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YOU SAY POTATO, WE SAY TADAO

BY PULLER LANIGAN

We received a plea from a small shelter in rural Virginia to assist a young male Akita who had been picked up as a stray. He was suspected of being less than a year and a photo of the young lad was sent. I suspect there was something subliminal in the plea that made me take a second look at this fellow. They did disclose that they didn't get Akitas in the shelter and therefore thought he would be difficult to rehome in a rural area. He was handsome, but his eyes showed fear. Purportedly, the staff 'loved him'. This can also be a red flag, that there is something else going on, but his photo didn't disclose this. In for a penny, in for a pound! I asked where the shelter was located (below Charlottesville). I then asked about transportation which they put us in touch with a group who did this. We tried to find someone who could go evaluate the little guy for us, to no avail. This really



Tadao, pictured, tickling our smallest ARMAC supporter with kisses the day he was rescued

wasn't 'Akita country'. Just as we thought we had his transport lined up, we were informed he required a Rabies vaccination before he could move through the state. It pays to ask questions, I erred in thinking if the shelter didn't provide one upon departure, he could get one when he reached us. Not so, in 'Ol' Virginy'. There was a bit of a mad scramble to get this guy his Rabies before the train pulled out, but many thanks to

those dedicated people working to pull him, they

made it happen. He was transported to Fairfax, where Jodi and Charlie collected him. We were surprised at how petrified the transporters were of this guy. He really is sweet, but apparently the Akitas reputation precedes him. It seems all handling by the shelter involved using a pole. Which further supports our battle cry of, 'Educate! Train your Dog! Educate!' What an awful experience for a young dog. He went to the kennel to chill for a week and then be neutered. No doubt, another assault to his experience with humans, however, I can vouch that he was treated kindly and well received by both kennel and veterinary staff. While chilling at the shelter, he was named, 'Tadao' (Tah-Day-oo) after the owner's cousin. This is a Japanese male name, meaning, 'Loyal Man'. And considering his circumstances, he certainly has been loyal to all humans. 'Tato' (as in Po-tato), his nickname, loves other dogs and loves to play with other dogs: im one-on-one to my elderly colony. (cont'd on page 2)

URGENT:

FOSTER HOMES

NEEDED!!!

Ever thought of
fostering?

Maybe in the future?

If you can find it in
your heart, we urge
you to complete the
paperwork now.

Please visit our
website for more
information:

AkitaRescue.org

TADAO (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

He is housebroken, crate trained and a strict schedule master. If I am late, he will tell me. He loves to be cuddled by those he knows and tries to curve into a comma anytime he is with me, my husband or son. He is learning to walk on lead, but a lot of that is he is just a young and exuberant pup. I suspect someone with one dog or no other dog and a passion for hiking or running would do well by this young man. He slept VERY well when he went out in the deep snow and played for a couple of hours with Chihiro (SUPERVISED). I encountered some guarding of me while we walked around the neighborhood initially. But he seems to be learning that meeting people on the street, is the norm here, and pretty much has dumped the low growls and now wants to sniff and be petted. This confirmed as we almost ran down a neighbor out walking early one morning, Tado said 'nada'. He may have been obtained to be a guard dog, he is an excellent alert to anyone who comes to the door or walks down the street, but is also good at stopping the alert when told you've got it. He loves to meet any visitors who come by the house. Mostly, he is just learning the ropes of being in a home, in hopes his own home will come forward in the near future.



SWINE FLU CONFIRMED IN CAT

BY MELISSA BREYER

Avoiding H1N1: wash your hands; don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth; stay home if you're sick. But what if you happen to be a cat? Since few cats enjoy a 20-second paw wash...the advice? Stay away from people!

According to a press release issued by the American Veterinary Medical Association, a 13-year old tabby in Iowa has tested positive for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus—marking the first time a cat has been diagnosed with this strain of influenza. How does a cat get swine flu? Since the cat is exclusively an indoor cat who has zero contact with other animals, it is believed to have caught the virus from one of two members in the household who were sick with H1N1. The cat joins pigs, turkeys and several ferrets that have been diagnosed with H1N1. Although many assume the opposite, it appears that in general, the disease spreads from people to animals, rather than the other way around. It's fascinating how different strains of flu infect a wide variety of animals including seals, whales, horses, tigers, cats, dogs, ducks, and chickens. (And I'm still scratching my head about how a seal gets the flu.) As evidenced in the health blogs of The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, the world of animal flu is a nimble one. When ducks get the flu, they may not show symptoms (lucky ducks!), but the virus replicates itself in their intestinal tracks and is then excreted into the wastewater where it may be a pathway for transmission to other animals (like seals, I suppose). Companion animals have been known to contract flu from other species: canine influenza (H3N8) originated in horses (a dog with the flu may have a cough, a runny nose and a fever. And did you know you can get a flu shot for your dog?); and cats can get avian influenza (H5N1) from eating birds. But this is the first confirmed case of a cat getting H1N1 from a human. The symptoms of the cat's H1N1 were lethargy, loss of appetite and trouble breathing—he had stopped cleaning himself, and also rested by crouching on all four feet rather than sprawling out on his side as usual—a sign of respiratory discomfort. Fortunately, the cat has fully recovered; he was given fluids for dehydration and put on antibiotics to prevent a secondary bacterial infection. Officials say pet owners should take the same precautions against spreading swine flu to pets as they would with humans. Dr. Ann Garvey, Iowa's state health veterinarian, said it is not yet known how sick cats or other pets could get from swine flu. "Because we haven't seen that many cases, it's difficult to give a blanket assessment on how sick it can make an animal," she said. It is also as yet to be determined whether or not a companion animal with H1N1 can then infect a healthy person. It serves as a poignant reminder that we really are all part of one big animal family.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.care2.com/greenliving>

CHEF HILLARY'S KITCHEN BY HILLARY LAMAY

Mini Muttballs & Ditalini

Submitted by Jodi Marcus

Ingredients:

- 6 cups chicken broth
- 3/4 pound ground beef, pork and veal
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup chopped shredded carrots
- 1/3 cup grated cheese, plus more for sprinkling
- 1/3 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley
- 1 clove garlic, mashed into a paste with a little salt
- Pepper to taste

- 1/2 pound ditalini pasta

Directions:

In a large saucepan, bring the broth to a boil, then lower to a simmer. In a bowl, combine the ground meat, eggs, carrots, cheese, bread crumbs, parsley and garlic paste. Season with pepper. Form into 1-inch balls. Drop the meatballs into the broth and simmer until cooked through, about 5 minutes. Stir in the pasta and cook until al dente, 6 to 7 minutes. Let cool before serving to your pooch! Sprinkle with more parmigiano-reggiano.

Bow Wow Wow Yipee Yo, Yipee HEY YOU! Do you have a yummy recipe your pup loves? Is it healthy and easy?

We'd love to put it in the next newsletter! Please email Chef Hillary with your submission: HJLaMay@yahoo.com



Follow ARMAC on Facebook!

Keep up to date on events, issues, and get to know some of your fellow Akita lovers in the area! Join our group by typing in

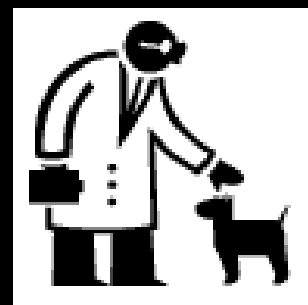
' Akita Rescue Mid Atlantic Coast, Inc.' in the search field!

Interested in volunteering? We also have a sister group set aside for

ARMAC Volunteers where you can sign up to assist us at events. Join our group by typing in ' ARMAC Volunteers!' into the search field. Once you've joined either group, feel free to add any stories, photos or pet-friendly recipes and we'd love to feature them in a future newsletter! It's a great forum for asking your Akita-related questions or if you have any ideas on how to help us spread the word far and wide!

AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT SPAY/NEUTER OPTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

For our Northern VA audience: The Neuter Commuter travels to PW County to transport animal into Washington, D.C., where the spay/neuter procedures are performed. There are no income requirements and anyone can participate, but space is limited to 30 animals each month. Low-cost services, such as rabies vaccinations, will be offered for animals receiving the spay/neuter procedures. Full instructions and details are provided on the application form. All reservations and payments are made in advance and on-line. For more information: www.pwspca.org



For our Maryland audience: SNAP, Inc offers low cost spay/neuter certificates, financial aid to those unable to afford spay/neuter surgeries, and to reduce pet over-population through sterilization. Anyone of any age who needs assistance for spay/neuter surgeries should contact the SNAP Program. For more information: <http://community.carr.org/fullrecord.asp?record=999>

GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE/PRINCESS

BY JODI MARCUS & PULLER LANIGAN

Dedicated to Woo Marcus

You aren't getting older, you're getting better – the oenophiles summation of life! Or something we tell ourselves daily. The same goes for our dogs, but we can't ignore some of the changes that occur as the years go by.

Every dog ages differently based on genetics whether by breed or parentage, but there are some common changes that occur as the body gets older. Here is a list of some of the most common conditions that develop in elderly pets.

1. Loss of hearing - As dogs age, the nerve cells and hearing apparatus degenerate, resulting in a gradual loss of hearing. Not hearing someone approach can startle the old dog and a dog who has never growled or snapped at anyone may do so. If your old dog has hearing loss, tell people to tread more heavily as they approach him to give warning that someone is coming. If you have a younger dog living with the older one, take care that they, too, announce their arrival so as not to startle the old guy. Old dogs may also bark more because they think they are hearing something which they are not, or just catch the merest hint of a sound which causes them to bark aka "ghost barking". This is akin to an elderly parent who can't hear you and keeps asking, 'What?' and wants you to repeat yourself.

2. Loss of vision - The lens of the eye becomes cloudy with age. Natural changes result in lenticular sclerosis, which typically does not cause significant vision loss. However, cataracts may develop, which do interfere with vision and there are some autoimmune diseases (PRA or glaucoma) which do not manifest until your dog is 8+. Strokes can also cause overnight blindness in a pet. Geriatric workups are important to maintain good health in your pet. If your dog has some vision loss, one important thing is to keep everything constant. No furniture moving, pick up stuff on the floor that could trip him, be there to guide them wherever they are going. Initially, using a lemon scented liquid or polish on furniture will give them an idea where the furniture is. Refresh the scent periodically to continue to help their awareness of obstacles.

3. Decreased activity - As they get older, a dog's metabolic rate slows. This results in a decreased activity level. Let's face it, there are going to be some things your dog will not be able to do any longer at a certain age, i.e., go for those 4 mile walks, fence fight with the neighbor's dog(s), jump up on the bed or back of your SUV, chase a ball for hours, wrestle with a younger dog. That does not mean they should not be taken on walks, just not as far and at a slower pace. They can still play but monitor the play to make sure the younger dog does not overwhelm the older one. You may need a ramp for them to get into a van or SUV, or have to use a towel or other sling type device to help them up or down stairs or into the car. If they cannot do stairs and have always slept in the bedroom, try to spend more time with them and take a decent walk before bedtime to tire them out to lessen the anxiety of not being able to sleep where they always had.

4. Weight gain - Elderly dogs require 30 to 40 percent fewer calories. By eating a normal maintenance diet, obesity often develops. This is also a time when the Thyroid ceases to function or slows down to the point of almost not functioning. Poor coat and obesity can be indicative of Thyroid disease. Other indications are decreased activity, and muscle loss. You will generally see a much happier and active dog if thyroid is determined to be the cause of 'old age malady'. There are foods designed specifically for elderly dogs and decreasing the amount if necessary will help offset "middle age spread". Talking them out for walks or otherwise exercising them will also help keep weight down and their spirits up.

5. Infections - As the body ages the immune system weakens, making it harder for the dog to ward off infections. Keep your old guys CLEAN and on soft surfaces (protecting the elbows). There are supplements that help with inflammation as well as help boost the immune system. Some tried by our volunteers and found to be successful are Omega 3 fatty acids and Astragalus 11+ . Check with your vet before implementing any supplement program.

6. Outdoor Activities: Do not leave your old dogs outside during the summer as flies will lay their eggs on slow moving, lethargic (and un-groomed) animals and your dog will then be a nursery for maggots or become a victim of heatstroke in less than 10 minutes. Similarly, you can't leave elderly dogs outside in the winter as long as younger dogs because they are more susceptible to frostbite from cold. Being out in the cold too long will also exacerbate any arthritis or joint problems they may have. Older animals, not unlike humans, cannot tolerate heat and cold as they did when they were young.

7. Loss of Bowel control: Sadly, this is a common curse of old age. Ideally, your dog will have lead an active life and walking is still an excellent way to stimulate the digestive tract and keep it on schedule. You have no schedule if you lie around all day. If you have neglected walking for several years, it's not too late to start, just START SLOW and for short distances. It is important to BEGIN a schedule.

(cont'd on page 5)



GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE/PRINCESS (CONT'D)

Brown rice (not brown rice meal or digest) added to your dog's dry and wet foods will also help stimulate the digestive tract to keep everything moving. Some people will pursue Metamucil upon a veterinarian's advice. There are physical reasons as well, that cause a dog to lose control of their bowels and leave little 'rocks' around the areas they sleep. Some of this is due to spondylosis (bone spurs) that grow along the spine and spinal column, pricking and poking the central nervous system. Loss of muscle tone (!) contributes to loss of bowel control. Stenosis (narrowing) of the spine, which may not have been a problem when your dog was younger and in better shape, can subsequently add to discomfort. Talk to your vet about ways to help alleviate these symptoms. Older dogs can also lose bladder control. An occasional accident is to be expected, but if it becomes a daily problem, see your vet for meds (both holistic and prescription) that may help. If it cannot be controlled, it may be the time to start thinking seriously about your dog's quality of life.

8. Lumps and Bumps: Around the age of 6+ you are likely to find lumps and bumps on your pet. Many of these are a host of benign growths or lipomas, however, they should ALL be checked out by your veterinarian. Skin 'tags' are also likely to pop up on eye lids, the corner of the mouth, heel of the foot. These should be monitored closely for problems arising from location (eye, mouth) and dealt with on an 'as needed' basis. These often are knocked or torn off and causing a good bit of bleeding. They also tend to return if removed, but will at least provide your pet some relief from them, especially if they are rubbing against an eye or being constantly bitten or scratched open on a daily basis. Grooming your dog regularly will not only feel good to him, but will help you find and take care of any abnormalities early.

9. Arthritis: Affects everyone; human, canine, feline, equine, etc. Most often seen in pets in the hips and knees, but can also affect the feet, neck and back. Animals have amazing pain response and generally will not evidence problems with pain until it is overbearing. DO NOT be afraid to commit to pain relief. Even if it may mean a shorter time with your pet, nobody enjoys life in pain. There are many homeopathic remedies that can be prescribed by a naturopathic/allopathic vet which should provide pain relief and be non-life threatening. Some of us start our dogs on a glucosamine / chondroitin / MSM supplement at the advent of old age (7-8 years) to help ward off old age joint problems. There are medications out there that will make your dog more comfortable when arthritis sets in. They have their drawbacks, but we often advise people to go with a comfortable means of continuing life vs. length and pain; better to live to 11 years comfortably than to 13 years living in pain. As always, talk to your veterinarian.

10. Increased Neediness: Loss of hearing, sight, decreased strength makes your dog feel more vulnerable and they may become more needy. If they have any phobias, noise, kids, trashcans, whatever, it may become more intense. Dogs who did not react to thunderstorms may now be fearful. Some things our volunteers have found useful in calming dogs are: holistic supplements such as Stress Free Calmplex, D.A.P. plug-ins, and again exercise. A tired dog will have less energy to expend on their phobias. You notice exercise is mentioned in most of these situations. It releases "feel good" endorphins in the brain and helps keep us and our dogs physically fit and makes them better prepared to handle the illnesses and insults of old age. The ultimate guideline in dealing with old age issues is quality of life. Is your dog fairly happy and comfortably pain free? Does he or she still enjoy, albeit at a reduced level, their daily activities? We are so emotionally involved with our own dogs that sometimes we do not see clearly because we do not want to see the deterioration of our dogs. Talk to close friends who know and are involved with your dog as well as your vet. Sometimes an "outside" opinion is clearer of emotion in helping decide what is best for your senior citizen. There are meds both holistic and prescription that can make our dogs' last years much more comfortable and we should not deny them this because we do not want to face the fact that they are aging and not the dog they used to be.

NIGHT SAFETY FOR YOUR DOG

BY ELIZABETH EDWARDSSEN

I have two big, black poodles who love to take walks, rain or shine, day or night. Most of the time I love walking them (except in the rain, when I love my big fenced yard).

But I worry about their safety in the dark, even at the end of a leash held firmly in my hand. On those nights when the moon is hidden behind the clouds, rain or not, I used to opt to keep the dogs in the yard and not in the path of an unsuspecting driver. Lately I feel much better taking the dogs out at night "thanks to a few handy tools that increase their visibility in the dark.

The Reflectabones Harness and Reflectabones Leash let drivers know we're there by reflecting their headlights back at them. And the reflective strip has a nice glow as you walk along. The leash and harness are available in black, blue, pink or red. (I have one set in pink and one in red.)



If your dogs prefer a collar instead of a harness, the NightView LED Collar is the perfect alternative, keeping your dog visible up to 1,000 feet.



For even more visibility, the Reflective Dog Safety Vest, which comes in a fetching tbright orange, has strips of reflective 3M fabric running along both sides so your dog is visible 1,000 feet away. My dogs love when the Reflective Dog Safety Vests come out of the closet because that means they are in for some serious walking and not a dash to the car! I'm sure it's not only black dogs that could use a little lighting up at night. If you've ever been behind the wheel and seen, at the last minute, a pair of bright eyes at the side of the road, you know why I invested in some gadgets that bring some night-time security to my dogs. And don't forget The Beacon, a dog safety light visible up to half a mile and a true life saver!



AVAILABLE ORPHANS

CURRENT LIST OF AVAILABLE AKITA RESCUE (ARMAC, INC.)
WWW.AKITARESCUE.ORG TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

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

Cora—s/f, dob 2000, Red w/white markings, black mask. Old style girl, LOVES people and wants desperately to be in her own home with NO OTHER PETS. She is currently being kennelled and loves to go out on a lunge line for hiking in the fields. She was picked up by a shelter as a stray and whelped 9 puppies in the shelter. Her puppies found homes, don't you think she deserves one?



Princess — s/f, dob 2005, fawn with black mask, white markings. Our classic beauty is still waiting for Prince Charming. She is housebroken, good with most dogs (and wouldn't mind finding a home with her bf, a mellow JRT fellow named, Cracker Jack!), obedient, affectionate. She is responding well to her meds for Pemphigus and just needs a forever home.



Zumo a/m, dob 2008, white with biscuit (pale red) markings and apricot ears. A character! Housebroken, great with other dogs, neighborhood children, and ignores neighborhood cats on walks. Currently enrolled in hydrotherapy for an injured front leg. We'll make a retriever out of him yet! Surrendered to a shelter by his breeder



when he was injured by another dog. Experiences cramping in his legs at times

but he's a big lapdog. His red eye lashes will melt your heart and keep you warm all winter!

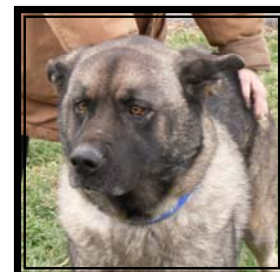
Tora—s/f, dob 2006, silver fawn and black brindle with white markings. Tora is now in a foster home and doing well. She is very intelligent, has completed one series of obedience class. Good with adults and children. Likes some dogs, if she went to a home with another k9, it should be something that is very mellow and likes to play non-stop.



Kodiakita, . a/m, dob 2007, rich mahogany brindle w/white markings. This guy is a tank! Small in stature, he is built like a brick house. Surrendered to a shelter w/his female companion. He got out, she didn't. Affectionate and loving once he gets to know you, otherwise typical Akita aloofness. Another victim of the economy. Are you the person who can see past his façade to see the nice dog inside?



Osamu A/M, BD: 12/2005 (est.), silver with light blk. Overlay, white markings. Loves everyone, very smart, can open runs, seems to be very dog friendly, has only been tested on puppies and females, but great with them. Loves all people. No leash manners. Seems to be housebroken, just wants to be with people. Unsure about riding in a car, but once he is lifted (yes, lifted) into the car, he is fine. Had a horse who was his 'buddy', so good around horses. Unknown with cats at the moment.. Look for more info on the website or the next newsletter as we get to know him better .



Mira s/f, est. dob 2008. Good with people. Slightly timid at first but very trusting to those who know her. Loves socializing with folks in her foster's hometown. Still anxious in her crate but she is improving .She sits, stays, lays, and will roll over. Needs to be walked by an experienced handler. Would prefer being the only dog.



Sanno— a/m, dob 2003, white with dark fawn cap. What a great guy! Friendly, sweet, housebroken, loves to ride in the car and sings to you! Affectionate and waiting to be the King in your castle. Good with adults and children, although due to his age would prefer teens or older.



Tadao (Pictured on cover): A/M, BD: 12/08, silver w/black overlay, white on chest. Very sweet fellow, boisterous on occasion, but definitely a dog who wants to please. He is housebroken, crate trained and learned to walk fairly well on lead. He knows sit. Loves other dogs, comes when called. His only current flaw is learning to 'drop' toys. He is very keen on protecting his territory, but is quiet once he knows you are aware of the intrusion'. Would be great in a family with teens and someone to run and have fun with hiking and walking. Unknown with cats at the moment.

RAINBOW BRIDGE



**CONGRATS ON
YOUR ADOPTION!**

~ * WILLOW * ~

In Memory of Kira, Taken Way Too Soon:



Leap with joy a 100 times daily- at least 9 feet across the living room only to land in the lap of someone you love and who least expects it. When someone gives you a bear hug and tells you you're nuts-smile bigger, then poke them in the face with a quick flick of the tongue. Express your joy by letting your tongue hang outta your mouth.. until someone rubs it then surprise them with another quick lick. Race to be the first one to the door unless you're tied with your buddy; then stop and let him through since he is fatter, older and wiser than you. Be thankful you have a warm place to lay down in. Then lay on your back with your paws up to watch TV Create an ice skating rink in the kitchen with the water bowl and watch your buddies wipe out while you chase them around the kitchen island. Bring all the dirty clothes to your dog pen so the people you love can be close to you. Behave like a perfect princess for a brief moment at feeding time. Stick your nose up and tail in the air if your peers present an attitude. They can make the choice to be your friend or you can be just as happy without them. Smile every waking moment -- unless

you're chewing on a rawhide in your crate. Then make a point to let everyone know.. there are a few things that you refuse to share and this is one of them. Take on each day as a new adventure and don't be afraid to run free. Either way when it's your time, the outcome remains the same. Be thankful for and enjoy all the simple non-materialistic pleasures that come in and out of your life. Run with your pack baby girl...



SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION:

- NANCY ANDRAE
- PAT CARLUCCI
- THE DAVIS'
- CRIGLER FAMILY
- JULIE EISENBERG
- NOELLE ELSBERRY
- ROBERT FISHER
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TO DONATE TO

ABOUT ARMAC

Akita Rescue, Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. (ARMAC), is one of the oldest Akita rescue groups in the United States, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ARMAC was founded by a small group of concerned Akita owners and has been serving the Mid-Atlantic seaboard since 1984.

Our highest priority is to save and re-home Akitas in area shelters, however, we also address a wide variety of Akita needs such as educating potential owners, referrals, support for Akita owners, and evaluations of dogs in private homes and shelters.

If you can find it in your heart to foster, adopt, donate or volunteer, please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved:

<http://akitarescue.rescuegroups.org/>



UPCOMING EVENT

SUPER PET EXPO

FRIDAY-
SUNDAY
MARCH 19-21ST

DULLES EXPO
CENTER

CHANTILLY, VA



ARMAC

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Janet McMillan (703) 931-852

Akita Friendly Vets
Ballston Animal Hospital (703) 528-2776
Dr. Learman: MapleShade Animal Hospital (703) 670-7668
Morgantown Vet Care, LLC (304) 599-8269
Nebel Street Animal Hospital (301) 230-6595
Ira Hartwell (301) 261-8463
Capital Dog Trainers (301) 587-5959
Club Pet International (703) 471-7818

Palmer Vet Clinic (301) 293-2121
Norbeck Animal Hospital (301) 924-3616



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