

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.

January/February 2015

Featured Orphan

Moshi is enjoying life in a foster home after living on the streets.

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Featured Orphan: Moshi

By Jodi Marcus

Ms. Moshi (fka Bella) belonged to a homeless person in Washington DC. We do not know how long they were on the streets together before her owner found shelter. Unfortunately, Moshi was not included so went to the DC animal shelter. She was highly stressed in the shelter and an emergency plea for a temporary foster home went out. Luckily there was a foster available. The foster home said Moshi was great with their kids and dog, but barked at other neighbors in the apartment building. Another foster had to be found, and again “the force” was with Moshi and one was available. The shelter contacted ARMAC to see if we could take Moshi so we went to meet her and found her to be a very nice dog,



We spent hours on the phone and computer and eventually found a foster home. Then someone applied to adopt her from the shelter and Moshi was sent to that home. Shortly afterward, the owner contacted ARMAC for assistance. After speaking with Moshi’s new owner and learning her expectations, I was dubious that this would work out. The owner decided they were not a good match after a few conversations and asked ARMAC to take Moshi. Again the search for a foster home and thankfully, Yolie Oncita, the initial volunteer was still

available. She and Moshi’s owner met on neutral territory with their dogs.

Initial report on Moshi:

I walked Moshi home and it became clear she needs some work on a leash. Once we got in the house I allowed her to walk around and sniff. Later, she easily went in to the kennel ... no bribery necessary! The evening was surprisingly quiet, especially since she was in a completely new environment. Oh, and she's definitely kennel trained; no potty accidents at all! It's been nearly one week and she has adjusted very well. While I have not yet left Keigo and Moshi alone, there has been no incident when they've come close to one another. Moshi is tethered around my waist while out of the kennel, unless Kei is outside. They've been able to sniff each other through the kennel and while she's out; they seem to ignore each other. I definitely think more time will yield a healthy dog relationship.

— *Continued on Page 2.*

Featured Orphan Continued

On the other hand, I am not terribly confident in saying she is good with cats. Right now she's a bit overly curious and excites easily when one jumps on or off the furniture or when I attempt to pick one up. However, she doesn't seem to mind when they go near her kennel. Her previous owner mentioned that Moshi was a bit "food obsessive." When I inquired further to determine if she was actually aggressive with food, she was a bit vague and couldn't answer me directly. Moshi has displayed NO FOOD AGGRESSION WHATSOEVER. Quite frankly, she has the most gentle mouth I've ever encountered with ANY breed. I'm working on her training...sit, stay, go, off, etc. She's eager to please and motivated with treats, though easily distracted. We will begin neighborhood walks within the next couple of days. I really wanted to assess her behavior a little more closely before I took her out.

Moshi is a fantastic dog and with the right owner will flourish! In my honest opinion, the previous owner seemingly was not a good match. We have not experienced any of the challenges or issues mentioned by her former owner. She goes peacefully in to the kennel and settles in easily and quietly. She's learned very quickly to sit and stay before I open the kennel door.

Moshi's two month update:

Moshi is doing great! She's still learning the house rules, but is improving every day. It's getting easier to work with her because I think she finally trusts us and is less anxious. She really is a great girl! I would recommend that she goes to a home without cats. While I'm still working with her on "accepting" them as part of the pack she is not to be trusted alone with them. My caveat to that is if a cat is in the home, it should be only ONE

because Moshi's instincts get aroused when the cats are playing or fighting with each other OR she must be monitored very closely while the cats are roaming. We certainly don't let Moshi go where the cats' food is located. In my opinion, it would just be easier to be a cat-free home. She gets along great with Kei and I think she'd do very well in a home with another dog. The owner should be experienced with the introduction though because Moshi definitely has the propensity to fight for alpha positioning (typical Akita fashion). Also, they should be made aware of the food aggression with other animals. She does not show that aggression towards humans, but is a beggar. We're working on that and she's improved immensely (part of the house rules). Because of the cat situation, we still crate her when we aren't home and in the evening when we go to bed. She goes in there without any issues. Often, when we leave the kennel door open she goes in sporadically for brief periods unprompted. There have been no accidents in the kennel or while she's out roaming the house. Unfortunately, I can not say with any certainty that she is housebroken per se because she hasn't been left outside of the kennel when we aren't home and she's let outside regularly. Since then, Moshi and the resident dog Keh have spent a lot of time together and enjoy each other's company.

Ms. Moshi would LOVE to have a home of her own! If you would like to share your life with her, please contact us.

Cancelled Event

ARMAC will no longer be attending the DC Pet Expo, which was originally scheduled on March 14, 2015.

Congratulations!

Much love and happiness to Zack, Aja, Minnie Mouse, Beau, Niko, and Lincoln on finding their forever homes! Without your generous support, it would be difficult for ARMAC to rescue as many dogs as we do.



Aja, Socks/Ketterman Family



Zack, Moriarty Family

New Mailing Address

ARMAC has a new mailing address! Please address all correspondence to:

7514 Bland Drive
Manassas, VA 20109



Upcoming Events



Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10am-4pm
Reston Town Center
Reston, VA

This is a free event! Please contact Lisa via e-mail to volunteer: lisa@akitarescue.org.



Postcards From Home



Beau, DeSantis Family

Beau with his new best buddy, Jazzy. She is thrilled to have a "boy toy". He is tired after a busy day and walked into his crate for a rest.

Zumo, Lamay Family - "When your Akita cuddles by the fire with a fuzzy blanket after his morning walk, you know there's an arctic tundra out there."

Phoebus, Vestech-Nelson Family



Mimi, Sledge Family - Mimi with a stuffed animal "victim."



*Cole, Christopher Family
Silly Christmas Hat Countdown*

Bloat Video Could Save Lives

By Puller Lanigan

Thanks to Bill and Lynne Loewy for sharing a video clip they accidentally taped of an episode of bloat in an aged, abandoned Akita they offered to foster. We have been able to put "pictures" to the words you read on this devastating medical anomaly. While viewing this presentation is painful, we felt it so much better exhibited what goes on than we could ever explain. We received moderate criticism from some members within the breed community, but the overwhelming response from other rescue members, veterinarians and breed clubs was positive. While we would NEVER intentionally sensationalize an animal suffering, the video was taken as a matter of course as the Loewy's received this dog (they video every dog they receive). The patron had no idea the dog was bloating en route to the Loewy's. When it became apparent the dog was in distress, he was rushed to the nearest emergency vet clinic and "saved." Unfortunately, as is often the case in elderly dogs that bloat, he bloated a second time several weeks later and was humanely euthanized. It is our goal, by sharing this video, to educate all dog owners on the symptoms of bloat. We know from feedback on YouTube that this video has already managed to save lives. You can view the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1WrT2719yo. Some YouTube Viewer Feedback:

"As a retired vet tech, I deeply appreciate your generosity in sharing this video. I had my husband watch it. You never know when a little knowledge will save a life. Thank you."

"I was told the symptoms of bloat when I got my Akita puppy but seeing it was educational. I will show this to every friend who has a dog and to anyone that I allow to watch my pooch. Thanks."

"This video is a GREAT example to see what bloat looks like and hopefully will help save more dogs with this condition by getting the dog to the vet."

Puddle Precautions

By Nancy Kay, DVM

Reprinted with permission

There's a lot to be said for a vigorous walk with your dog after a heavy rainstorm. The landscape appears refreshed, the air smells great, and you and your dog get to unleash some cabin fever!

As fun as it is to watch your dog splash and play in the puddles you encounter on your walk, some caution is advised. Depending on the surrounding environment, those pools of standing water can harbor some health hazards.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis organisms are bacteria that thrive in wet climates. Wild animals, particularly deer and rodents, and some domesticated animals (cows, sheep, pigs) can be leptospirosis carriers. Although infected, these mammals maintain good health while shedding leptospirosis organisms in their urine.

Dogs can contact leptospirosis by drinking from water sources contaminated with urine from an infected animal. Puddles that have formed from rain runoff certainly qualify as such a source. A study of the prevalence of canine leptospirosis in the United States and Canada revealed that disease prevalence correlates with the amount of rainfall. The more rain, the more dogs diagnosed with leptospirosis.

Not all dogs become sick when exposed to leptospirosis, but for those that do, the results can be devastating. Leptospirosis most commonly causes kidney failure. Associated symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. The liver and lungs are also targets for this disease. The diagnosis of leptospirosis is made via blood and urine testing. Successful treatment consists of antibiotics and supportive therapy such as supplemental fluids.

— *Continued on Page 5.*

Puddle Precautions Continued

The leptospirosis vaccination does a good job of protecting against this disease. Talk with your veterinarian about whether or not this vaccine makes sense given where you live and the nature of your dog's extracurricular activities.

Giardia

Giardia are microscopic, protozoan organisms that live within the intestinal tracts of a variety of domesticated and wild animals. The infectious (contagious) forms are shed within the feces and readily contaminate water sources. This is one of the main reasons it is recommended that hikers and backpackers drink only filtered water. A 2012 study documented that dogs who attend dog parks are more likely to test positive for giardia than those who do not attend dog parks.

The most common symptom caused by giardiasis in dogs is diarrhea. Vomiting and loss of appetite may also occur. The diagnosis is made via stool sample testing. A handful of medications can be used to rid the intestinal tract of giardia. Metronidazole and fenbendazole are the two most commonly used. The diagnosis of giardia in one dog may warrant treatment of the entire household herd, as giardia is highly contagious from dog to dog. It can also be transmitted to

other species, including cats and humans.

Antifreeze

Consumption of only a very tiny amount of antifreeze can have devastating consequences for dogs. Ethylene glycol, the active ingredient in antifreeze, causes acute, often irreversible kidney failure. Symptoms typically include lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness, and ultimately coma and/or seizures. The diagnosis is made based on history, urine and blood testing, and often a kidney biopsy. Unfortunately, even with aggressive and expensive therapy, most dogs suffering from antifreeze toxicity don't survive.

Until relatively recently, antifreeze had a sweet taste rendering it all the more enticing to dogs and children. In 2012 antifreeze manufacturers were forced to add a bittering agent to their products. Even with the addition of a bitter taste, vigilance is required to prevent antifreeze toxicity. A small amount of antifreeze within a puddle may not be enough to deter a thirsty dog from drinking.

Antifreeze sources include open product containers and antifreeze leaks from the undercarriage of vehicles. When with your dog, be sure to avoid puddles that have formed in and around parking lots.

Take home message

My goal in telling you about the potential perils of puddles isn't to convince you to confine your dogs indoors. Heck, my dogs hike off leash with me daily, rain or shine. Rather, my objective is to increase your awareness so that you will be mindful about where your dog drinks when out and about with you (no parking lot puddles!). I encourage you to maintain awareness of the symptoms of leptospirosis, giardiasis, and antifreeze toxicity so that, if observed, you will seek veterinary attention right away.

Does your dog have exposure to puddles?

Best wishes,

Nancy Kay, DVM

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Author of *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life*

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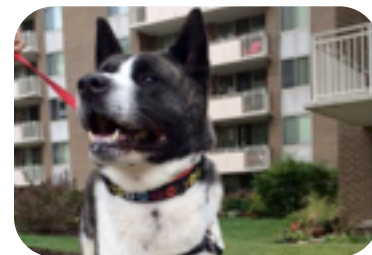
Available Orphans



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



ASAMI: This long-legged girl is about 2-3 years old and was found as a stray in Baltimore. She might be a bit dog aggressive, but is leash trained.



MOSHI: About 5 years old enjoying life in a foster home after living on the streets. She is eager to please and food motivated.

Look for more information soon about Neeko/Naoki, Chase, and Spanky!

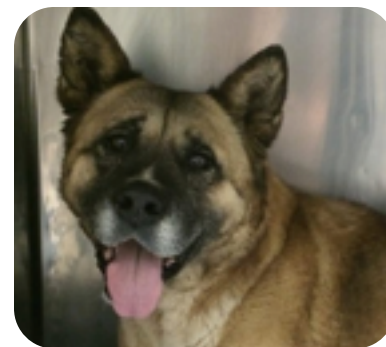
Rainbow Bridge



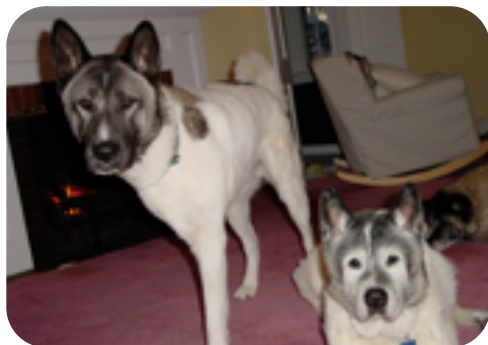
Maisie (fka Baby), Moriarty Family



Sadie: Nov 1998 - Feb. 7, 2016. We said goodbye to Sadie yesterday. She was not so much our dog as everyone's dog. She made animal-lovers out of those who were not, won the hearts of many, helped people through hard times, and enjoyed good times too. I realized as I searched for photos, that I got Sadie before my first digital camera. She lived a long life - saw both coasts and many places in between (how many dogs from DC have been to the Las Vegas strip?), flew to New Mexico twice, took a walk in Central Park, and once ate 10 steak bones (that was a nice vet bill). As one friend told me she was a "soulful" dog and I would agree. Thanks to Akita Rescue for saving her from death as a puppy, to Holly Savage for introducing us, and to the many others who loved her over the years. Note: Sadie was featured in the Nov/Dec 2014 newsletter in the article "Happy Endings."



Leia, caught in a leg trap, died of her injuries despite receiving the best possible care. RIP Sweet Girl



In memory of Ferris (L) & Zach (R), who crossed the bridge in 2004 & 2005.



Laris, who will be greatly missed by the Ruehle Family.

In Memoriam

We are sad to announce the passing of Dee Bradley. For many years, she held "all Akita" obedience classes for many of our foster and adopted dogs. She helped many people who had issues with their dogs. I am sure she was warmly greeted at the Bridge by all the dogs who knew her.

Dog Training Seminar

Dog trainer Sue Sternberg is offering a two-day dog evaluation seminar on the weekend of May 2-3, 2015 in Burke, VA. Topics include sociability, aggression, mouthing, and resource guarding. Discounted early bird registration is available through April 10th. Find more information about the seminar here: <http://www.puppyworks.com/events/sternberg/ss0515va.html>.

Anyone interested in participating should indicate they are with ARMAC in order to get a discounted rate.

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!

Sandra Patmore



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We want to hear from you!



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info@akitarescue.org

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Akita Rescue



Mid-Atlantic

Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast (ARMAC)

January/February 2015

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