

AKITA RESCUE MID-ATLANTIC COAST INC. (ARMAC)

# UNIQUELY AKITA

*Serving the Mid-Atlantic states since 1984 through education, support, and rescuing wonderful Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters.*



Summer 2018

*dogs leave*   
**paw prints**   
*on your heart*

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## Where is Rescue at the Moment?

by Puller Lanigan

In spite of our long silence, as we searched for someone to take over the newsletter (thank you Laura & Stephen Dodge!!!), ARMAC has still been busy placing and receiving Akitas, as you will learn in this edition. While this is certainly wonderful news, many fail to think beyond what is required or incurred to make this happen.



**Delilah needs a home**

For Adoptions, we must check emails daily or return phone calls, explain our process, inquire if the applicant has any experience with Akitas or why they want one. We then direct them to our form and request they complete it and mail the completed form back to us. Then someone must review the application (this is generally done by two individuals to get two perspectives on what has been submitted), contact the references, contact the veterinarians. Often times, there is a considerable waiting period between our calls to references and their returning our calls. Jodi is the current Adoption Coordinator and she makes calls during the day, while most people are at work and she works in the evenings. In the meantime, she reaches out to whomever is closest to the applicant to find someone to do a house check and interview. Since most people work, this is often done on weekends, unless the applicant is near the house checker in which case, it may be done in the evening.

If we obtain satisfactory information from references, vets and the house checker, then we review the Akitas currently available and notify the fosters that we are sending applicants their direction. We need feedback from the fosters on their thoughts of the applicants; how well they interacted with the dog, did the dog like them and what were their feelings about this dog and applicant. We try to give applicants a few dogs to look at. Some times, dogs pick their own people.

Obviously, this does not happen overnight or even in a week. And we often have several applications to process at any given time. More often, we don't have dogs that will meet the expectations of applicants. And sometimes the applicants expectations are unrealistic.

When we receive information on a dog in a shelter, we reach out to the shelter for as much information as they have on the dog. Often times, what you read is what kennel staff feel about a dog, but won't include the reasons behind why a dog was surrendered. We ask all shelters if they can do behavioral evaluations and food and toy testing on all dogs. We do not have the means to take dogs with resource guarding (food and toy aggression). We do not have the resources to take dogs with known anxiety issues (breaking out of crates and destroying houses in an effort to find their owner). Shelters are



**Caesar needs a home**

## Too Tough – Radar’s Story

*By Puller Lanigan*

– ARMAC was contacted by a young man with a young Akita he had found as a puppy some 6 months previously, although we suspect he may have purchased the puppy and told his wife he found him. The couple lived in the basement of the wife’s parents with their toddler daughter, a female Mastiff, a kitten and Radar. We were told they were moving and couldn’t afford a second dog (no vaccinations, and neither Radar or the Mastiff had been neutered. They were off to the wilds of West Virginia. We cringed at the thought of Akita/Mastiff puppies down the road. Jodi and I responded to the call and made plans to go meet the young dog, but were told they were keeping the puppy.



**Radar and Dakota**

This went on for several months. Ultimately, it was decided Radar had to go. I went and met him and he was a frisky, untrained young dog. Very cute. I delivered him to our kennel and then we found a foster home for him. The foster home fell in love with Radar, but it quickly became apparent why he was actually surrendered. He would slip off to other rooms to eliminate after being walked and run outside. He was destroying the crate he was put in and eventually succeeded in escaping not once, but by now, daily. Even if the fosters were only gone an hour. They feared for their home and their large Amazon bird. So, Radar went back to the kennel. Touchingly, Naoki, our other Anxiety Dog, decided he wanted to be next to Radar and moved himself into the run next door. This was disappointing as Naoki’s presence did not help. Radar was fabulously friendly with people and many animals, but he too was unhappy in an extreme fashion at being crated

He lingered at the kennel, was neutered and began to settle down. He never tried to escape his dog run at the kennel. After a few months, I got a call from Lauri and Chuck inquiring about Radar. I was thrilled and petrified at the prospect of his being adopted by them. What would Dakota do? She had only been with them for about 6 months. She wasn’t crated. What would Radar do? I had to tell Lauri and Chuck my fears so they went into this fully understanding the ramifications. Chuck’s response endeared him to me, forever. “I’m a contractor, you know. I fix things daily for a living.” They keenly wanted to meet Radar. So, we suggested they go alone and meet Radar, and then make plans to bring Dakota out for a meet and greet. They loved Radar and were enchanted with his affectionate demeanor. The next step was to take the Princess Dakota out to meet her new boy toy. His presence hardly registered on her radar. We insisted on one more meet.... which also went without incident. Radar went home.

The first week, we all sweated bullets. He didn’t like the crate. He escaped. The crate was reinforced and then Lauri and Chuck decided to crate Dakota next to him. CHAMP that she is.... she complied. He settled down immediately. She never fought the crate. She never destroyed or worked on the crate. She slept. He slept.

They are two peas in a pod and they have been reunited. What I came away with, from this placement is, you really have to BELIEVE in the dog you are adopting. Lauri and Chuck believed and were able to convey to Radar and Dakota, they were home.



### **Tick Season!**

Time to check your Akita for ticks daily.



**Congratulations!**

**Champ has his forever home with the Peyton Family !!**

## We Have a Hero Alumna

By Jodi Marcus

Brownie, and another male Akita, Dollar, were picked up as strays in Kentucky. A few days later, an older female was found 'stray' in the same area. As Brownie is a somewhat shy and retiring guy, we have no idea how anyone would have caught him. We think the shelter was told they were stray when in fact they were surrendered.

Dollar was very pushy and outgoing. Brownie was very shy and skittish. The female was older and seemed to be sweet. BEAR took the female, ARSF took Dollar and ARMAC took Brownie. BEAR arranged for the female and Brownie to be transported north. They were neutered and vaccinated at a local vet. Cindy Clarke went and met Brownie as well as the other dogs and said he was very sweet but very shy. The vet staff 'loved' him. A friend of Cindy's drove Brownie and the old lady to the transport meeting place where they would meet Puller. He arrived in Hagerstown the following day bewildered and totally unsure of who Puller was. He was popped into her car and she drove him to Bill and Lynn who would foster him.



**Brownie**

He was treated for heartworm while he was with them. He went to a few events but wasn't thrilled with being out in public. He walked okay on lead. It was evident he hadn't had a lot of human interaction but was happy in a quiet home. He was totally housebroken and fine in the crate.

He was adopted by a previous adopter, but it turned out her home was a bit too busy for him. He came back and went to another foster home with Katie and Aaron Hoskins, where he waited for his forever home. This foster home does especially well with shy or reticent dogs. When their child was being born, their own Akita collapsed, so Aaron was running between the human hospital and the vet clinic. (She did recover.) They called me to go walk Brownie. I had not yet met him. I was greeted by a dog barking at me as if I were the boogie man. I grabbed the leash, opened the crate and attached it. He came out of the crate giving me sidelong, suspicious looks. We hadn't walked a block before he was pushing at me to pet him, which I was happy to do. He continued to bark at me while in his crate but was very affectionate once out. Several months later, a previous Akita owner, Janet Touse, applied to adopt him. She was single, lived in a quiet neighborhood, really missed her canine companion and was looking for an older dog. She was caught by his picture and thought he was much more handsome and personable than the picture indicated. It was a match.

Forward 6 months. On a Saturday morning, I received a call from Janet's neighbor. There had been a gas leak in Janet's house. The neighbor was unsure how long Janet would be in the hospital. Being unable to get in touch with Brownie's regular dogwalker, she called us to let us know the situation and see if we could assist in caring for Brownie. I started to get the "helpline" going, but then received another call saying that Janet would be released soon. Out of the hospital, Janet shared her story: She woke up around 1 AM and realized something was wrong. She barely took a few steps when she collapsed, hitting her head. Brownie, normally laid back and easy going, was frantic, barking and pawing at her until she woke and managed to crawl to the phone with him beside her and called 911. She made sure the house was cleared of gas and left Brownie in a well ventilated room while she was taken to the ER. The doctor there was amazed that between the head wound and the amount of carbon monoxide in her blood that Brownie was able to rouse her and help her to safety. She refused to stay with a family member upon being picked up after treatment, wanting to get back home with her "hero" and pet birds. She adopted Brownie, her situation was perfect for him and he was very happy living with her. He repaid her by saving her life.

### Fredericksburg Pet Show

Sept. 22 and 23

Fredericksburg Expo Ctr.  
Fredericksburg, VA

## Fall Events

### PetOberfest

October 13

Stonebridge Shopping Ctr.  
Woodbridge, VA

## Snowbella's Long Journey Home

*By Jodi Marcus*

Snowball was bred by Nathan Fenby of New Oxford, Pa. and sold to her first owner. We will never know why he dropped her at the shelter at age 4. Maybe because she had such crate anxiety that she injured herself trying to get out -- there was evidence of minor damage to her teeth in her medical records. Who knows? But take her to the shelter he did. The shelter first placed her with a family with children. The new owners picked her up at the vet the day she was spayed in the early evening. Upon arrival at her new home, the kids swarmed her, a dog freshly out of surgery and probably still groggy. She growled at them. Back to the shelter she went.



**Snowbella**

Next, she was placed with an older couple. They returned her a few weeks later. They said they loved her and had no problems with her.... other than her energy level was just too much for them. The shelter called ARMAC to see if we could assist and we did.

Snowball became Snowbelle. She spent the next several months at the kennel. (Her crate anxiety did not extend to a kennel run). Her energy scared off some potential owners. She was frantic to become a house dog again. A couple saw her and asked to foster her with the intention of possible adoption. They had been military, now retired, and were settling in the DC area. They had not owned dogs while in the military but had fostered for different rescue groups wherever they were stationed. Even though they did not have experience with Akitas they passed the foster application process and picked up Snowbelle. They tried crating her, but she broke out, scratching her snout in the process. She did damage to some molding around their door, possibly anxious to get out to potty. We suggested they let her run loose since she had not done any damage in her last home, but this was a new house to them and they did not want to risk any more damage. They had her put her on meds for anxiety.

Now Ms. Snowbelle loved people, but other animals, not so much. The foster home was made aware of this, but decided to try doggy daycare. Well, that worked out about as expected and she had to be crated in daycare...which of course she hated. After slightly more than a week, they decided to fostering her was not for them. Luckily, we had just placed a dog and the dog run in the front room of our house was open. They brought her to our house. The first thing I did after a day or so was take her off the anxiety meds. Us leaving did not bother her at all. She did not have separation anxiety.

Over the next year with us, she learned to be less reactive to dogs hurling insults at her through the fence, to ignore the kitties who rubbed up against her dog run, and to greet people politely without jumping. She was a charmer.

She loved to talk to you, always having something to say. She is a stunningly beautiful dog. Even people who know nothing about the breed responded to her overall balance and sheer elegance. Snowbella made friends all along our walking route.

Earlier last summer, I had been in touch with a lady, Donna, who adopted an Akita from another rescue. Things did not work out with that dog and he went back to the rescue. I knew this lady was upset over what had happened but a few months later I asked if she wanted to meet an Akita that was being placed by the owner. She was intrigued and went with me to see her. During our drive we chatted and discovering that I was fostering Snowbella, she admitted she had been watching Snowbella on social media for quite a while. She had not pursued her interest because our webpage said "no children" and she had a 9 year old son. I explained that we had posted that because of the growling at the kids in her second home. Since we have had Snowbella she has developed a fondness for the neighborhood kids and at one point was elated at being surrounded by a girl scout troop. I had a strong feeling that Donna and Ramzi would be Snowbella's best match. When Donna came to meet Snowbella she adored her. The entire family came over the following weekend and it was clear that this was a match for all! Snowbella joined the family and has not looked back since. She has not reacted to or tried to harm loose dogs that come up to her. She eagerly awaits the homecoming of "her boy", watching for him in the window. She is ecstatic when Ramzi comes home. She and Donna love spending time together when the guys are gone. In turn, her new family thinks she is "perfect", the ideal dog for them.

## Where is Rescue cont.

loath to disclose this information knowing it is a death sentence to most dogs. If the evaluator comes back with a good report, then we need to find a place for said dog. And if the dog is not in the Washington Metro area, we need to find transport for that dog. Few shelters with skeleton crew have the ability to transport a dog to a rescue, no matter how much they may all love the dog. Some transporters are professional and will charge for transport (this means finding the funds for transport). These often have stops along major arteries around the country....but few are actually IN the D.C. Metro area....they are in places like Richmond, Hagerstown, Woodstock, Philly. So we may get a dog to these metropolises, but then how do we get the dog from there? This takes hours and days of phone and email work. Because most of our volunteers work, assessing dogs is normally done on weekends...which means if a shelter is too full of pets surrendered and collected as a stray, we run the risk of losing the Akita for the simple reason of lack of manpower (aka volunteers).

We generally run at 100% full for foster homes. Few are able to keep more than a single rescue with their own dog or dogs. We are loath to put a strange dog in a home with a first time Akita owner. We prefer to have our dogs fostered by individuals who have adopted from us in the past (or are on their 2nd, 3rd, 5th dogs from us). We know them, they know us. They are less shy about calling us on questions, they are generally quicker to see a problem and notify us so we can strategize on where this is going. First timers are more concerned with showing us they are knowledgeable on the breed and obtaining a placement. This is not a competition. Once the dog has been in foster for awhile, there is another assessment as to what the dog may need (training? medical care?) to become available for adoption. Once everyone is on the same page with getting the dog to that place, then applicants are directed to the foster. It is important that the foster is able to assess the interaction between the dog and applicant - can they handle the dog? Did the dog like all members of the family?



**Leia, adopted by her foster family.**

**Congratulations**

Did all members of the family like the dog? If other pets are involved, this may take a few meet and greets to see how the new Akita will get along with the resident pet and vice versa. Sometimes the resident pet will not tolerate the Akita and this must be disclosed to the owners, no matter what their hopes are of adding an Akita to their home. Even if we had a full time staff to do this (which we don't), it would take TIME as generally the majority of our applicants work. So this is a brief insight behind the scenes of what makes a placement happen and what it takes to pull a dog from a shelter.

We are losing four valued volunteers to Rescue this summer. Melinda (Mindy) and Harry Harbaugh, who have been stupendous at evaluating dogs, transporting dogs, doing housechecks, helping at adoption events...are retiring and moving to Florida at the end of the month (May). Aaron and Katie Hoskins, who have fostered so many dogs for us are moving this summer to California. Aaron is taking a job there and we can't begin to tell you how much we will miss them. He and Katie have been magicians in working with shy dogs. So we are doubly in need of volunteers to evaluate dogs, transport dogs and foster dogs. Jodi held several meetings this past winter to meet with our current volunteers and anyone interested in helping us continue to help Akitas.

It really does take a village - even to help one dog. We are always in search of volunteers to help. We still need people to maintain our website and add photos and write ups of dogs, help with fundraising ideas and implementation, staff 'Meet the Breed' events, foster, transport and evaluate Akitas.



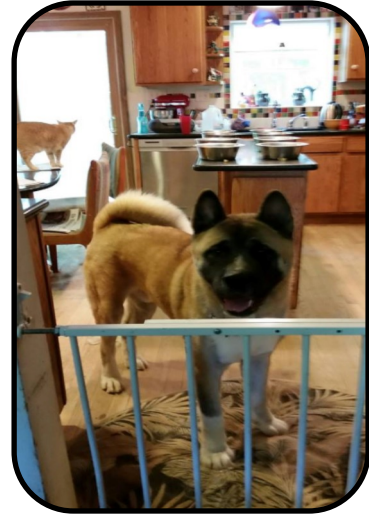
**Pogo**

**Pogo has a home!! Niki and Bob have adopted and fostered for us forever. This has to be the fastest "foster failure" ever. Did I think**





**Sassy, adopted-by Melissa Lowe and John Washington (Zen's owners)**



**Balto has a home!! With Erika and Jeff.**



Before



After

**Gin came to ARMAC half naked with just a few splotches of fur, she was nursed by Stacy King and then fostered by Jodi. She's now living a pampered life with Betty McDade.**



**Kiko has a Forever home**

Lori Anderson, who lives near Richmond, has been invaluable in transporting dogs in the few months she has been volunteering with us. She has saved Charlie many trips!!! Thank you Lori and Dave Fenstermacher who fostered for us for many years is back after a hiatus. Welcome back, Dave!

**We are grateful for ALL our volunteers and loyal supporters!**

**Thank you for all you do!**

## Available Akitas



**Blazer**

Blazer is a two year old 100 lb male. He adores people, loves attention and is very sweet. He would do best as single dog.



**Fats**

Fats is a 71 lb male Akita mix. Good with kids, not so much with cats.



**Manny**

Manny is a ~5 year old, 86 lb male. He's extremely smart, takes direction well, and thrives off leadership.



**Marlena**

Marlena is a 7 year old female. She's very active and just loves people. She would be best in a home without small dogs or cats



**Sampson**

Sampson is a 2 year old, 100 lb male. He's shy and a bit slow to warm up, but is sociable and lovable.



**Lily**

Lily is a 4 year old 80 lb female. She is a sweet dog and will melt your heart.



**Icey**

Icey is a 70 lb female. She's very sweet and loving. She has lots of energy and will need a home with some experience in large, dominant dogs.



**Kara**

Kara is a 4 year old 75 lb female. Although she's small, she's a little dynamo and likes being in charge. She needs to have a home with Akita or dominant dog experience.



**Delilah**

Delilah is a 5 1/2 year old female. She's very social, may get along with a male dog, Unknown with kids..

## Available Akitas



**Great Ceasar**

Great Ceasar is a 6+ year old 100 lb male. He is a laid back guy. Ceasar is currently undergoing heartworm treatment.



**Kitsume**

Kitsume is a 5 year old female. Walks well on leash and loves people of all ages..

## RAINBOW BRIDGE



**Mira**

Sorely missed by the Pino family



**Kodiak aka Kodi**

Dearly missed by the Aikens family



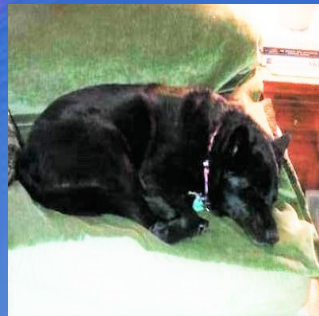
**Tasha**

Dearly missed by Robyn deShields



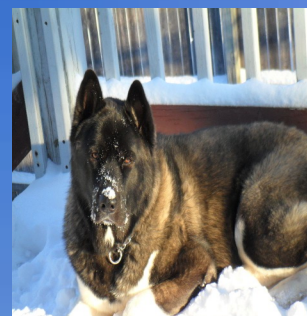
**Draco**

Dearly missed by Diane Pastella



**Yogi Bear Novak,**

"I miss my son so much. He was truly a gem and more"



**Luci**

Dearly missed



# Thank You

David Hawkins  
 Walter & Mary Ellen Belchick  
 Gailene Gabel  
 Lori Anderson  
 Jean Ruehle  
 Becky Heath  
 Roger Pudwill (In memory of Charlie Gial)  
 Vicky Hwa & Robert Schachat  
 Rick Jacoby  
 Daniel Pollock (Super pet Expo sponsor)  
 Anita Hawkins (Super Pet Expo sponsor)  
 Tucker Moorshead (Super Pet Expo sponsor)  
 Stephanie Heher (Supper Pet Expo sponsor)  
 Linda Wroth (Super Pet Expo sponsor)  
 Keith Venezia (Super Pet Expo sponsor)  
 Tracy West  
 Lyle Walter  
 Southeast Surface Coatings  
 Rebecca Manners  
 Lee Harvey  
 Genentech, Inc. - Marlene Kosinski (In honor of Aaron & Katie Hoskins)  
 Becky Heath  
 Jeffrey Olsen  
 Penny Nicholas (For Sassy)  
 Rick Fledderman  
 Susan Petrie





# ARMAC

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*Akita rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast, Inc. has been serving the eastern seaboard for over 25 years. We fulfill a wide variety of Akita needs in the greater Washington DC area. We help educate potential Akita owners; we offer support to Akita owners, not only those who adopt from us, but all Akita owners regardless of where they got their Akita. But most importantly, we save the lives of Akitas that would otherwise be euthanized in area shelters. All of our fostered Akitas are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and temperament evaluated prior to adoption. Potential adopters are screened carefully and thoroughly to ensure we have a perfect match between family and Akita. Our assistance doesn't stop at adoption. We offer support to our adoptive family-lives throughout the lifetime of their Akita.*

## ABOUT ARMAC



Manassas, VA 20108

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