

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.

May/June 2013

Featured Orphan

Cole is a sweet, goofy guy that loves to cuddle.

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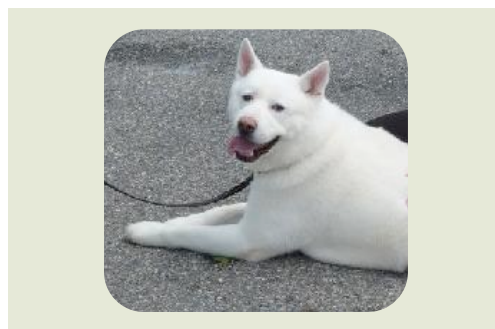
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Featured Orphan: Cole

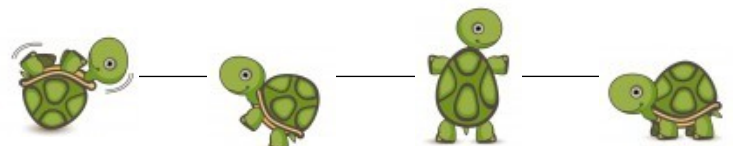
By Aaron Hoskins

Cole was a stray hold at animal control whose family never came to pick him up, but fortunately for him, ARMAC was able to step in and take in this wonderful young fellow. There were no fosters home available, so he spent time first at Stacey's kennel and then with Debbie at her kennel. His coat was not in the greatest of conditions when he was first brought in, but it got a lot better as he was given some TLC. Cole participated at an adoption event in Millersville, MD as an ARMAC orphan; no one could understand such a handsome, playful, and friendly Akita ended up in rescue.



The staff at Country Critters Boarding and Training all fell head-over-heels in love with Cole and he made sure to make the most of the attention. He absolutely loves food and has a pretty good "pathetic dog look" when needed, so he was able to convince the staff to give him a lot of treats. Even with all of the love and attention he was receiving at the kennel, ARMAC has found over the years that being in a foster home is better for dogs' wellbeing.

Cole has settled in very well to his foster home. He is extremely food motivated and tries to eat his food as fast as he possibly can, but yet he does not act aggressively when food is taken away from him. (Although, the first thing he does when he gets out of his crate is to run to his foster sister's bowl to see if she has left anything at all.) Cole has not barked, cried rarely, and was unfazed by the rather large fireworks display two doors down on the 4th of July. His reaction to cats while on walks indicates that he probably would not do well living with one. When Cole is let out back, he runs to a tree or two to relieve himself, but then he runs right back to the house so that he can come back in and be with people. Cole will also need a little training, but he primarily needs a forever home where he'll be loved and can lavish attention upon his human(s).



Congratulations!

Several ARMAC dogs have found their forever homes: Ranger, Senna (f/k/a Remmy), and Keiko (f/k/a Holly). Without your generous donations, they might not have found a home.



Here's a note from Keiko's family:

Keiko is doing great! She loves to play. Bryan and I take turns calling her name from different rooms — she becomes giddy over that game. Bryan and I each take her out in the yard to run around at different times throughout the day, and I've been taking her up and down my sidewalk for leash training. I'm alternating between heeling and loose leash; she's doing really good with loose leash. I tell her "Go sniff" and she puts her nose to ground sniffing without pulling me. Then we work on heeling the way Debbie's been recommending it. She's improved very quickly using Debbie's heeling technique. Keiko still has an intense reaction to small critters (especially a tiny bunny that's been hopping between our houses), but I've been able to divert her attention after her initial state of alert. She's improved so much, I took her to Petco which recently opened up by us, and she behaved fine.

Keiko has brought us such joy. Thank you for letting us have her :) -- Callie

Microchips

Remember that microchips are prepaid. If you haven't received yours, contact Jodi!



Ice Cream That's Puppy Approved



Ms. Lemon (aka Pancake)

By Puller Lanigan

We found out about Pancake, then known as Lemon, via another rescue after sending out an inquiry regarding a missing Akita. Someone responded and asked if we knew about the Akita at a local shelter. We didn't and so we got in touch with the shelter; they were thrilled we contacted them. Her stray time wasn't up yet, but it would be by that weekend and they were happy for me to come meet her. When I arrived at the shelter, I asked why we hadn't been notified and they explained that a) she was incredibly shy and was currently being housed in a sick ward and b) she came in with a small male terrier and they thought possibly an owner might call looking for them. That being said, both dogs were so filthy and encrusted with fecal matter that the shelter bathed them immediately. When I saw them, the small terrier had been clipped and looked very dapper and the white on Ms. Lemon sparkled.

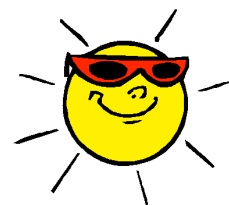
It took some coaxing to get both dogs out of the run and the staff person commented that a week earlier, both dogs were being carried outside. They just flattened themselves to the ground and

refused to move. I could only wonder what type of environment these poor dogs had endured to be so literally petrified of humans.

Pancake/Lemon seemed to relish sitting in the sun, smelling fresh air, and watching the other dogs interact with humans. Her terrier companion was a friendly fellow and loved being petted and fawned over, but neither dog asked for attention. They just sat or stood and watched the other dogs run and play, jump, and lick staff or rescuers as if they were seeing a revelation for the first time. It really was heartbreaking. Here were two utterly beautiful dogs that obviously relished kindness and attention, but didn't dare ask for it. If you moved towards Pancake/Lemon to talk or pet her, she cringed and sank to the ground.

We bailed Pancake; she was what we started Rescue for. I agonized over her companion and how she would do away from him, but fortunately, another rescue stepped forward to take him. Pancake tested positive for Heartworm, as did the little male terrier meaning they both had a long road of recovery ahead of them. We inquired about spaying Pancake because it appeared she was going out of heat and she was kenneled with an intact male terrier, but the clinic wouldn't spay her. So we crossed our fingers she wouldn't have a surprise litter on us and she went to the kennel.

Pancake was fascinated and petrified at the kennel. So many happy, barking dogs. This wasn't a shelter, but she wasn't quite sure what type of environment she was in. It was busy and active; Pancake needed a quiet place. She was put in a building with two cruelty cases and some puppies who all helped her integrate. She did not like the short term Akita while enroute to Big East Akita Rescue, which was the only dog to whom she showed a definitive dislike.



—Continued on Page 5

2012 Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Balance Forward from 2012: \$ 5,912

Revenues

Adoption Fees	\$ 2,810
Auction Proceeds	\$ 0
Donations/Contributions	\$ 23,276
Gifts/Grants	\$ 0
Interest Income	\$ 6
Gross Receipts	\$ 234
Subscriptions	\$ 99
Refunds/Overpayments	\$ 179
Total Revenue	\$ 26,604

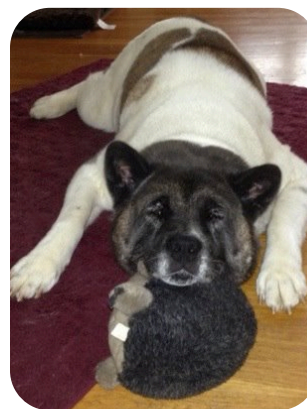
Expenses

Boarding/Kennel/Transport	\$ 3,510
Training/Obedience	\$ 757
Food/Supplements	\$ 530
Medical Care	\$ 12,873
Marketing/Advertising	\$ 1,570
Bank Fees	\$ 6
Contributions/Gifts	\$ 138
Insurance	\$ 900
Sales Inventory	\$ 0
Taxes/Filing Fees	\$ 4
Shelter Recovery Fees	\$ 135
Salaries/Wages	\$ 0
Printing	\$ 1,159
Postage/Shipping	\$ 443
Website Fees	\$ 178
Paypal/Ebay/Other Fees	\$ 215
Owner Medical Assistance	\$ 263
Microchips/Registrations	\$ 468
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,073
Total Expenses	\$ 24,222

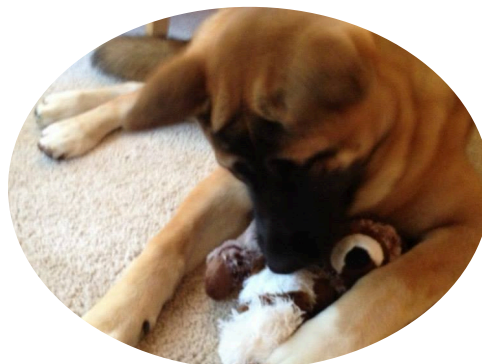
Net Operating Increase \$ 2,382

Balance Forward 2013: \$ 8,294

Postcards From Home



Tashi



Senna



Mak/Makado



Zoe and Ranger





Disaster: An Introduction

By Sherry Wallis

This is something I harp on all the time, because this happened years ago to one of our old members. She had a harrowing ordeal after a flood, and ended up having to leave her Akitas, cat, and Amer. Eskimo in the flooded house. Yes, they were all okay when they got back the next day.

Thinking and doing aren't the same thing. That's why organizations and schools have fire drills, so people will actually KNOW where to go and what to do. It's why they go through all that stuff when you get on a plane!

Think you can get all your dogs out if you have 15 minutes to evacuate? Try it. Put crates in your car, find your stuff, your papers, and get the dogs in. Even if you can throw them in the car without worrying about crates, see how long it takes to get collars and leashes on each dog and get them in the car. What about water, bowls, food? You'd be astonished at the time frame.

When we had fires in Bastrop, one of the premier breeders of Finnish Spitz had to leave dogs behind. They were ready to

leave, but his wife is in ill health, and they are no longer young. It was just taking too long to get the dogs, even though they had their van packed and only needed to get them and load them in crates. Fortunately, the firefighters were able to save his home and get all his dogs to safety, but I'm sure they were sorry they hadn't left earlier.

It's just so important to work all this out ahead of time and be prepared. How many of you have rabies certificates for your dogs packed in a water-tight pack where you can just grab them and go? Tags on the collars are not enough. How many of you have microchipped dogs? Do you have any kind of emergency kit? Doesn't really matter where you live, there are all sorts of natural and manmade disasters that can cause you to have to leave your home.

You're Prepared for Disasters — Or Are You?

By Teresa Liles

As one who has faced a potential disaster multiple times, I'm getting better at being ready. Trust me—you are NOT ready even if you think you are.

Last year I had the tornado hit me (not as

destructive as the poor folks in Oklahoma, thank goodness) but it got my roof, fencing, and some other things. I was not ready—first trip out the door was to run to the kennel to check the dogs. Thank goodness it skipped over them. I've been close to 3 big wildfires in the last 10 years and each time I am a little more prepared. This year I was the most prepared! I learn something each time.

This year, in May, I loaded my stock trailer up with crates, water buckets, shade screens, fans, leashes, anything I think I might need. I loaded it as if I was planning a week long trip with the dogs. When this fire broke out—I was already ready with my dog plan—all I had to do was gather my household things and load the dogs and go. After last year I learned I needed to keep those things in one place and make one trip out to the vehicle.

Trust me, planning is not enough! No one thinks it will happen to them ... I never thought I'd get clipped by that tornado for example. I have been very fortunate with my scrapes with this stuff, but each scrape helps me be more prepared.

—Continued on Page 5

You're Prepared for Disasters — Or Are You? Continued

I had two families of evacuees come here, I saw how they were loaded and what they had, further reinforcing the need to be ready with a plan and with action. When the fire first broke out I was 25 miles from it, so one family brought their horses, the neighbors horses, their RV and their cars loaded with stuff, and their 2 dogs. A bit later a friend who had a bitch about to whelp had to run with her 7 dogs and get a hotel room up north. Well, guess what —while unloading, the bitch in whelp dropped a puppy on the hotel floor. My friend found a local vet to assist. Then she had no place to go, no plan—so she came here with her 13 newborn babies and 7 adults.

In a matter of hours the fire turned and the evacuation line moved to about 8 miles from my house! I loaded my car then and there with my household things that are the must haves ... My evacuation trailer is parked next to the kennel to allow a 10 minute load up and the van stays hooked to the trailer. When this happened I also thought that as fast as this thing moved, we could go on mandatory evacuation quickly so I already had a place lined up that also had room for the horses. As a precaution I told my evacuee family that we needed to prep and move the horses because if we were evacuated we would not have time to move the horses, then come back and get everything else. Lots of folks thought that was crazy, but it's not worth taking a chance. We got the horses moved to my friend's house—again—and we were all prepped to just get in the car and drive out.

Some people laugh at me for being this way with my evacuation plan, but when the threat is near it doesn't seem so funny. Be sure you know where you will go, a safe place for both you and your dogs. Think about what you need, if there will be enough room for everyone. It can happen to you. Do as Sherry said—practice! Don't just 'know' what you are gonna do ...

Tornado and Fire Prep

By Teresa Liles

Tornado prep: I do have a basement and I now have crates in the basement that stay there with water buckets already in them. Once there's a tornado warning, the first job is to get the dogs in the basement in the crates. This will take me about 20 minutes so if I don't have much notice I'm still screwed. If you aren't ready, try figuring out who you will take first ...

Fire prep: Fire is especially scary for me, although I am set now where if I'm prepped I can load the dogs and be ready to go in about 10 minutes. It's because my evacuation vehicle/trailer is ready to go. Several years ago I bought an old stock trailer because I knew all my dogs would not fit in my car, that we had wildfires, and I needed a way to ensure I could get them out.

Ms. Lemon (aka Pancake) Continued



We finally felt Pancake was able to make a trip to the vet for some x-rays. She had been maintained on the "slow kill" treatment for heartworm, but we needed to know what was going on with her heart, lungs, and liver, as well as eliminate the possibility of pregnancy. Pancake was happy to come out of the kennel, to run and walk around but when

she saw she was going to the van, she flattened herself to the ground and had to be carried to the vehicle. The vet visit was bittersweet; Pancake wasn't pregnant, but there was something going on in her thoracic x-ray. It was speculated that she had a mass but the only way to determine what her future held was to have a sonogram, so another appointment was made. The sonogram was plain depressing; Pancake was in advanced stage of right side heart failure and her liver was severely misshapen and grossly enlarged by a heavy parasite infestation. The mass that had appeared on the x-rays was her misshapen liver. Her prognosis was dire. Pancake wasn't even a candidate for slow kill heartworm treatment.

It has been a long time since we have received a dog with heartworm. It is so easily preventable, I find it difficult to grasp how anyone could have let such a beautiful and obviously affectionate dog die so miserably. Our only consolation is that she knew some happiness and affection in her life and was able cross over the bridge with an easy peaceful transition, instead of dying horribly and alone.

Rest in peace sweet Pancake.

An Akita Named Spartacus

Akitas have a reputation for being aggressive, vicious, and/or dangerous. They are one of several breeds banned in many localities across the country and are not covered by many homeowners insurance policies. One of ARMAC's functions is to educate people that not all Akitas are bad.

Fortunately, there are Akitas like Spartacus who are great ambassadors for the breed. Spartacus works as a therapy dog during weekly hospital visits, but he also comforts survivors of tragedies such as the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT last December. You can read more about that and view pictures via this link: <http://bit.ly/17Hg3Dx>.



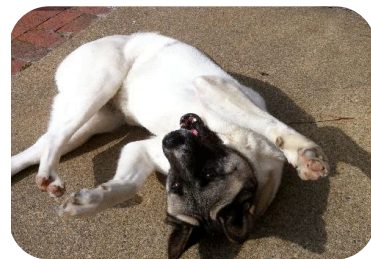
Available Orphans



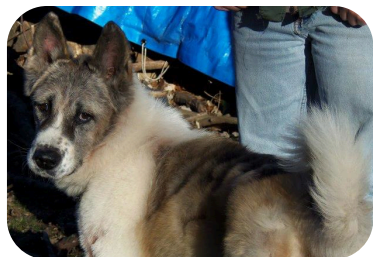
APOLLO: This sweet boy is eager for attention and loves to go for walks! He currently lives with cats, 2 kids under 11, and a small dog.



YETI: 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!



CUTIE PIE: A little shy, but she warms up quickly.



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.



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.

Protect Your Akita

Akitas are known for being a very loyal breed. And while they are also quite protective of their "pack," it is our responsibility as their human owners to protect our dogs.

Protecting our dogs includes more than just ensuring adequate medical care. It also means microchipping your pet(s), keeping dogs on leash at all times when not in your fenced backyard, and not leaving your dog outside by itself unattended.

So why are we bringing this up? Well, aside from the fact that there are leash laws in DC, MD, and VA (click this link for more information: <http://bit.ly/13ciDp7>) and people that will sue over the slightest provocation, there are a couple disturbing trends in the past few years: trunk fighting and dog flipping.

"Trunking locks two dogs in the trunk of a car that is driven around with the music blasting so loud no one can hear what is going on. After 10 to 15 minutes the driver stops and the trunk is opened. Whichever dog is dead or injured is thrown into the street like trash. The victor lives to fight again," said Dahlia Canes of the Miami Coalition Against Breed Specific Legislation.

And how are these dogs procured? Aside from those listed by their owners for free in advertisements, some dog fighters will take dogs from people's backyards and leave the gates open to disguise their theft. Sometimes stolen dogs are sold to research labs, used for breeding (one of the many reasons you should spay/neuter your Akita), or even in the hopes of a reward.

Then there's "pet flipping," which can be compared to house flipping.

Essentially, someone obtains a pet, whether they stumbled across it, stole it, or claims to be the owner of a "found pet." They then turn around and sell the animal for a profit.

So what you can do? Aside from not leaving your dog unsupervised in your backyard for long periods of time, make sure they are microchipped. Microchips are the most effective way to establish ownership of a pet, plus they are not as easily removed as a collar. If your dog is already microchipped, make sure your contact information is up-to-date. There are also some microchip companies that will alert local shelters once informed that your pet is missing.

Taking proper precautions will lessen the chances of your pet ending up in a bad situation.

Trunk Fighting: <http://bit.ly/19i8YdI>

Dog Flipping: <http://indy.st/13R0JGU>

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!

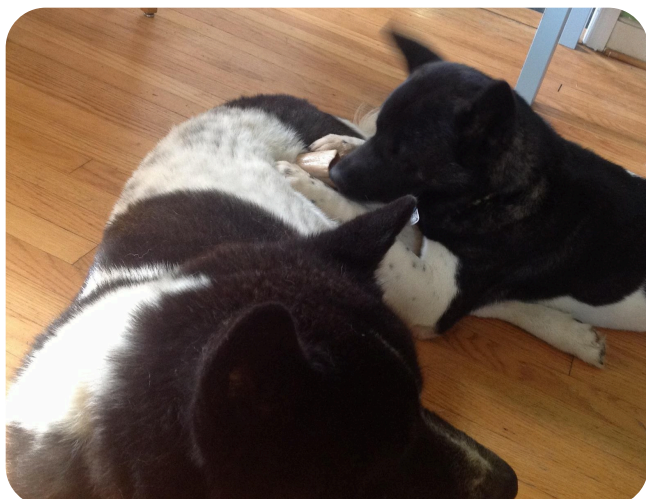
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|---|--|--|
| Andrea Shaw | Gordon Dreher (For Pokey) | Peter Nicholas (In memory of Kayla) |
| Becky Heath | Gordon Dreher (Mr. Dancers Birthday gift to ARMAC) | R. Lee & Melissa Harvey |
| Betty McDade | Kathleen Bumball (In honor of Mr. Dancer's 8th bday) | Ralph Blackwood & Nancy Nicholas (In memory of Kobe) |
| Bill & Sharon Theologus | Kevin Lanigan | Redtail Vineyard (for Pokey) |
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| Derek Rodenbeck | Penny Nicholas (In loving memory of Kobe) | |
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| Dwight, Gene & Zoe Harris (In loving memory of our sweet boy Kimoko.) | | |



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Mimi (R) using her brother Ziggy's leg for support while she chews on her bone.

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May/June 2013

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