

# 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.*

September/October 2014

**Featured Orphan**

*Lincoln is a young adult male who was adopted and returned to the shelter twice before coming to ARMAC.*

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## Featured Orphan: Lincoln

By Puller Lanigan

Lincoln came in to a local shelter at a young age. He is only a little past 2 years old now, but he has spent all of his formative years "in the system." He first came across our radar a year ago as a 7 month old puppy. He was a weedy fellow when I first saw him. As a puppy, he went out of the shelter quickly, only to be returned as soon as his new owners discovered they were expecting their first child. Lincoln was by now a year old and probably feeling his oats. Once again, he was quickly snapped up by a family with a houseful of children, to become a forever family member. Or so everyone hoped.

Alas, the stars were not aligned. Lincoln was returned, after which he started limping. He had full access to



a fenced yard and no doubt enjoyed many hours of playing with his family and further irritating a bad knee. The cursory diagnosis was a luxating patella (bum knee) and the family decided they did not wish to be responsible for the possibility (and recommendation) of knee surgery.

Lincoln is as nice as a dog gets. He is friendly, sweet, cuddly, lovable, and gets along with other dogs.

It took a little time for us to locate his initial x-rays and sadly they were of poor quality and only of one knee. Another veterinarian recommended full hip and both knees be x-rayed. This was after I noticed an odd gait when I visited and took photos of our orphans in July.

Sure enough, Lincoln is moderately dysplastic. His left knee currently is a candidate for surgery. He has blossomed into a gorgeous ambassador and still retains his sunny and outgoing disposition in spite of what must be some painful days.

We are lining up a consultation with our local orthopedic surgeon for his knee and Lincoln is on Glucosamine and Chondroitin supplements for his dysplasia.

Lincoln would love to have the future of a new and forever home on his horizon.

## A Note from Jodi About Past Events & Upcoming Events

I do want to say something about the Fredericksburg Pet Expo. We asked and asked repeatedly for volunteers to help ahead of time. Other than the usual core group of people, only Joan and Mike Gariazzo with at least a 90 minute drive, if not longer, from Bowie (MD) and Harry and Melinda Harbaugh made a 2 hour drive from Suburbia (MD). I asked a dear friend of mine, Susan Eastwood, who does not have Akitas or even a dog, to come and help because we were so desperate for volunteers. Hello!!!!???? So many people say they want to help, but where are they when we ask for it? I know you Akita people can do better than this. Please volunteer to help at the booth when we ask. We only do 8 or 9 of these events a year; we are not asking you to give up every weekend. Remember, the fewer people there, the fewer dogs we can bring, and in some cases, a lack of volunteers means we will not attend. Overall, this means less exposure for the breed and rescue.

**We are considering attending several events in the next few months but we will not commit to attending unless we have sufficient volunteers. So everyone please check your calendars and give us a FIRM commitment on the days and hours you can attend.**

Please let Jodi and/or Lisa know as soon as possible. The sooner we sign up, the less we have to pay for the booth.

There should be **two people per dog** minimum - one person to hold the dog and the other to help manage people and/or other dogs.



**Saturday, November 1, 2014  
Reston Town Center  
Reston, VA  
Event runs from 11am-4pm**

We need volunteers from about 10 am through 5pm to cover set-up, breakdown, and the actual event. There is no admission fee for visitors.



**Friday-Sunday, January 23-25, 2015  
Maryland State Fairgrounds  
Timonium, MD**

Volunteers are needed on:

- Friday January 23rd (2pm-8pm)
- Saturday January 24th (10am-7pm)
- Sunday January 25th (10am-6pm)

The Sunday afternoon shift will be longer than 6 pm because we have to breakdown and pack-up the booth. Admission for visitors is \$10/adult and \$5/child ages 5-12.



**Saturday, March 14, 2015  
DC Armory  
Event runs from 10am-6pm**

We need volunteers from about 9 am through 7pm to cover set-up, breakdown, and the actual event. There is no admission fee for visitors.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the XYZ family on your new family member Rayo. Congratulations are also in order for Jacoby family, who recently welcomed Sophie into their home. Check out the video on Facebook showing Sophie's "welcome home" dance for her mom!

## Recent Fundraiser

ARMAC recently participated in a Scentsy fundraiser for the first time. A Scentsy consultant and dog lover named Shannon contacted ARMAC and offered to donate her 20% commission to the rescue. Thank you to all those who supported us in this fundraiser! A big thank you to Shannon for donating her entire commission to our rescue. We greatly appreciate your support, which resulted in almost \$125 being donated to ARMAC.

## ID Tags

**PLEASE** make sure your Akita has a personal ID tag firmly attached to his or her collar and that the collar is on your dog at all times — in the house, walking, wherever. You never know what will happen and if your dog gets out, gets away from you, or somehow escapes, having a tag on the collar does no good if the collar is not on the dog. If anyone needs an ARMAC tag, please contact Jodi and we will gladly send you one.



## Take the Extra Minute

By Jodi Marcus

We received two calls about adopted dogs with two different endings. Both involved a bit of carelessness on the part of the owners. In the first case, a lady called about a very friendly Akita she found running loose. She found our number on the ARMAC tag (this is one of the reasons to make sure your dog's collar is always on, with ID attached). When she gave her location and description of the dog, I realized who the dog must be. I called the owners and initially received no response, but they quickly called back. I asked where their dog was and they told me he was in the house. I asked them to double check and when they confirmed he was not there, gave them the location where the lady was waiting with him. They retrieved their dog and called me back and explained what happened. They were busy doing yard work, carrying things in and out and somehow a door was not closed all the way. Their Akita got out while they were in the back yard and took off to explore the neighborhood. Luckily he was found before he went too far and before he was hit by a car on a busy road.

The second case is much sadder. This is the story as I understand it. The owners were babysitting their grandchildren and their daughter arrived, exhausted after a long day's work. Grandma decided to take the kids out to the garden to let mom have a few moments of relaxation and to get herself together to carry on with the rest of her day. These owners live on 17 acres and have a huge deck that has a gate to secure the dog on the deck if they were busy in the yard. Otherwise she was out with them on leash and walked every day throughout their property. As Grandma and the kids went outside, their Akita joined them running ahead. The gate on the deck had not been properly latched and the Akita went out and took off. Grandma yelled to Grandpa while she and the kids ran through the woods after the Akita. Grandpa went a different way to try to cut her off. Not too long after, they heard gunshots, and as they burst out of the woods, a man was there with a gun. She asked if he had seen her dog, who was wearing a harness and collar and he said the Akita had attacked his dogs, menaced him, and so he killed her. He was outside with his mid-size dogs and said the Akita started attacking them. He picked up one dog and made it inside, getting his gun. The other dog made it inside, too. The man then came out and shot the Akita, killing her. Neither dog had any injuries, just a lot of saliva on them. This lovely young Akita had been a stray, fearful of most people, but who blossomed into a love bug who adored people and especially the grandkids. She got along well with the other daughter's male Akita when he came to visit. She may have gone after the neighbor's dogs but I cannot imagine her doing anything threatening to him. She came to this horrible end because 1) she was able to get off the gated deck, and 2) this county allows stray dogs coming onto someone else's property to be shot. They do not have to do anything other than trespass for the property owner to legally shoot them.



We get so busy and involved in doing things that sometimes we don't take the extra time to make sure our dogs are safe and secure. It happens to all of us. There have been times when Charlie has gone to work and left the front gate open. I am not at my most alert early in the morning, so I open the door and let the dogs out, not realizing the gate is open. I check on the dogs a few minutes later to find an empty yard and open gate. Luckily, we have been able to recover our guys quickly, but you can see the potential for a problem. Since the last time, many mornings when Charlie is on his way to work and about 1-3 miles from home, he turns around to make sure the gate is closed. (I am guessing he does not want to receive a very nasty call from me about having to chase down dogs.) For my part, I am more careful about checking to see if the gate is closed before I let dogs out. Please, *please* take that extra minute to make sure the door is completely shut; that the gate is closed and locked with the latch connected. Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with ID tags on it. Sometimes the consequences of not doing so can be horrific.



## Pet Friendly Accommodations

It's not always easy to find lodging accommodations that accept dogs. Here are a couple websites that allow you to search for pet friendly hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, vacation rentals, and campgrounds:

- [www.bringfido.com](http://www.bringfido.com): This site allows you to search destinations worldwide for pet-friendly lodging. They also offer information on dog air travel, pet services, dog friendly attractions, outdoor restaurants, dog events, and giveaways for pets.

- [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com): This site allows you to search for pet-friendly lodging in the U.S. and Canada. A handy "search by route" feature is particularly helpful for those traveling by vehicle. Other information includes travel tips, daycare, vets, and fun places to go.

## Winter Pet Care

By Jodi Marcus

Fall is such a short season and it's winding to a close. While some of the tips listed below may seem obvious, we can all use a refresher:

- **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 medication from the vet to help with arthritis pain.

- **Watch those feet!** If your dog will tolerate it, consider foot protection booties. This can keep your dog's feet safe from harm, such as dangerous objects hidden by the snow or salt on roads and walk ways. Additionally, booties can help give your dog a better grip and prevent slipping on ice. If your dog will not tolerate booties, some petroleum jelly rubbed on his pads will help prevent issues from salt and de-icers. Always wash the feet with a warm washrag or footbath after walking on treated roads and sidewalks. Cutting the long hair between the pads will help keep iceballs to a minimum.

- **When walking your dog near ice, use extra caution to avoid slipping.** Always keep a close watch on your dog and be sure he or she stays nearby. Do not allow your dog to run across frozen bodies of water - he or she could fall into icy water if the ice is too thin!

- **If you use an indoor or outdoor fireplace, always keep a safety guard around it in order to protect your dog away from the flames and soot.** Do not leave a fire unattended.

- **If your dog is in the cold and 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.

- **Avoid letting your dog eat snow or anything else on the ground.** Dangerous objects or chemicals may be hidden in the snow. Also, 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 tastes good to pets, but even a small amount can kill your dog. Though exposure to antifreeze is a risk all year, the risk is especially high 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 that appear in the first 12 hours are: stumbling as if drunk, vomiting, and/or depression. Antifreeze attacks the kidneys. Even if you get your pet to the vet quickly, the damage may still kill them.

- **With the holidays coming up watch where you put the chocolates.** The darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is to your dog. Too much (amount of chocolate compared to body weight) will kill them.

- **Make sure you are prepared for being shut in for several days by having sufficient pet food, and prescription medications on hand.** If you have a well that will not work without electricity, stock up on fresh water for your family and your pets.

- **Cats like to sneak under the hood in the cold weather for warmth.** Honk your horn or pound on the hood of your vehicle to scare away any cats before turning on your car.

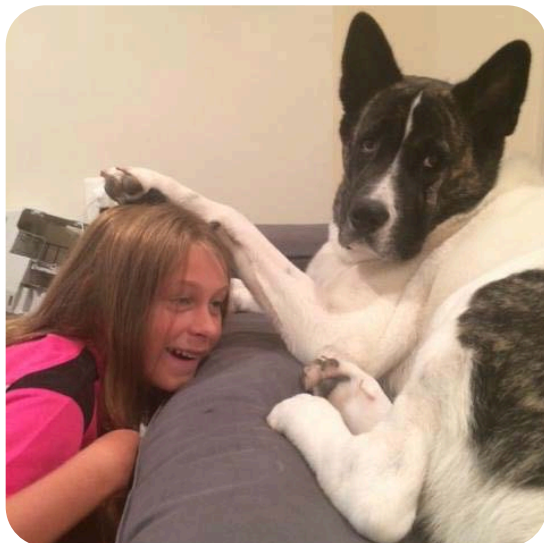
### Additional information:

<http://dogs.about.com/od/caringfordogsandpuppies/qt/coldweathersafe.htm>

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/cs/diseasesall/a/coldweatherlist.htm>

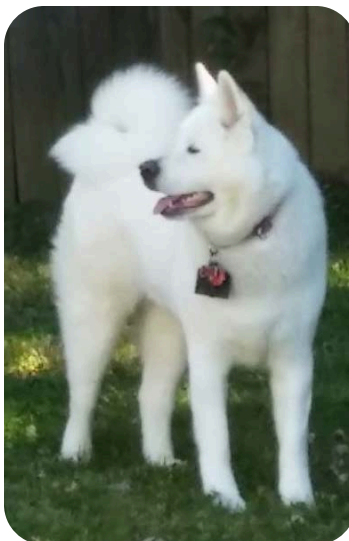
<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/top-ten-winter-skin-paw-care-tips.aspx>

## Postcards From Home



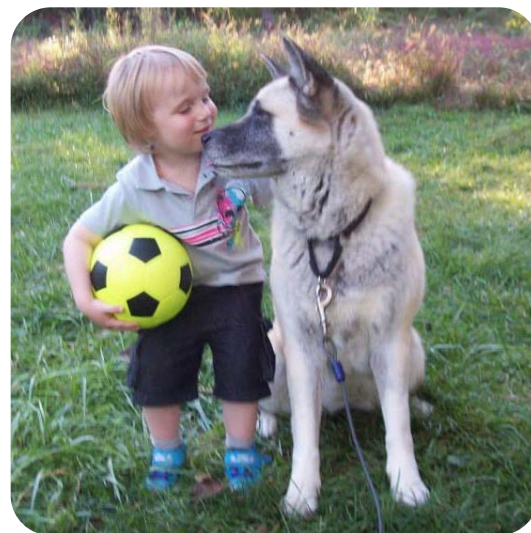
*Cazzie*

Petting one of his humans.



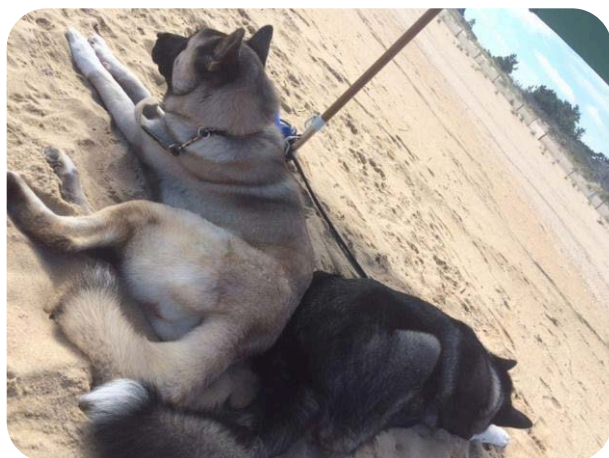
*Keiko*

Enjoying the weather.



*Zoe*

No words necessary.



*Ginger and Raiden*

Cuddled up and sharing the shade while vacationing at the beach.



*Tango*

Basking in the afternoon sun.  
(Raiden's brother.)

## Rainbow Bridge

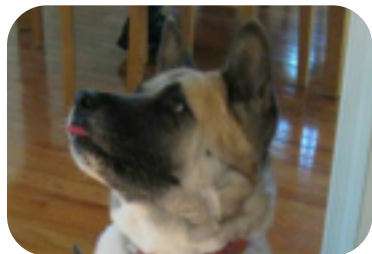
Our deepest condolences to the Claire family  
on the loss of their Honey Bear.

*What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply, becomes a part of us. - Helen Keller*





## Available Orphans



**AJA:** One of two females rescued from a backyard breeder in WV. She is friendly with people, but wary of other dogs at this time. She is also quite petite.



**APOLLO:** This handsome fellow is eager for attention and loves to go for walks! Apollo is good with children and small dogs.



**DUSTY:** This long-legged girl is about 2-3 years old and has earned the nickname "Princess." She might be a bit dog aggressive, but is leash trained.



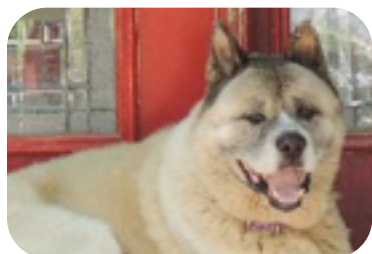
**LINCOLN:** A little shy about meeting new people after being adopted twice from the shelter, he lived with and enjoys children.



**MINNIE MOUSE:** One of two females rescued from a backyard breeder in WV. She is a sweet and mini-sized Akita at 50 pounds.



**SHARKEY:** A part Akita pup with a severe underbite that may require dental surgery in the future. He is sweet, but still learning "doggie manners."



**ZACH:** Zach has arthritis in his knees, although it only seems to affect his gait. He is still able to take half mile walks with no ill effects.

## iGive and Amazon Smile

The season for giving is coming up! The great thing about iGive and Amazon Smile is that your online purchases can benefit ARMAC year round.

More than \$150 has been donated to ARMAC from iGive in 2014 alone; over \$1600 has been donated since we joined their program. Go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) when making online purchases. This browser app tells stores you want a percentage of every purchase you make donated to your cause or charity, **at no cost to you**. Companies donate anywhere from 0.5 to 20% of your purchase. You can even get discounts at select stores! Go to this link to learn more: <http://bit.ly/UkWJ98>.



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile offers the same products and experience, but has a different URL: <http://smile.amazon.com>.



## 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!*

An Optical Galleria  
(Niki Pino)

Andrea Shaw

Barry & Renee Hauck

Becky Heath

Caralyn Bushey

Carleen Roberts

Clarence Lindquist

D.E. Marrone

Doug Masters

George Raugh, Jr.

Kathleen Morrison

Nicole Deaver

Noelle Elsberry

Pamela Cockrell  
(from Roxam Kennel)

Polly Sack

R. Lee Harvey, Jr.

Rebecca Manners

Rodger Pudwill

Shannon Anderson

Sharon & William Theologus

Tracy Ward

Travis Dahmer & Teresa  
Pizzuto



## Dogs Feel Jealousy

This probably doesn't come as a surprise to anyone who's ever had a dog, but researchers have found that not only do dogs exhibit jealous behavior, but that they actively try to break the connection between their human and the "rival."

Scientists tested 36 dogs by having their owners interact with various toys for one minute, treating the toys as if they were another dog or child. Some dogs pushed their owners, tried to get between their human and the toy, or snapped at the toy.

Read the full article here: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0094597>.

The two foster pups on the right, Beau and Luke, are a great example of this as they vie for attention from their foster dad!



## ARMAC Board

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**We want to hear from you!**



Please direct any comments, pictures, and/or suggestions regarding *Uniquely Akita* content to:

[info@akitarescue.org](mailto:info@akitarescue.org)

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**Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast (ARMAC)**

September/October 2014

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