



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: **ZOOMING ZUMO INTO SURGERY**

BY HILLARY LAMAY

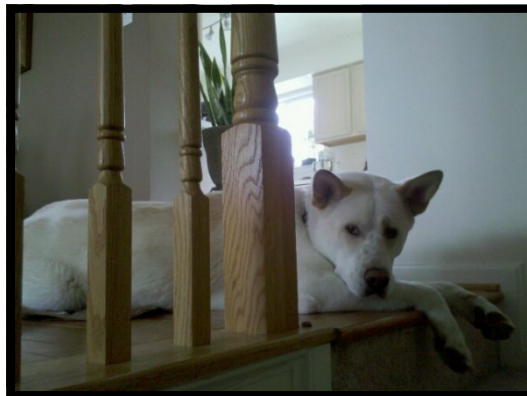
Zumo updated (cont'd)	2
Friends of Zumo	2
Will Work for Food	3
Romeo Update	3
Thank You from ARMAC	4
Chef Hillary's kitchen	5
Available Orphans	6
Rainbow Bridge & Sponsors	7
Upcoming Events	7

My husband George and I have fostered sweet Zumo since August 2009. Since featuring Zumo in the November/December , ARMAC received numerous inquiries to adopt this sweet boy. Unfortunately, before Zumo becomes available for adoption, he requires multiple surgeries to get his health on track. Shortly after his

newsletter feature, he began experiencing painful episodic cramping making him scream out in pain. We included Zumo in weekly hydrotherapy swimming to see if increased muscle tone and exercise could alleviate the cramps. Jodi and I still trek out with both Zumo and our resident dog, Senshi, to the Middleburg Animal Swim Center every Thursday afternoon for their weekly workout. At first, the point of hydrotherapy was to rehab Senshi's ACL TightRope



surgery. We wanted Zumo to come along to drain that puppy energy and hopefully minimize the cramps. A few weeks passed. One evening in the middle of his puppy obedience class with instructor Dara Lambert of The Enlightened Dog, Zumo experienced one of his most painful episodes. His screams echoed through the entire gymnasium at Dogtopia. Dara and I were completely frozen with terror. Zumo had mini episodes before, but nothing like this. His front paw knuckled under and he was dragging it while screaming in agony. I attributed it on a human level to the sensation of a Charlie horse. I comforted him and within 5 minutes the cramp seemed to subside. He was able to continue through the rest of class that evening pretty well.



I let Jodi know, but without witnessing an episode first hand, it was hard for her to gauge the severity. Lo and behold, Zumo experienced a cramping episode, one of the worst to date, while at hydrotherapy about a month later with Jodi present. When it happened, I remained calm and assertive . I comforted him, hugged him, and tried to massage the cramp. Again, he went back to normal a few minutes later. Jodi and I shared concerned glances. We decided Zumo needed veterinary attention immediately as the episodes went from sporadic to daily. I felt helpless and called the vet. The vet recommended we seek an orthopedic veterinary specialist. (Continued 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

(ZUMO CONT'D FROM COVER)

Because we'd developed such a great rapport with Dr. Bailey of the New Baltimore Animal Hospital, who did an amazing job on Senshi's ACL with the cutting edge TightRope CCL procedure, we entrusted him with Zumo's care. Dr. Bailey was so thorough, analyzing every joint on Zumo's body and carefully evaluating all the information we shared with him. After Dr. Bailey's hour-long examination, it was discovered that Zumo had elbow displaysia in BOTH elbows, a completely torn ACL and meniscus in the rear left leg, and a partially torn ACL in his rear right. Dr. Bailey had a feeling Zumo was the unfortunate result of an inbred litter. Since Zumo came to us through a shelter, all we know is he is part of an unplanned litter. There was no other explanation for his deteriorated state at only a year old!! Dr. Bailey prescribed Zumo with an anti-inflammatory for the pain.

George and I broke down in tears in the waiting room wondering how on EARTH ARMAC would come up with the \$5,000+ to get Zumo back on track. But then we wondered how on EARTH we could possibly send this sweet boy over Rainbow Bridge with such a bright future?? Our heads were swimming on that dark day. We spent that evening crying into Zumo's beautiful creamy-coated fur and wept while praying for a miracle. After a pow wow with the board members of ARMAC, I called every orthopedic veterinary specialist I could find to ask for a rescue group discount. For those of you who know me, you know I scoured all available outlets and called my heart out. I put together a cost comparison spreadsheet and presented it to the ARMAC board. As a team, it was unanimous- Zumo was too sweet a boy and too great an AmbassaDog to send over Rainbow Bridge before his time. It was time to take action and I was ready and willing to spearhead the Save Zumo outreach. As Zumo's foster mom, it goes without saying that I had a vested interest. His pain was my reality on a daily basis and I wasn't going to watch it for another minute without taking action. In the days after he started the anti-inflammatory regimen, cramping episodes decreased DRASTICALLY. Since the holidays, he's only experienced a handful of episodes!! It was only a short term fix while we raised the funds for his surgeries. We began with a full throttle fundraiser. We put a flier in the last newsletter. We also sent an email blast out to our entire network of current and previous adopters, Japanese affiliates, fellow animal lovers, friends, and our Facebook groups, reaching out for donations.

To date, ARMAC received **\$3,593** for Zumo's fund! I'm touched and in awe. We're almost to our goal and it's an amazing feeling to know that we have raised enough for Zumo's first two surgeries!! Zumo's pre-surgical consultation for his elbow procedures is scheduled for Monday March 29th. Thanks to all those who came out to the Super Pet expo to wish Zumo well before surgery! ARMAC would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the folks listed below. You each so generously donated to help send Zumo into surgery.



Check the ARMAC website and the next newsletter for Zumo's progress!

FRIENDS OF ZUMO:

Michael Bluestone
Valerie Callaway
Jacquelyn Conrad
John Washington
Dara Lambert
(of The Enlighted Dog)
Linda Wroth
Kerry O'Neill
Annette Amsel
Eileen and Ron Parlow
Heather Calhoun
Jerry Burke
Jill Cavanaugh
Rebecca Glasser
Danielle Feder &
Michael Milazzo
Jonathan Fellner
Judith Schenk
Kayce Henderson
Leigh Tran
Keith Venezia
Nancy Stade
Charmaine Weston
Robert Fisher
Linda Walker
Rebecca Rottman
Matthew Ovaitt
Virginia Rodgers
Jane Vasarhelyi
Lisa Gray
(In Memory of Lucy)
Becky Heath
Marie Gayetsky-Ghadiri

Tim Hamilton
Emily Liberman
Alana Bateman-Davis
Justin Collins
Shannon Montville
Kim Cotton
Yevgeny Kaganovich
Stanley Hulet
Elea Warf
Marcia Musselman
Frank Titus-Rogan
Rachel Doolin
Diane Lynch
Michelle Coleman
Michael Leinson
Rebecca Aehele
Bev Hewitt
Craig Foisy
Noelle Ellsberry
Doug Ziak
Gregory Gabell
Cecilia Spellman
Kira Moody
Kyla Sankey
Daniel Pollock
Robyn Gillette
Shalya Andrews
Amit Kaim
The Haucks
Darien Davis-Richardson
Mapleshade Animal Hospital
Jenna Hoffman

WILL WORK FOR FOOD

BY DARA LAMBERT

For many dogs, mealtime is the most exciting part of the day. They dance around, bark and drool in anticipation as the food is prepared. After all the buildup and excitement, the meal is usually finished in minutes, if not seconds. How can we owners make the most of our dog's fondness for their food? Though dogs are hard wired to be hunters, problem solvers and scavengers, in a typical domestic setting they rarely have the opportunity to put these skills to proper use. Rather than giving your dog their food for free, you can have them work for it. Your dog's entire meal can be a series of rewards achieved via games, toys and training rewards.

1) Find it: Dogs really love to use their noses to search for interesting things. While your dog waits in another room, hide pieces or handfuls of his meal in different places. Once you are finished hiding, bring your dog into the room and encourage him to "find it". Now your dog will need to use his nose to search for his food. Vary the hiding places and rooms to keep things challenging for your dog. This can also be done outdoors.

2) Stuffed Kong: A Kong is a rubber dog toy that is hollow in the center and can be stuffed with food. Mix your dog's dry kibble with something sticky such as peanut butter, cream cheese, or wet dog food and fill the Kong with it. Your dog will need to figure out how to get the food out in order to eat it. Start off easy to keep your dog motivated. Once your dog becomes more skilled make it harder by adding larger pieces and cramming it tighter. You can also add treats and other tasty ingredients like cheese and hot dogs to encourage your dog to keep working.

3) Puzzle Toys: There are lots of wonderful toys on the market that can be filled with treats or dry dog food. These toys are puzzles that your dog must figure out in order to release the food. Many can be adjusted to make them easier or more difficult depending on your dog's experience.

4) Training: Training is a great way to exercise your dog's mind, strengthen your relationship, and reinforce good manners. Your dog's food can be used both to teach and reward new behaviors. A great way to have fun with your dog is to buy a book on how to teach your dog tricks and see how many you can teach her. All of these activities provide much needed mental stimulation for your dog. They can amuse your dog for hours and keep them from getting in trouble. Have fun and keep your dog working!

Dara Lambert, CPDT-KA, is Akita-friendly and owner of The Enlightened Dog!

For more information on comprehensive group and private dog training, please visit her website:

www.TheEnlightenedDog.com



ROMEO UPDATE

BY JODI MARCUS

First let me apologize to all who donated to Romeo's MRI. Between snow and a litter of puppies as well as life in general, I have been negligent in getting back to you on his results. Romeo has either a congenital birth defect or an older healed injury located between the first two cervical vertebrae just below his skull. The MRI showed that his spinal cord was somewhat flattened, but not compressed in this area. This accounts for his off gait and his discomfort while defecating. If you check a dog's body posture while he is doing his business, look at the relation between where his neck and head are and you will have good idea of why Romeo has more discomfort when he is hunched in that position. Since he has been in rescue, he has been on joint supplementation as well as Omega 3 fatty acids and getting regular exercise. He occasionally still whimpers but it is very sporadic thanks to the addition of a stool softener. Once he is finished with his business, he is raring to go and shows no signs of pain or distress. He runs and leaps around my backyard like a gazelle. The times he jumps off the front porch to run around, his leap can take him 2-3 feet in the air and he lands a good 3-4 feet away from the porch. My husband Charlie swears he can levitate 4 ft. He has been one of the "Ambassadors" that goes to all the adoption events, and enjoys meeting and greeting everyone. His condition does not seem to affect the quality of his daily life. His prognosis: who knows? The letter from the neurosurgeon to my vet said that surgery to correct this would be difficult and referred us to either University of North Carolina or Tufts. Would surgery fix him? Maybe, but it also carries a high risk of death. If there were bleeding or swelling in the area, he would be paralyzed from the neck down and have to go on a respirator until the bleeding stopped or the swelling went down. Would there be permanent damage from that? Who knows? And if there was, chances are he would have to be euthanized. As always there are no guarantees.

What happens if we don't do surgery? Again, who knows? The orthopedic surgeon I use has often said "You can always do surgery but you can't undo it once it is done". So, if a condition does not require immediate surgery to relieve pain and ensure a normal life, I take a conservative view and just wait to see how things go with the dog. Woo and Bebop, both of whom had crooked front legs (surgery necessary for this), and hip dysplasia (no surgery for this), lived to be 11.4 years and 10 yrs respectively. Pookie, our "hipless" wonder who carries most of his weight on his front legs, just turned 11 and is still being walked daily. Yes, he has some arthritic problems, but so do most dogs his age.

My personal vet, who has been with me many years and has treated many of my "disabled" dogs agrees with me. Romeo has shown no signs of deterioration in his time in rescue, but has shown improvement. With this, and based on my personal experience with disabled dogs, I believe that his current condition is the worst it will be and that he will go on to live a very happy, full life with someone who loves him. He needs an owner who will become familiar with his normal state and if something changes, take him in for an evaluation. And is that so different from any other dog?

No, it isn't.

A LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER

BY JODI MARCUS

To have a rescue be successful requires more than a village. It requires a network of people who donate time, money, expertise, or their homes to foster dogs. It is much too easy to take these things for granted. Today I want to thank those who help us. To those who are unable to help in other ways but send money regularly, I want you to know that without your contributions we could not pay for our vets, boarding, newsletters, and other expenses. You keep us going in even the hardest times. To the volunteers who come and staff our booth at adoption events: we managed to get it done before (sometimes barely), but your help has eased the pressure on our core volunteers and in addition, we have met wonderful people (YOU) and made new friends.

To those who help transport dogs: if not for you, our already overloaded foster homes and core volunteers would have had to make many more journeys. You eased their load and enabled them to help in other areas of rescue. To all the vets and kennels who went that extra mile and offered us discounts so we were able to treat and board our orphans. It is because of you that we are able to save one more dog and give our adopters healthy pets. To our adopters: you take our dogs, baggage and all, and make them part of your family. You come back to us time after time, braving the pain of loss, to take another less than perfect dog and love him/her in spite of, or maybe because of, his or her quirks. And now your children are coming to us, carrying on the family tradition of adopting their family pets from us. You are an integral part of our rescue family. To our foster homes: you are what rescue is all about. You love our "throwaway dogs", heal them, train them, turn them into wonderful pets and then, let them go just to do it all over again. Opening your hearts and homes to the discarded Akitas is very bittersweet and I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work and efforts on their behalf.

I want to recognize some of the volunteers for their outstanding work. Matthew Davis, who manages our online store, updated our old website and served as webmaster for many, many years, dragging us into the computer age. Lisa Gray, who picked up where Matthew left off, finding a new host and maintaining our current website in addition to doing our financial reports, showing up at all adoption events to man the booth and fostering dogs. Niki Pino, who has returned as a foster home, and Paula Shaver, both of whom were, for years, the editors of our newsletter.

Hillary LaMay, who is the new editor of our newsletter and keeps us on schedule by gently reminding us when articles are due, who has successfully taken ARMAC into the world of online social networking (although some of us do so kicking and screaming), who shows up at all the adoption events to help man the booths, who tries her darnedest to inject some organization into our chaos, and offered to be a foster home as soon as she was settled in her new home. In all these things, she is ably assisted by her husband George LaMay.

To Puller Lanigan and Betty McDade, my co-founders, all of us alpha ladies, who are able to compromise and set aside differences because the dogs are our priority, the sole reason this group exists. For the last 25 years, we have tried to always do what is best for the dogs, no matter how difficult it was at times. Last, my husband Charlie Marcus. He did not sign up for a multi-Akita household when we first got married and acquired our dogs. He says he had to get involved in rescue or he would never see me and involved he has been: transports, setting up and tearing down booths at adoption events, helping me with daily care and feeding of our resident and foster dogs, folding and mailing newsletters, stuffing Christmas cards. He has been a true partner in all the daily tasks associated with a multi-dog household.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Akita National Specialty is like a regular dog show but only Akitas are involved!!!

Show Akitas, rescue Akitas, Working Akitas from all over the country will be there.

This year the event is in Gettysburg Pa, from Tuesday, Sept. 21 thru Saturday Sept. 25.

ARMAC as well as other rescue groups will have a booth there and we will need volunteers to help us man the booth.

If you are able to do so, please let us know.

Email:

HJLaMay@yahoo.com for more information!



CHEF HILLARY'S KITCHEN BY HILLARY LAMAY

Go Bananas for

Banana Strips!

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1 c fast-cook oats
- 1/2 banana
- 1/3 c milk
- 1/2 c all-purpose flour
- 1/8 c cooked rice

Directions:

- Prepare rice
- In a large bowl, squash bananas, beat the egg and add rice
- Mix all ingredients in a large bowl

- Spread evenly on a plate
- Heat in microwave for 3 1/2 minutes.
- When done, let banana mixture cool
- Cut and serve!

Your pup will go bananas!

Tip: Use these as a training treat or stuff supplements inside the warm batter!



**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!

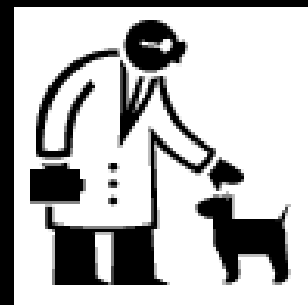
Join our group by searching for:

'Akita Rescue Mid Atlantic Coast' or 'ARMAC Volunteers'

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/>



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 with lots of life left, LOVES people and wants desperately to be in her own home with NO OTHER PETS. She is currently being kenneled 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, obedient, affectionate. She is responding well to her meds for Pemphigus and just needs a forever home.



Zumo a/m, dob 2008, white & biscuit (pale red) markings. A character! Housebroken, great with other dogs, neighborhood children, and ignores neighborhood cats on walks. Currently raising funds for his bilateral elbow arthroscopy surgeries and an ACL TightRope surgery. He's a big lapdog. His red eye lashes will melt your heart and keep you warm at night. If you're unable to adopt at this time but would like to donate to Zumo's special fund, please visit AkitaRescue.org



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. Would be best as only pet. NO cats!



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.. 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.



Romeo: 4-5 yr old male, civil w/other dogs, cats, enjoys being scratched, not a "huggy" dog. Lively, runs & leaps like a gazelle, walks well on leash, rides well in cars, attends adopt-a-thons as an AmbassaDog. Best placed in a house w/ teens or adults. Although a special needs dog, he is not labor or cost intensive. For more information, contact Jodi Marcus or see our web-



Victoria dob 10/9/09, very people oriented but not in your face, walks well on leash, rides well in cars, does well with the resident Akitas at the house. Good with kids she has met on walks and in stores, interested in kitties but will subside



when called on it, loves to talk, loves to play with her toys. Available after 3/26/10.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

In Memory of Woo Marcus

Woo was my traveling companion, obedience dog, and the mentor for all the new puppies. He was the last of the Missouri Trio and is now with his brother and sister at the Rainbow bridge, all of them healthy and happy together.

He is missed by the Marcus Family, both human and furry.



Thanks,
The Marcus
Family and
ARMAC



CONGRATS ON
YOUR ADOPTION!

~*RAIDEN*~
~*ISABELLA*~
~*TADAO*~

**OUR
HEARTFELT
THANKS TO
EVERYONE
WHO DONATED
TOWARDS
ZUMO'S
SPECIAL
FUND.**

**THANKS TO
YOU, ZUMO IS
ON HIS WAY
INTO SURGERY.**

**TO DONATE:
VISIT
AKITARESCUE.ORG**

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 EVENTS

RESTON PET
FIESTA
SATURDAY MAY 1
RESTON TOWN
CENTER



ARMAC

313 Quaint Acres Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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Lisa Gray (703) 257-9298
lisa@aktitarescue.org

Obedience Training
Aja Harris (410) 889-9352
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
Norbeck Animal Hospital (301) 924-3616
Palmer Vet Clinic (301) 293-2121



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