

Uniquely

AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast

ARMAC – December 2007

The Story of an Old Dog – Rip

Invariably, this is how it begins:

If any can, please help this senior

Jodi Marcus

ARMAC www.akitarescue.org



----- Original Message -----

From: <>

To: <>

Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2007 12:43 PM

Subject: Senior Akita in GA kill shelter.

This is a x-post from PF

Senior Akita

Info from volunteer:

Henry County Animal Shelter

527 Hampton Street

McDonough, GA 30253

Phone: 770-288-PETS(7387)

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/GA67.html>

I do not know anything about this dog. I am just posting because I think it is sad that a dog this old will die in the gas chamber.

I saw this Akita and it is so sad I think it is blind it just lies there. This dog is old! This is a KILL Shelter and they are full. I hope someone can help this dog. Henry County Animal Shelter. An old dog should have some dignity when it is a senior.

His or her's pic isn't even on Pet Finder. Hopeless...

Can you help? Contact other rescue groups? X-post?

Everyone,

And so the story unfolds... a flurry of calls and emails to move ONE old dog to safety.

Jodi tells me that Mr. Rip, the McDonough, GA shelter dog, is home with them in VA. Tomorrow, she will take him on to Kristen, who will in turn carry him to Jo, where he will live out his days in a safe, loving home. A lot of folks, some from ARMAC, and some from HOD, and few like Ed, Clay and Rachel, gave time and gasoline and effort to get him there. Travel safely tomorrow, guys.

A Bowl and an Unexpected Act of Kindness

By Bill Moore, HOD Akita Rescue

The picture that came across the Akita Rescue mailing list was of an old, somewhat disheveled dog in a tiny holding pen in the McDonough, GA animal pound. Something in that photo spoke deeply to Joann Dimon, and she decided to take him in, if transport could be arranged from Georgia to New Jersey. Since she and her daughter had been reading Rip Van Winkle, the name Rip seemed somehow fitting for an elderly gentleman dog. Someone was found to pull him from the shelter, and arrangements for his transport began to take shape. I received him from the person who took him from the shelter, and was to deliver him to Michelle Wild, who was doing the next step of the transport. The planned meeting location was the Farmer's Market in Asheville, NC.

I was able to make better time than I had anticipated, and arrived at the market a little ahead of schedule. While I was waiting for Mich to arrive, Rip and I were walking around on a small grassy strip next to the street. A lady who had been shopping in the market approached us and asked about the dog. I very briefly told her that he was a rescue being transported to his new home. She said she had five dogs of her own, and would have more if she had the room. While we were talking she asked if he needed a drink, and if I had a bowl. I didn't, but knew that Mich carried one with her, and told her that she would be arriving shortly, and we would give him water then. She told me that she would be right back, and went back into the market. A few minutes later, she returned with a bowl and a bag full of bottled water. I asked her if I could reimburse her, but she refused any payment. She set the bowl down, and opened a couple of bottles of water, and he began to drink.

About that time, Mich arrived, and we talked a little more, then it was time for him to continue on his journey. Again, I asked her if I could pay her for the bowl and water, and again she refused. She turned as if to leave, but then paused, reached into her purse, and handed me a folded bill, saying it was to help with Rip's rescue. I asked her name and address so we could send a thank you note. She gave a name and said she was from Maryland, but gave no address, saying a note wasn't necessary. We thanked her, and she left to continue her shopping. I looked, and was amazed to see that she had given a bowl, a bag of bottled water and \$50.00 to two complete strangers and an old dog. Mich and I were left standing there, looking at each other through tear-misted eyes. Nancy from Maryland, you have made it into my list of Akita Angels.

Mich and I decided that I should take the bowl back with me, since we were concerned it might get broken. She and Rip left to continue his journey, and I prepared to return home. I looked at the bottom of the bowl, and was surprised to see "Willow Pottery, copyright 1889". As it turns out, it is most likely not an antique, but a modern replica. However, its value is not its monetary worth, but the symbol of caring and kindness it now represents.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the bowl would rejoin Rip, now at his new home with Jo, and that when Rip passed on, his bowl would be passed on to another worthy recipient and caretaker. So I packed it and sent it on to him, and he and his bowl are now reunited. May it serve him long and well.

Every once in a while, something happens to help restore some of our faith in our fellow human beings. For me, this was one of those moments.

A simple plain white bowl with a narrow red rim. How much more elegant than the fanciest trophy or gaudiest ribbon. Rip's bowl, a symbol of caring and kindness.

Bill Moore, Ph.D. - akitaz@mac.com

Heart of Dixie Akita Rescue - www.hodakitas.org

Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.
— Helen Keller

Heat Wave? Protect Your Pet

During a 2006 heat wave that struck throughout the West, a dog in Washington state on a run with its owner became so overheated and dehydrated due to heat stroke that the dog's kidneys stopped functioning.

"Heat stroke can be life-threatening in dogs. Most dogs don't know when to stop and rest," explains Karl Jandrey, a veterinarian in the Emergency and Critical Care Services of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

A normal internal temperature for most dogs, says Jandrey, is about 100-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Some working dogs adapt to higher temperatures during activity, but a dog with heat stroke may have a temperature in excess of 107 degrees. "Heat-induced illness just denatures everything," Jandrey explains. Sustained heat exposure can lead to seizures, irregular heart beats, diarrhea, and vomiting. Blood may fail to clot, and loss of kidney or liver function can occur.

To compound the difficulty, symptoms of heat stress in dogs may not show until the animal is near collapse. Fortunately, the Washington dog owner arranged for the animal to be flown to the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Emergency specialists provided life-saving measures in the Intensive Care Unit while the Hemodialysis Service provided treatments to temporarily take over the function of the dog's failing kidneys.

Dogs do not have sweat glands like people do. They cannot cool themselves by sweating through the skin. Instead, they regulate their body temperature through their breathing (ventilation). It is normal for a dog to pant heavily in warm weather. The brachycephalic breeds, those which appear to have "pushed in" faces such as pugs, boxers, and bulldogs may be more prone to overheating. This is due to the unusual anatomy of their shortened facial features and airways.

Since the consequences can be so dire, Jandrey recommends the following preventive tips:

- Provide plenty of fresh water
- Gradually increase activity levels and give the dog lots of rest breaks during exercise. UC Davis veterinarians begin to see heat stroke cases as early as April, even though temperatures are mild, because dogs have not had time to acclimate to warmer days and strenuous exercise.
- Soak your pet to the skin with a hose or bath of tepid water. "Misting isn't going to cut it," Jandrey says. "Water shouldn't be so cold that it constricts surface blood vessels and actually blocks the cooling process. No ice."
- Place the animal in front of a fan to speed up the cooling process.

Jandrey cautions, "Fixing the temperature is not necessarily the end of the story—problems can still be moderate to severe." Therefore, he advises a visit to the veterinarian for a health assessment after an episode of overheating.

In extreme cases, treatments at UC Davis may include intravenous fluids and blood transfusions, muscle relaxants and sedatives to reduce seizures, and other intensive care measures, such as oxygen therapy to support failing lung function.

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has one of the only animal programs on the West Coast that provides emergency kidney dialysis services. The school runs hemodialysis services in two locations, in Davis at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and in San Diego at the UC Veterinary Medical Center - San Diego. Another instrument at the school's teaching hospital that is not widely available elsewhere is a mechanical ventilator that assists the animal with breathing. The Small Animal ICU provides 24-hour individual patient care every day of the year and is the leading veterinary facility for mechanical ventilation for both dogs and cats.

The weather has cooled considerably. Jandrey's patients are back with their owners. Summer is not over, however. It pays to prepare yourself—and your dog—for the next hot spell.

*This tip from Dr. Karl Jandrey of the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital provides general information about animal health. If you have specific questions about the health of your pet, please consult your veterinarian. You may make an appointment at the Small Animal Clinic by contacting the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, (530) 752-1393.

Media Contact:

Lynn Narlesky, Dean's Office, (530) 752-5257, lnarlesky@ucdavis.edu

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I can not begin to tell you how IMPORTANT this info is. Just this past weekend (July) a kennel abandoned by the owners in North Carolina was handled by a humane organization and local Animal Control, two adult Akitas and two litters of puppies died of heat stroke. DO NOT walk or run your dog(s) when the temperature is over 80 degrees with medium-high humidity. The asphalt stores heat and radiates 20 degrees hotter than the air temperature making dangerous temps for dogs. 'Tis the Season To Be Careful

All ARMAC orphans are vet checked, up to date on vaccinations, spayed/neutered and are heartworm and fecal negative. Interested in adopting?

Time to Review Dog Bite Prevention Strategies

More than 4.7 million people each year are bitten by dogs, and up to 1 million individuals seek medical treatment for dog bites. According to one study, approximately 50% of children between 4-18 years of age reported to have been bitten by a dog.

The vast majority of victims were bitten by a dog that they knew, not a stray dog roaming the streets. Dog bites account for 15% of home-owners insurance claims, totaling \$317.2 million in 2005, at an average of \$21,200 per claim.

Veterinary behavior specialists at UC Davis explain that any dog can bite, and no guarantee exists that a dog, having bitten, will never bite again—even after extensive behavior modification. Biting is part of a dog’s “vocabulary.” However, many cases of aggression can be helped with appropriate diagnosis, behavior modification, and owner education designed to reduce the risk of bites.

Adults and children can learn to avoid or deal with situations that might lead to dog bites.

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine joins the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Humane Society of the United States in reminding pet owners and other members of the public how to avoid dog bites.

Doctor Melissa Bain, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist and chief of the Behavior Service at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, reminds us of the following safety tips:

If you own a dog:

- Learn about dog bite prevention, including the basics of responsible ownership and veterinary care.
- Never leave a child or baby alone with a dog without direct adult supervision.
- Talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to socialize your puppy and keep it healthy.
- Introduce animals to new situations gradually.
- When out and about, be aware of others around you; obey leash laws.
- Neuter your pet, as it may help reduce some aggression in dogs.
- Learn to read your dog’s body language so that you will be aware of potential situations that could lead to aggression.
- Teach young children to be cautious and respectful around dogs, staying away from strange dogs and asking owner permission before petting an unfamiliar dog.

Respect a dog’s behavior tendencies:

Whether or not they own pets, adults should teach children to respect a dog’s natural instincts. Do not disturb an animal that is eating, resting, or caring for its puppies.

If you encounter an aggressive dog:

- Stay still and calm. Children can learn to stand very still and “be a post” or “be a rock” until the animal leaves.
- Stay quiet, or speak in a low, firm voice.
- Avoid eye contact with the animal.
- Try to put something between you and the dog. If you are on a bicycle and a dog chases you, stop the bicycle and dismount. Use the bicycle as a barrier between you and the animal.
- Back away slowly, and remain facing the animal until it is gone.
- If you fall or are knocked down, curl into a ball and use your hands and arms to protect the face, neck and head.

Understanding an animal’s natural behaviors is an important step in training pets and strengthening the human-animal bond. The School of Veterinary Medicine’s Behavior Service, <http://www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/vmeth/services/behavior/behavior.html>, provides consultation and behavior therapy for a wide range of behavioral problems in companion animals. Veterinary behavior services are available in two locations – in Davis at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and in Southern California at the UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego (inside the Veterinary Specialty Hospital of San Diego).

Appointments:

Davis: (530) 752-1393

San Diego: (858) 875-7505

Appointments may also be arranged through your veterinarian.

Who is most likely to be bitten by a dog? The Centers for Disease Control Web site contains detailed information on dog bites, a serious public health problem, including statistics on dog bite injuries and deaths, who is most likely to be bitten, and other information. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm>

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• **SPECIAL NOTE TO UNIQUELY AKITA SUBSCRIBERS:** •

• **THE DATE THAT APPEARS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL** •

• **IS THE MONTH/YEAR THAT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES.** •

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Why Microchip???

In January of this year, an Akita was lost. In May, he was located.

It's been almost 2 months to the day since Raja snuck out of the front door of his new home. He was found today about 9 miles away — survived all the Seattle area traffic — by a city parks employee who must be a dog lover. He took him in to his vet, who scanned him. They called the originating shelter who contacted one of our volunteers.

She is going to pick him up tomorrow.

He is in good shape and is still is outgoing, loving self.

Now we need a new foster home for this lucky lucky boy. We had given up hope.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE microchip your orphans!

Cecille Juresko

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can help with any of the following please contact an ARMAC representative:

- help with public relations
- help checking out veterinarians and trainers to see if they are Akita friendly
- help at various dog shows, pet expos, etc. that ARMAC attends
- volunteers to take Akita orphans through obedience class

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or call **Lisa** at **703.257.7691** for a **free** catalog

ARMAC to Attend Super Pet Expo

March 28-30, 2008
Dulles Expo Center
Chantilly, VA

Volunteers needed to help at the ARMAC booth. If you can help please contact Lisa Gray at Lisa@schnabel.com

POISON CONTROL

This is the only dedicated animal poison control hotline in the world manned by veterinarians, not telephone operators. The number is staffed 24/7.

(888) 4ANI-HELP
or **(888) 426-4435**



AUTUMN, A CURRENT ARMAC ORPHAN —
COULD SHE BE THE NEXT ADDITION
TO YOUR FAMILY?

Please go to www.akitarescue.org
to view other Akitas in need of a new home

Excerpts from NYT Article on the Animal Crisis in the U.S.

New Tricks

By CHARLES SIEBERT, April 8, 2007

'A number of recent studies published in The Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science have indicated that the leading cause of dog abandonment is behavioral problems. A team of researchers for the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, headed by Dr. Mo Salman of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University, surveyed nearly 4,000 dog owners at 12 shelters across the United States about their reasons for relinquishing their dogs. They repeatedly cited things like biting, overaggression, chewed-up furniture, repeated soiling: dogs literally and figuratively bouncing off our walls.

And who can blame them, our walls now being just about all they have? With our full-scale shift from an agrarian to a service-based economy and society, the very nature of dog work and the tasks we ask of dogs have shifted as well. The hunters and sheepherders and the high-strung, ground-tearing terriers of yore — born ferreters of rats and badgers — are being increasingly disappointed from their intended earthly rounds, pulled skyward into high-rises, where there are only our ever-shifting moods, anthropomorphic projections and stuffed toys and couch pillows to alternately grasp, negotiate or tear through.

We look to dogs now to be not only companions but also substitute children, emotional and psychological support in the wake of deaths, divorces and breakups. We are asking them to be, in essence, little people, animate worry beads and stress absorbers: to undertake jobs that, while they may engage — to the point of exhaustion — the canine species's long-heralded loyalty, exercise precious little else. The outcome has been an ever-growing number of incredibly messed-up, neurotic dogs, and with them a rise each year in the incidence of dog bites and other aggressive, antisocial behaviors — all of which contribute, of course, to the huge number of abandoned dogs.

... "At the Humane Society in Minneapolis, puppies that graduated from socialization classes were found to be far less likely to be returned after adoption."

... "Mollaghan speaks of her approach as a three-part puzzle: Try to get a handle on the dogs. Try to read a potential adopter's personality and expectations. And, finally, develop the relationship element itself — try to get a sense of how people are choosing their dogs, what criteria they're using.

The first part can be particularly daunting. Any abandoned dog is the living embodiment of a broken bond of some sort, an intriguing if maddeningly inarticulate emissary of some prior human entanglement. The challenge for shelter workers trying to re-home that animal, of course, is to get a firm enough idea of its disposition — which naturally deteriorates with every passing second the dog spends among its equally miserable fellow captives — to feel fairly confident that they're not dispatching a ticking time bomb into someone's life.

"The timing of these tests is pretty sensitive," Mollaghan said as we made our way to the kennel of our next test subject, "because of the stress response of these animals." The very act of our passing by them, Mollaghan explained, contributes to their decline, setting dogs off into a frenzy of barking and jumping because, invariably, some other visitor stopped once before and spoke to them and took them out on a lead. It's a syndrome known as "conditioned frustration."

For the entire article, you may go here. It is quite lengthy but very informative and insightful to the world of homeless dogs, animal shelters and rescues.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/08/magazine/08animal.t.html?pagewanted=1&r=1>

Thank you!!!

Pat Singstock

Emmanuel Fisher

Kimberly Mullen

Lee Harvey and Bo

Elizabeth Moore

Prowler Mills-Rogers, Houston, TX

Memorials

Keith Marshall and Linda Gatton
over the loss of Sandy

Julie Eisenberg over the loss of Sheba



Julie Eisenberg's Sheba

Dogs Adopted:

Oreo – YES!

Tamira – YES!

Blondie and Dancer

Corky our 5 mos. old puppy from a local shelter has been placed and is currently Adoption Pending.



Start Your New Year with a
new ARMAC Calendar!

To buy yours go to:
www.armacstore.org

CURRENT LIST OF AKITA RESCUE (ARMAC, Inc.) DOGS

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

DOGS LOOKING FOR HOMES:

Nakita – s/f, dob 9/02, Red fawn and white pinto with black mask. BIG GIRL. She has grown immensely in the 3 years we have had her. Very pretty! Very 'lovey' with people. Prefer home with children teenaged or older. Obedient, but still dog aggressive on lead. Needs experienced Akita owner. Calm and housebroken in the house. Needs to be ONLY pet!

Meiko (now Mikey) –

a/m, dob 2/04, white with beige ticking on ears. What a character! This is a busy body from the letter 'B'. Housebroken, crate trained. Wants to investigate everything, gets along with other dogs but is VERY pushy and annoyingly 'puppy'. Too rambunctious for home with small children. No cats! Somewhat mouthy, but we feel this is an 'attention getting device'.

Kato – a/m, dob 9/05, red brindle and white. Very flashy. Very sweet little boy. Alas, he has separation anxiety. Very schedule oriented. Can be crated, but will bark. Loves his buddy Roxi. Loves attention. Somewhat fearful of children, so no children under age of 16. Probably do best in a home with someone home during the day where he is crated only for a couple of hours. All day crating will be tough for this little guy. A dog run might be an adequate solution if you don't have neighbors nearby.

Maverick – a/m, dob 1998, red and white pinto with black mask and broken ears. This guy is a GEM! He lived with Silas, the intact 4 year old male Akita and together they escaped to locate their owner after she was evicted from her home of many years. Instead they were incarcerated by the county. Mavvy is housebroken, seemingly good with other dogs, dog oriented, walks beautifully on lead, crate trained. Not quite the 'love bug' that Silas was, but I would say has more typical Akita temperament. Devoted but aloof. He's a bit of a garbage hound, but a nice guy who would also love to find his permanent and SECURE retirement home.

Autumn – s/f, dob 2002?, red fawn and white pinto with black mask. Wonderful with people, a total love bug! NEEDS TO BE ONLY DOG!!! Housebroken.

Babe – s/f, dob 2002, white with brown mask and white blaze. A veritable POWDER PUFF of a girl!!! She is a longhair. Unfortunately, her coat was so badly matted after being left outside after a divorce, that she required shaving her lovely locks. But they should be coming back in shortly. She was surrendered with a female mixed Akita Lab. So she has had exposure to other dogs. She is currently in a foster home with cats, which she would dearly love to chase. Unknown if predatory or just overly curious. Loves all people!

Princess – s/f, dob 2005, fawn with black mask. This is a classic beauty!!! She was a 'wild Indian' when first taken in, having been dumped by her breeder who admitted to having too many dogs and not enough time. She was not getting along with siblings or dam. But has settled in to a routine in her foster home with several smaller mixed breeds. Whereas she is still very pushy, she sits with 'the gang' for treats. She is still very bossy and dominant. We suspect she would do best as an only pet, but could be swayed to try a nice mellow boy pairing.

Tora – s/f, dob 2004, brindle with white markings. Good things come in small packages. Poor Tora! Came in to the shelter as a stray. Was adopted after being viewed on our website and then dumped at another shelter w/I 24 hours!! The parents wouldn't let the son have a dog. :(She finally made it to a foster. Is another wild Indian. Loves everyone, sleeps in the foster's daughter's bedroom at night. Annoys the daylighters out of their older male Akita (to the point of provocation, but seems in good spirits, not aggressive). Will jump on furniture and bolt out of doors(!). I suspect she can clear a standard fence in a heartbeat as well. Will need some elbow grease, but other than that a very lovable dog.

Cora – s/f, dob 2002, RED with white markings and black mask. If this girl doesn't scream 'Cadillac' (for all you older Akita fanciers), then nothing will. She is a classic 'old style' Akita with a very loving personality towards humans. Doesn't seem to give a whit about other dogs, but hasn't been tossed to the lions either after whelping 9 puppies in a shelter. She will NOT do cats (or will, but not in the fashion a cat owner wishes).

Check out puppies (Akita mix – Cora's babies) on our website!

Cora



All ARMAC orphans are vet checked, up to date on vaccinations, spayed/neutered and are heartworm and fecal negative.

Visit akitarescue.org to see available orphans

ARMAC ORPHANS



Autumn



Babe



Nakita



Meiko



Maverick



Princess



Tora



ARMAC

313 Quaint Acres Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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

Name _____

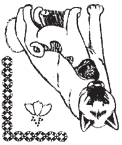
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