made sure I had water and a bone in my crate, but would not let me run in the house with the others or even walk fast. They're MEAN!!! They kept telling me I had to heal, but I felt pretty damn good! A few weeks later, they took me back to the vet where my staples were removed, and the physical therapist was very pleased with progress. However, about 10 days later, I wasn't feeling so good. I went out with the man in the morning and was okay. The lady took me out a little later and I had some pain in my leg and was limping. She was very concerned...I had not limped at all since my surgery. I had to do #2, and since my activity level is so minimal, my intestines are sluggish too. I had to really push and was feeling even worse. I took a few steps and felt this searing pain from my hip on down. I screamed and tried to bite at the pain while my foster mom tried to help. We went a few more steps and that pain came back and I screamed again, biting at myself to make it stop. It did, but there was a residual and I did not feel good. My foster mom did not have to make me walk slow since I really did not want to move at all. She put me back in my crate and made phone calls.

Jodi: Sasha had been doing so well. She had an almost imperceptible limp after surgery but was not supposed to put full weight on her leg, so that was okay. It faded to the point of not being able to see it within days. She sat still (with the help of some yummy treats) when her staples were

(cont'd on page 4)

SASH'S JOURNEY (CONT'D)

removed and everyone was pleased with her with how well she was doing. The physical therapist said she did not need therapy because her range of motion was so good and to keep on doing what we were already doing: confinement, controlled walks. Her fan club had to come out say hi when they heard she was back for her checkup. About 10 days later, when I took her out in the morning, she was obviously limping. Uh oh, not good. She walked up her allotted area, did her business with some difficulty and as we started our return trip, she screamed and started biting at her leg. She stopped, walked a little further and the same thing happened. Again she stopped and dragged herself back home. I was very concerned because not only because of the limp and pain incidents, but because she was so subdued. One thing Sasha is NOT is subdued. I called the vet and they told me to bring her in. I then called Charlie to come home from work and help me with her. I let her out again about 15 minutes before Charlie got home. She walked to the next door neighbor's yard and sat...this is the dog who keeps trying to extend her walks beyond her allotted limit. Once Charlie arrived, we took her out of the crate again and could see an obvious deformity in the area of her hip and upper leg. Had the plate somehow shifted? How could it? Worried sick, we went back to the vet. When we got there, the deformity looked like a little pole sticking up. Because her pain was intermittent, we were assured it was probably the pin coming out and that could be removed with a small incision.

Sasha: Dad came home and off we went, back to the vet. The pain was mostly gone, but did come back when I moved certain ways. My friends at the vet all greeted me and I was taken into the exam area to be checked out. I had to stay again for more but minor surgery. My mom and dad left and soon I was out like a light. I was really groggy and drooling excessively when mom came back to get me, really not at all with it. I wasn't sure who she was, where I was and just wanted to get back into my nice cage and sleep. But they made me get up and she put me in the crate and I just laid down, occasionally murmuring when we hit a patchy area. I was happy to get back into my crate and just rest. Bertie and Annie came and laid in front of my crate again and I knew all would be okay.

Jodi: Sasha was really drooling when we picked her up, literally soaked in spit. It was an unusual reaction, but had stopped by later in the day. She was a bit woozy, ate the little we gave her and slept. The next day she was back to her normal, sweet, spunky self and has not looked back.

Her final checkup the beginning of July with the surgeon was very good and the physical therapist was thrilled with her progress. Because the area where her pin came out was not totally closed yet she still had to be leash walked for another month, but was allowed time out and about in the house. She uses her "out" time to play (at baby gates) with Bertie and some of the other dogs. She cannot have play interactions with them until September to make sure she fully heals and does not suffer a relapse. We talked to our vet about spaying her...I was a little concerned about so much anesthesia in such a short period of time, but wanted her done before she came in heat or went to her new home.

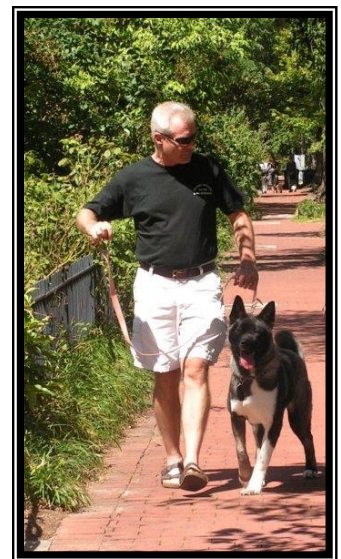
Sasha: Sasha: YEAH...here I am, feeling on top of the world AND another surgery! How unfair is that? I was not even given a chance to demur...they just took me into the vet without asking for my feelings on the matter. How rude is that??!!! I felt ooky for about 24 hours, but then I was fine.

Jodi: Yup, she was back to normal the next day and really not happy that her walks had to be cut short while she healed. It worked out fairly well because that was the week we had such high temperatures and she did not need to be out walking in that weather.

I had been keeping Rob up to date on her progress, made very clear to him any possible future problems resulting from her leg injury and he came out to meet her and decided she was the one for him and Sanno. Of course, we would have to make sure Sanno agreed, but none of us anticipated any issues with him.

Many Thanks to all who contributed to funding Sasha's surgery, which was about \$4,000.00, including the second visit to remove the pin. Thanks again to the doctors and staff at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield for their excellent care of Sasha and other rescue dogs they have treated!!!

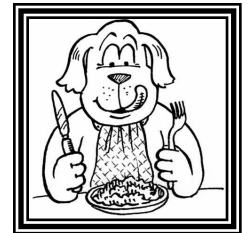
Sasha: I get the last word!!!! Here is a big puppy kiss to all who helped me!! LICK,LICK,LICK, LICK,LICK !!!



CHEF'S KITCHEN

P'nut Butter & Pumpkin Dog Treats

Sick of the laundry list of chemicals on those treats? Make your own with this simple recipe!



Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tbsp peanut butter
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Whisk together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl.
3. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff.
4. Roll the dough into a 1/2-inch-thick roll. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces.
5. Bake in preheated oven until hard, about 40 minutes.

VISIT THE ARMAC BOOTH AT THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:



FREDERICKSBURG PET EXPO
FEBRUARY 11-12, 2012

◆
SUPER PET EXPO
MARCH 16-18, 2012

You're Great!

Special thanks to Joan Gariazzo for the auction/sale items donated to ARMAC

Your holiday purchases can help ARMAC!



Who hasn't uttered the words, "I wish there was something I could do to help"? Now you can. At www.iGive.com/ARMAC you can buy those holiday gifts from over 700 stores in the iGive network, including Barnes & Noble, Lands' End, Best Buy, Victoria's Secret, Pottery Barn and more.

It's FREE and blissfully simple. Shop for everything from designer handbags to books, electronics, video games and even lingerie! And a portion of each purchase automatically benefits ARMAC.

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Change online shopping for good.

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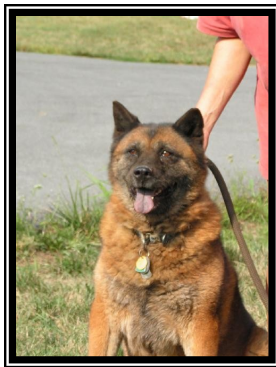
AVAILABLE ORPHANS

CURRENT LIST OF AVAILABLE ARMAC ORPHANS
WWW.AKITARESCUE.ORG TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

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

Cora

Spayed female, estimated age 11. Old style girl with lots of life left, LOVES people and wants desperately to be in her own home with NO OTHER PETS. She is currently being kenneled and loves to go out on a lunge line for hiking in the fields. She was picked up by a shelter as a stray and whelped 9 puppies in the shelter. Her puppies found homes, don't you think she deserves one?



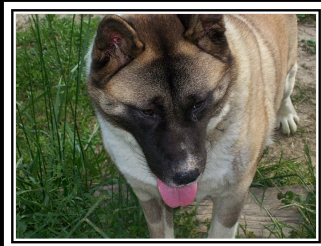
Laurie

Spayed female, estimated age 2-3 years old. Laurie is a big (112 pd.) bouncy girl with lots of energy. She is crate trained, rides well in a car, and shows no aggression to other dogs. Laurie is very friendly to people she meets and gets along fairly well on leash. She was found in a local shelter with a proapsed uterus. The shelter staff were so fond of her that they took extra steps to get her placed with the humane society. Laurie received surgery and is completely recovered. She would do best with an active family.



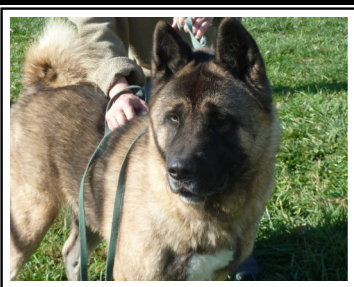
Princess

Spayed female, estimated age 5-6 years old. Princess is a stunningly beautiful female who is loves everyone she meets. She is housebroken, good with most other dogs, obedient and very affectionate. Sadly, Princess suffers from Pemphigus, a common autoimmune dermatologic genetic condition. However, Princess is responding well to her medication and the long term management of her condition is very positive. She just patiently waits for a family that will allow her to win them over with her charm and affectionate nature



Sumo

Neutered male, age 2 years. Sumo was rescued from a local shelter after having been picked-up for running at large, the sixth time in several months. He was not reclaimed by his owners. Sumo was a shelter staff favorite! More to come about Sumo as he settles into his foster home.



Santana/Makato

Neutered male, 2.5 yrs. White with black brindle hood and white blaze. Average size. Found as a stray and retained by the family for a year, lived with another male Akita and two teenaged children. We suspect he was surrendered due to a skin condition and ear infection. It looked like flea dermatitis and with flea preventative and antibiotics, he has made a full recovery. He cannot go to a home with cats or livestock.



Wyatt

Neutered male, estimated age 8-10 months old. Wyatt has a huge smile; is all playful puppy with lots of energy to burn. He appears to have been taught some rough hand/mouth games, but still has a soft mouth. Wyatt is learning to calmly interact with people and to walk on leash. He gets along with the resident female Akita and accepts her discipline without challenge. Wyatt is extremely intelligent and strong willed. He will do best in a home with an experienced Akita owner, an active lifestyle, no cats or children under the age of 12.



Adoption Pending

POSTCARDS FROM HOME



Three Akita's and a Dane! From back to front (King Tadao, Kajun, and Saki).

Photo courtesy of Meredith Murtagh

*Special Congrats to
Hillary & George LaMay
on the birth of their
daughter Olivia!
Sen & Zumo are thrilled
to have a new addition to
the "pack"!*

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Our deepest sympathies to Robyn DeShields on the loss of her girl, Chili.



Our deepest sympathy to Greg, Gail and Sutter Gabel on the loss of their wonderful Chuckie.



*Thank you
for your generous
donations!!*

- Dan Pollack*
- Judith Henry*
- Tokiko Altee*
- Greg Gabel*
- Robert Harvey*
- Becky Heath*
- Bonnie Kerr*
- Kevin Lanigan*
- Penny Nicholas*
- Sarah Chermak*

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 re-home 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.

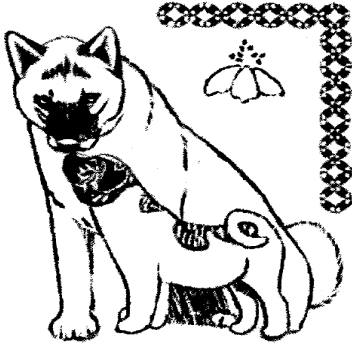
If you can find it in your heart to foster, adopt, donate or volunteer, please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved:

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



*Congratulations on
your adoptions!*

- Chino*
- Sasha*
- Blondie*
- Akira*



ARMAC

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 Manassas, VA
 20111-2827

YES! I would like to subscribe to 'Uniquely Akita' (6 issues annually) for \$18.00 a year

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- Puller Lanigan (301) 680-0788 puller@akitarescue.org
- Jodi Marcus (703) 730-0844 jodi@akitarescue.org
- Betty Mcdade (703) 524-9163 Betty Gray ((571) 237-7335 lisa@akitarescue.org

ARMAC Contact

Obedience Training
 Aja Harris (410) 889-9352
 Janet McMillan (703) 931-8521
 Barkbusters (410) 308-3768
 Paw Paws Canine College (304) 492-4075
 Capital Dog Trainers (301) 587-5959
 Ira Hartwell (301) 261-8463
 Club Pet International (703) 471-7818

Akita Friendly Vets
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 Dr. Learnan: MapleShade Animal Hospital (703) 670-7668
 Morgantown Vet Care, LLC (304) 599-8269
 Nebel Street Animal Hospital (301) 230-6595
 Norbeck Animal Hospital (301) 924-3616
 Palmer Vet Clinic (301) 293-2121

