

Uniquely Akita

Serving the Mid-Atlantic states for nearly 30 years through education, support, and rescuing wonderful Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters.

March/April 2013

Featured Orphan

Ranger is an energetic young guy who loves to be around people.

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In Appreciation and ARMAC Store

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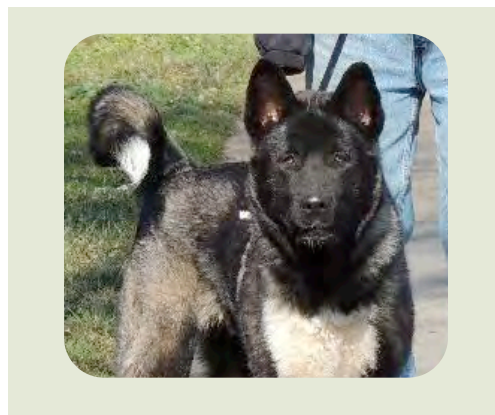


Featured Orphan: Ranger

By Jodi Marcus & Aaron Hoskins

This time it started with an email message: there were two 5 month old puppies at Washington Humane Society and did ARMAC have room? Their "breeder" dropped them off because she could not find homes for them. The pups were unsocialized, having been relegated to the back yard with their parents and generally seeing only the breeder and her son. They wanted to interact, but they just did not know how. So I and Aaron went and picked them up, two rather flashy little guys who were not sure what changes were coming next in their lives.

Looking for the names of male duos, we came up with Ranger and Tonto. For



those of you too young to make the association, it came from a TV series starring a cowboy who wore a mask and his companion, an American Indian named Tonto, who fought for justice in the American Old West.

They both learned from my adult dogs that we were okay and could be the source of many good things: food, treats, petting and scratching. Ranger socialized more quickly than Tonto, who was much

more reserved. On our walks, Ranger would bark when someone came out of a house and startled him; Tonto would try to bolt, even when it was just someone standing in the yard. We started out by walking when the kids were coming home from school, as the kids are smaller and less threatening than adults. We would stand off the sidewalk in a driveway and just talk to the kids from a distance, with me telling the kids to just pretend that whatever dog I had was a ghost dog and to act as if they could not see him. Slowly we worked our way closer and they became more relaxed.

I had to have shoulder surgery, so the boys were sent to stay at a small kennel nearby while I recovered. The people at the kennel continued with socializing them and they came back almost normal, so we decided it was time to separate the boys.

— Continued on Page 2.

Featured Orphan Continued

Tonto stayed with me, while Ranger went to stay with Aaron and Katie, who now had an opening to foster him. Tonto survived the loss of his brother fairly well, which was due in part to the other dogs and a female puppy (Mimi) to keep him company. Shortly after their separation, a couple submitted their adoption application, came out and met Tonto, and fell in love with him. Tonto, now known as Tango, is living a wonderful life in Washington DC.

Ranger's transition was not quite as smooth as Tonto's. When they shared a crate, the water bowl was constantly overturned and the hypothesis was that they were both doing it, but once they were separated, Ranger's bowl continued to be over turned while Tonto's remained. The reason Ranger constantly over turns his water bowl is that he despises being in the crate and so knocking things around is a way to not only wear off nervous energy, but also to get people's attention. After the separation, he managed to damage two different crates, but now he preemptively goes in for meals and he does not fight when it is time to go to bed. On the other hand, he still fights when he has to go in for any other reason.

He is now doing very well on his own; He no longer barks at people as we are walking and just the other day during an afternoon walk a woman stopped and wanted to pet him and he was more than willing to receive attention from a perfect stranger. As he has become more comfortable in the house, he is barking less and even is ignoring the annoying dog next door. All that he really needed was some help gaining some self confidence.

He is definitely a lover and always wants to have his person in sight at all times, but he is also quite content to just lay on the floor as work is done on the computer or his human is watching TV. His favorite thing to do is to eat and he loves to go for walks. He gets along well with the resident female, but if he has to choose

between playing with her or getting attention from people, he will usually opt for attention. He even has a little bit of the "Akita lean" where he will lean into a person to get attention. All that is really missing from his life is his forever home where he can have a family of his own and can just receive as much love as he wants to give.

Congratulations!

Kudos to Keegee (fka Keiji) and Mimi on finding their forever homes! Without your generous donations, they might not have found a home.

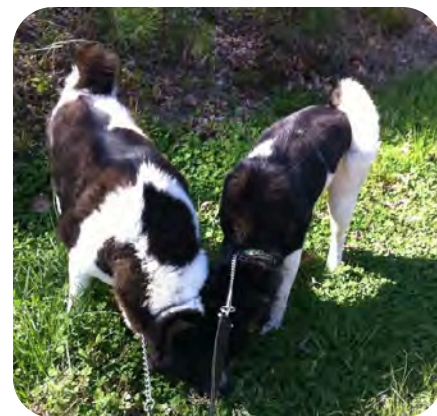


Here's a note from Keegee's new owners:

KEEGEE is doing very well. Everyone loves him. His trips to the lacrosse field, school, and the river prompt many inquiries enough so that I thought of making some quickie referral cards to hand out when people ask where he comes from.

He is such a great dog and absolutely wears us out with his energy and need to play. The kids run up the driveway to see him after school and the histrionic "I thought you would never come back" akita greeting show then begins. We are still slowly introducing the cat and chickens. I have no doubt his instinct to chase would kick in but he oddly lets the cat rub all over him as we hold him by leash.

Thank you again for EVERYTHING you do. KEEGEE, phonetically spelled, would say the same. Gotta go wipe dog slobber off my arm.



Here's Ziggy (L) and Mimi (R) sharing a smelly spot. Mimi's proud mama had several interesting stories to share:

- Sometimes Robert (Mimi's dad) throws his hands up a bit and hollers, "What is WRONG with her?," but I get her.

- Archie (Mimi's brother) said, "She is a handful, mama." That pretty much sums her up! (She reminds me of me--a pain in the ass but--I like to think--worth it.)

- Guess who figured out how to get out of her crate? And did it TWICE in the past few days? Jodi Marcus, she is SMART. Mimi used a lot of finesse to escape her heavy-duty metal wire crate (it's for XL dogs -- is double tough.). Robert thinks she nosed up underneath it, then wedged her jaw under sideways and also her paw, then stood up/pushed it up with her neck/withers.

- Oh, she flips the bowl too! We have cleaned up SO MANY FLOODS. Thank god we put the crate in the kitchen! (I watched her staring at the bowl on the kitchen floor the other day. She was bored, so she went ahead and stomped it even though she was loose! Little brat. :D).

Past Events

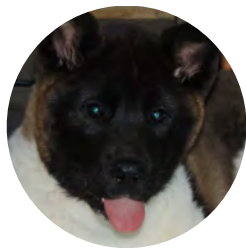
Thank you to all those who visited ARMAC at the Pet Expo in Chantilly March 15-17. Click this link to see photos from the event: <http://on.fb.me/13s4dAN>.





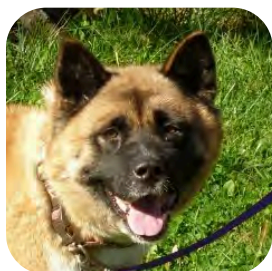
Upcoming Events

ARMAC will be at the Reston Pet Fiesta at the Reston Town Center on Saturday, 4 May from 10 am - 4 pm. Pokey will be making an appearance with Jodi in the afternoon if you want to say hello.



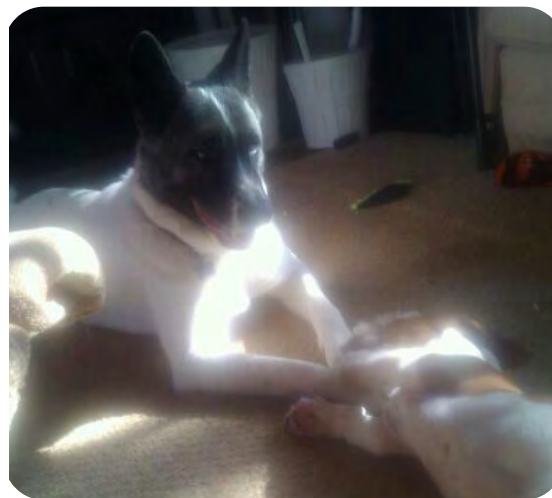
Condolences

The Claire family lost Joy mid-April; they only had her for about 4 months. Joy succumbed to massive and incredibly rapid cancerous growth in her lungs and brain. In their words: "Joy was the sweetest, loving companion, we really miss her. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO ENJOY SUCH A WONDERFUL DOG!!" The ARMAC family sends our condolences and takes comfort in knowing that not only was Joy was happy, but that she brought such happiness to the Claire family in her brief time there. Thank you for all the wonderful and kind comments you shared on Facebook.



Postcards From Home

Want to see your dog in ARMAC's bi-monthly newsletter? E-mail a photo to info@akitarescue.org and we'll include it and post the photo on our Facebook page.



Pancake (L) and Muffin (R)
(We sense a theme here, don't you?)



Shinju (L) and Kansei (R)

Available Orphans



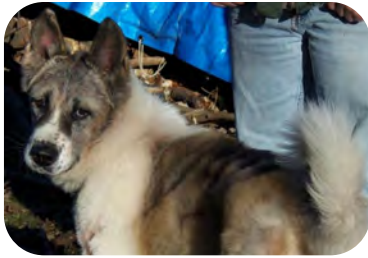
APOLLO: This sweet boy is eager for attention and loves to go for walks! Currently undergoing slow kill method for heartworms.



CHAMPION: This big goofball has lots of energy, no training, and no "doggie manners." Champ needs a home with older kids, no cats, and lots of boundaries!



GABBY: A very active girl who was turned over to a shelter. We are still learning about Gabby, but we do know she will need some training.



BABY: A true lovebug! Baby is recovering well from her depression — more interested in her surrounding, gaining weight, and growing fur.



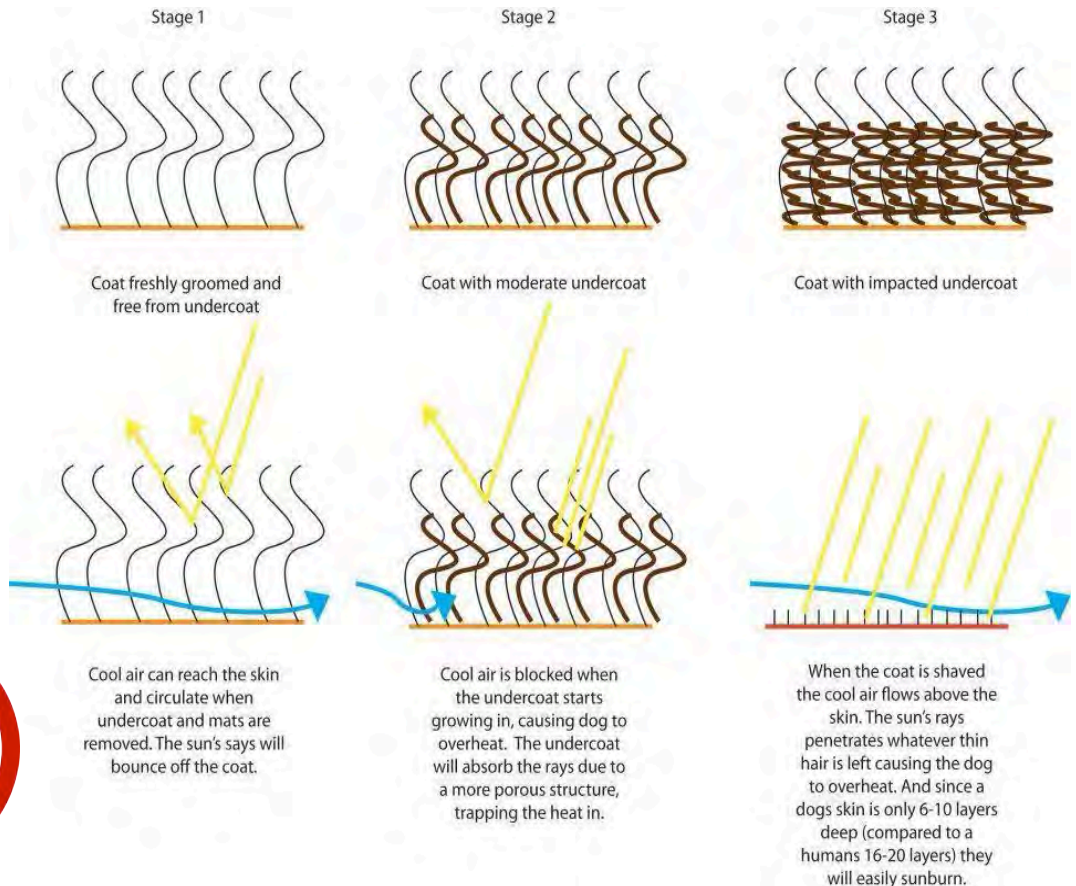
COLE: An energetic, outgoing guy who does well with female dogs other than when food is around. Would do well in a home with older children and no cats.



HOLLY: A social butterfly who is incredibly smart, playful, fun, and sweet. Her foster mom says she is an absolute delight that loves cuddling.

Don't Shave Your Akita!

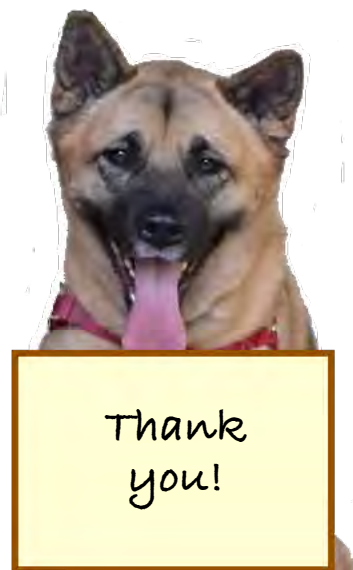
The weather is getting warmer and while we all know that our Akitas have thick coats, do NOT be tempted to shave them! As the graphic below shows, shaving your Akita's coat will only cause the cool air to flow above the skin, get them to overheat quicker, and increase their risk for sunburn (and cancer by extension). Groom your Akita regularly to limit the amount of undercoat; this will allow cool air to flow and the sun's dangerous rays to bounce off the coat.



In Appreciation

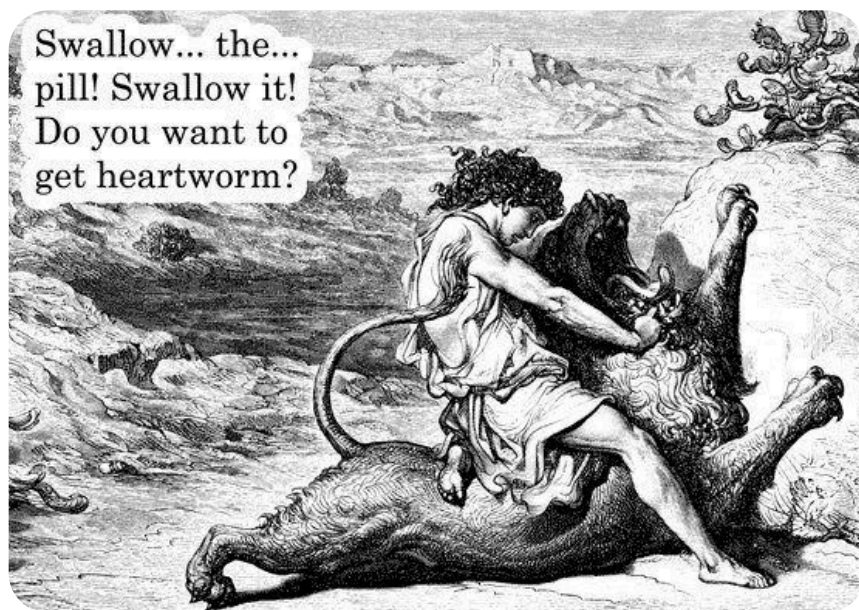
Your donations aid the boarding, transportation, registration fees, and medical care (routine and emergency) for all rescued Akitas, along with supporting the continued operations of Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast. A hearty thank you from us all!

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Aaron Hoskins | Irina Krasnokutsky | Nancy I-Hua Chu |
| Barbara Mallory | (Language Exchange) | Polly Sack |
| Becky Heath | Jerry Burke (for Champ) | Robyn Gillette |
| Catherine Parsons | Julie Eisenberg | Steven Davis & Eleanor |
| Cybil Wilcox | Katherine Din | Lewis |
| Deidre Kennedy | Kathleen Nurena | Sue Gensel |
| Douglas Masters | Katie Seeler | Tucker Moorshead |
| Elizabeth Larson | Kevin King | |
| Herbert Stewart (For
Champ) | Laura Cross (For Suki) | |
| | Melanie Drown | |



ARMAC'S Facebook Page

Like ARMAC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/akitarescue.org>! By liking our Facebook page, you can stay updated on upcoming events, see postcards from home, ask questions, learn about Akitas, see videos, and generally find something funny.



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Akita Rescue



Mid-Atlantic

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast (ARMAC)

March/April 2013

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