

Uniquely AKITA



Akita Rescue Mid-Atlantic Coast

ARMAC – February 2007

FEATURED ORPHAN




Lucy

Update on Lucy

Just prior to Thanksgiving Lucy took a turn for the worse. Her demodectic mange returned with a vengeance; she became bloated; depressed, and barely able to walk. Clearly her immune system was under attack again, but by what? Sadly, Lucy had all the tell-tale signs of cancer. After another visit to the vet, and several x-rays, it was determined that nothing definitive could be diagnosed without opening Lucy up to take a look inside. Since Lucy needed to be spayed anyway, she went under the knife on Friday, December 1st. Our thinking was that if she had cancer, we would just let her go. If not, then they would continue with the spay. It saddened us all to think that after everything she had survived, we might now lose Lucy to cancer. But the good news came Friday evening. No signs of cancer were found. However, Lucy's uterus was in the early stages of infection, and was literally falling apart. All her other organs, while indicating that Lucy was older than originally estimated, appeared in excellent shape. One week later and this old girl is doing better than ever. I do believe she has a guardian angle protecting her to have survived so much neglect and trauma in her life. Her walking has improved so much now that in a matter of a few more weeks she should be strong enough to climb stairs. She no longer collapses when walking. Much to my delight, she is prancing and sometimes even trots. Her spirits are upbeat, and her will to live is more evident than ever. She is truly living up to her name, "Lucky Lucy".

Jodi's notation: Even knowing how resilient Akitas are, I was amazed when I saw Lucy a few days after her surgery. She was walking much better than I had ever seen her walk, and her spirits were high. I did not realize how much truth was in my words when I told our vet earlier on "Don't give up on her. Akitas will surprise you and come back from conditions that may kill other breeds. They are tough dogs." And Ms. Lucy is tough in the best way: a fighter who won't give up, and a very nice girl on top of it.



**Akita
Rescue
Mid-
Atlantic
Coast**

2007

Rescue
Calendar

**Plan your year using
an ARMAC calendar!**

akitastuff.com

**Purchases benefit
ARMAC!**

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

The CMC Supports ARMAC

When you visit our website, <http://www.akitarescue.org>, click onto the Canine Medicine Chest banner, you then visit the site for more information, look at the products, sign up for the Free Newsletters, or buys some products etc. Now, when you purchase a product or a group of products on this visit, ARMAC will receive 20% of your total products purchases. So if you purchase \$100 worth of products, ARMAC is credited for \$20. But, suppose you don't purchase the day you visit. However, two days later or six months later or even five years later you purchase at the Canine Medicine Check site using the same computer, ARMAC will get credited with 20% of whatever amount you purchase.

SAVE YOUR PENNIES FOR PUPPIES!

*"It's not how much
we give but how much love
we put into giving."*

-- Mother Teresa

**CONTACT PULLER
IF YOU HAVE PENNIES
TO DONATE TO ARMAC**

"Twas the night before Dog-mas, when all through the pound..

not a puppy was yelping, or playing around Our leashes were hung by our kennels with care, in hopes that St. Bernard would soon find us there.

Chihuahuas were curled up, all snug in their beds, While visions of doggie-treats danced in their heads.

Billy in his collar, on somebody's lap, had tucked in his tail for a midwinter's nap, When outside the room there arose such a clatter, my ears perked right up to hear what was the matter.

Away to the window, I jumped up with glee And barked at the shadows that were cast by a tree!

The glow from the moon changed night into day, and started me thinking, "Woof, Woof! Time to play!"

When what with my puppy-dog eyes did I see, But a splendid dog-sled, led by doggies like me!

More rapid than Greyhounds our saviors they came, and we barked and we howled, and called them by name:

There's Precious, ! there's Zora, and of course Buffy,

On Sabbath! On Daisy! On Molly and Scruffy!

Go by the red hydrant, and run past those trees!

Nothing can stop you, not even some fleas!

As puppies at play, chase after a stick, and race to their masters so lively and quick, So out in the field, his canines all flew, Catching the Frisbees, that St. Bernard threw.

And then in an instant, I heard at the door, The scratching and clawing of each little paw.

As I pulled in my nose, and was turning around, Through the door St. Bernard came in with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his tail, his red bag adorned with an icing of hail; A bag of chew toys he had brought in with him, and his mouth was turned up in what looked like a grin.

His eyes how they twinkled! his ears flopped oh how merry!

His coat shone like crystal, his nose like a cherry!

His big sloppy mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the fur on his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a bone he held tight in his teeth, and his collar encircled his neck like a wreath.

He had a large face and a furry, round belly that shook when he barked, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was fluffy and plump, a big, cuddly old pooch And I laughed when I saw him and gave him a Smooch!

A wink of his eye and a wag of his tail; we knew right away we'd have homes, without fail.

He howled not a howl, but went straight to his deed, and took down our leashes that soon we would need.

He opened the door, and families stood there, with children all smiling, and much love to spare!

He leapt to his sled, to his team gave a call, and away they all flew as if chasing a ball.

But I heard him exclaim as he chewed on a bone:

HAPPY DOG-MUS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD HOME!

By Karen Anagnost

(only the names of dogs were changed to some we know)

“Just a Dog”

From time to time, people tell me, “lighten up, it’s just a dog,” or, “that’s a lot of money for just a dog.” They don’t understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for “just a dog.”

Some of my proudest moments have come about with “just a dog.” Many hours have passed and my only company was “just a dog,” but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by “just a dog,” and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of “just a dog” gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it’s “just a dog,” then you will probably understand phases like “just a friend,” “just a sunrise,” or “just a promise.” “Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. “Just a dog” brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

Because of “just a dog” I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it’s not “just a dog” but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. “Just a dog” brings out what’s good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it’s not “just a dog” but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being “just a man.”

So the next time you hear the phrase “just a dog,” just smile, because they “just don’t understand.”

Written by Bob Patch

BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATION - Grassroots burns more slowly, but still burning.

Peculiar, Missouri is undertaking to implement the following BSL for 2007.
BE AWARE OF YOUR LOCAL CITY AND COUNTY LEGISLATION!!!!

It has happened. We have a city that is looking to include more than just “pit bull type” dogs. Below is a list of breeds that Peculiar is targeting - please get the word out to rescuers of these particular breeds.

They are meeting Tuesday, the 18th, @ 7:30 pm and are allowing public comment. Let me know if you will be able to attend (even if you can only come as a seat filler and wear a “NO BSL” button).

- Pit Bulls
- Pit Bull Mixes
- Rottweilers
- Chows
- Akitas**
- Fila Brasileiro

Here are the regulations that they are looking at imposing on these breeds...

- Any dog that fits one of the above breeds must be s/n.
- No more than one dog from the aforementioned breeds will be allowed to reside in the same household (exception would be made for a recognized and inspected show dog operation).
- AC must inspect domicile to insure that dangerous animal control measures set forth in existing ordinance are met.



BLONDIE, 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**

Thank you!!!

- Carolyn and Bill Caludis
- Bonnie and Lee Shields
- Becca Gizzarelli and Brandee and Bailey
- Joan Rothney in memory of Robert Patterson
- Elizabeth and Steve Cook and Bear
- Anonymous donor towards the Petersburg Trio Board Bill
- Deb Smith, BUDDY sponsorship of Meiko
- Donna Hoffman, BUDDY sponsorship of Maverick, “Donation dedicated to Rose Crumley”
- Bill and Sharon Theologus

Lucy and Petersburg Recovery

Kathryn Din

Yoshi’s Angels:

Thanks to the following for assisting Yoshi in his 2,000 mile journey to return to Rescue!!!

- Deb Parcel
- Heather Salyer
- Gordon Dreyer
- Dorie Sparkman

Thanks for the Donation

Please accept this donation in honor of our two Akitas, Brandee and Bailee. We thank you for all of your efforts in rescuing and caring for this amazing breed.

Sincerely,
Becca and Jason Gizzarelli

For the Old Guys:

For all of us who love an old dog..

One by one, they pass by my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.
Way past his time, he can't run and play.
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.
A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems I am not wanted anymore.
I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.
Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.
Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,
The younger dogs get adopted away.
When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw through the grey, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.
I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.
I may be with you for a week, or for years,
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.
And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

Written by Leslie Whalen

In honor of her dog Tray and all senior dogs who await a new home and deserve a second chance at life and happiness.

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made.

— *M.Facklam*

Wish List

We are always in need of the following items:

- Collars (18-22" good quality choke chain)
- Leads (4' and 6') cotton web
- I.D. tags (we can get them from Foster & Smith for — \$1.70 ea.)
- Shampoo (Mane 'N' Tail, Cardinal)
- Crates (500# and 700# VariKennels)
- Grooming equipment: slicker brushes, greyhound combs, shedding blades
- Chainlink Dog Runs, Baby gates, X-pens for large dogs/puppies

If you are able to contribute any of the above, please contact the person closest to you on our Contact List.

Shopping To Save Akitas

Americans spend over a billion dollars a year on their pets. If you've got one of those "pampered pooches," you spend a lot of time at your local pet supply store! If only some of the money spent on buying pet food, treats, toys, and other pet related items could make a difference for ARMAC. But guess what? It can – buy your pet products and everyday items at iGive.com. At the Mall at www.iGive.com/ARMAC, you get a free membership (no costs or obligations) to shop at 240+ stores (PetSmart.com, Petco.com, PetFoodDirect.com, SitStay.com, and Dogtoys.com to name a few!) and without even knowing it, you'll be helping ARMAC at the same time. So, instead of waiting in long lines to buy your pampered pooch his favorite bone, purchase it online and up to 25% of every purchase you make will be donated directly to ARMAC.



Dogs who found homes!

Saber
Pepper

NEWS FROM YOU

Hi Puller and Jodi,

We would like to say "Thank You" for informing us about bloat at the time that we adopted Casper. As you know we have been going to the vet since January trying to figure out why Casper is losing his fur. On Thursday 7 Dec 06, I dropped Casper off at the vet for a consultation with a dermatologist. I left work and I had just picked up our daughter at daycare with a fever and dropped her off at home with Kevin and immediately turned around to get Casper :-)

I picked him up from the vet and we went for a walk before getting in the car, Casper did his thing and we went home. I usually park in the drive way so that I can open the door the whole way so that he can jump out and let Casper in the house. I heard him running up the stairs closed the door and parked the car in the garage.

I then came in the house and started to take a shower when Kevin called me to come down cause Casper looked like he was having a seizure and he wanted to throw up. So I went down stairs (soak and wet) and Casper was not being himself. He was extremely on edge. He would wobble a few steps lay down and get back up, that is all he would do over and over again. Kevin noticed that his side was bulging and when he laid down again I rubbed his side, when I rubbed him it hurt him but I felt the bulge. He immediately got up again. Casper's tongue was hanging way out of his mouth and he was drooling a lot. I remembered thinking I had no idea his tongue was that long. Kevin took Casper out for some fresh air and I immediately called the vet, they placed me on hold and when they came back they kept saying we did not do anything to Casper today...just the dermatologist exam. I told them I understand that you did not do anything but you don't understand that I am telling you something IS wrong with Casper. The vet said I could bring him back in...so off we went to the vet again. When we got there they again said we did not do anything to Casper that would cause this. I told them that he ran up the stairs and drank water and that I suspected he had bloat. Another vet came out and she took me in the exam room and she thought that Casper messed up his leg running up the stairs because he favored the left rear leg...she kept asking about his legs?? I again told her that his legs are fine that I was suspecting bloat...she checked his insides and felt that his stomach was larger than what it should be and they took X-rays ..and a few minutes later she confirmed my suspicions about the bloat. They called the emergency hospital and again I loaded Casper up and went to the hospital... Thank God that the hospital was only 5 minutes from there. When we got there they took him in the back and a bit later the doctor came out to talk to me. She informed me that Casper looked good for the condition he was in but that there was no guarantee ...she could not tell me anything until she had opened him up and saw the insides, she said that sometimes all it takes is 15 min. She was surprised that I knew about bloat and she asked me how did I know about bloat. I told her that Akita Rescue had given us a lot of information on the Akita breed and the medical conditions of the breed at the time we adopted Casper and that for some reason I just kept thinking bloat. Puller & Jodi, I must admit that I did not remember all the signs of bloat, I just remembered that this bloat was a serious and deadly stomach condition that can occur and that is where Casper was bulging, but for some reason all I kept thinking was "bloat".

At 10:28 PM the doctor came out again and she said that the tissue that was twisted was very "angry" looking but once she untwisted it the color came back. The swelling had also not damaged any other organs and they did not have to remove any part of the stomach. She said that Casper would now need to be on a heart monitor for 12 hours because the blood that was in the twist (murky blood) had to now pass through his heart, but the bloat was caught in time. The doctor paid Akita Rescue a big compliment, she said they were talking about how ARMAC had given us the info when we adopted Casper about the breed and the medical facts and that saved Casper's life. I went outside turned my phone back on and called Kevin - he was at home with a sick baby with a 103.5 fever. From the bottom of our heart we thank you for giving us the information about the Akita breed, because of your information we were able to save Casper's life. Please let Akita owners know about the signs of bloat...being extremely on edge - bulgy belly - not knowing to sit or lay over and over - the drooling.

Casper was able to come home Saturday night with a supply of pills and a "lamp shade" as I call it so that he can not get to the staples. We are keeping him downstairs so that he does not walk the stairs. Kevin has been sleeping downstairs with Casper :-). Casper will be OK.

Erny :-)

Dear Puller,

We hope you and the rescue akitas have a happy New Year. As always, we are so grateful to you for our best friend Bear.

Fondly,

Steve and Liz Cook

P.S. Bear says 'woof woof'

And from Steve Davis who just moved to CA (BYE STEVE AND BEAR, we'll miss you!)

Bear was pretty good natured during the drive across country - we made it in 4 days. The apartment complex we are in is VERY dog friendly. 40 out of 42 units have dogs! The wife of the manager does walking and dog sitting and helped me when I had to fly to LA for a day for a funeral. Bear seems to like the apartment. It has a balcony that overlooks a courtyard that he can lay out on all the time (and he does). My family has welcomed Bear as he is a "super-sized" version of the Akita we had growing up. He joined everyone for a trip to Lake Tahoe for Christmas and was a hit with my nieces and nephews. Foster City is very pet friendly with sidewalks everywhere and a major walking trail along the SF Bay.

We meet people out walking, as we did in DC, and Bear still has the ability to stop traffic. I continue to use these opportunities to promote dog rescue in general and Akita rescue in particular.

Please keep me on the mailing list.

Steve

Lisa:

The sweatshirts arrived. They are lovely!

I don't know what the future holds for my furry family, but if there is another Akita there, it will most certainly come from ARMAC. I bred show Akitas for many years, have had Akitas since 1976, and got Chance from ARMAC when my last girl passed away (I'd decided when she was still young that I was not breeding anymore and would get my next dog from rescue). Chance is such a joy that my heart knows no difference between him and dogs I raised from puppies. He has even adapted the last few years to family additions I never dreamed I'd have...CATS!! I am attaching a picture of him with one of the kittens (now grown) that charged us one day from a neighbor's old shed and have never left.

Enjoy the holidays. Bless you for all you do to support ARMAC, Jodi and all the Akitas thank you, too, I'm sure!!!!

Charlotte



CURRENT LIST OF AKITA RESCUE (ARMAC, Inc.) DOGS February 2007)

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. Very pretty! Very 'lovey' with people and very energetic. Prefers 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!.

Oreo

a/m, dob 2/04, black with white markings. Clearly, a HANDSOME fellow! Affectionate, well behaved, housebroken, in need of lead training. Never lived with children, so no kids less than 16 from a previous Akita environment. Hasn't investigated foster's cat, but probably best as an ONLY pet! He lived with a female Akita who got adopted but hasn't been interested in making friends with anyone else.

Meiko

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.

Tamira

s/f, dob 2/01, white with some freckling and a half black mask. This is a very sweet girl who has had a very tough life. I would suspect she was a dog who was very social as a puppy and just remained unsocialized. She is VERY outgoing however, she has some displacement behavior that makes her unsuitable for a family with small or young children. She is VERY oral and apparently her only socialization was probably with a young male (mid-teens to early 20's) whose idea of playing with a dog was to play hand games. This is her idea of greeting you. L Fortunately, she is on the small side and unless you reciprocate and feed into her behavior, she maintains a soft mouth. She also when this behavior is discouraged, will flea-bite herself to alleviate the anxiety. Once she is settled (as in her foster home), this behavior dissipates and she is calm and affectionate. She was placed from a shelter once and was taken back as a humane hold. L She is lively and energetic and with someone who has the time to devote to this bright little girl with some alternative training (maybe agility?), or lots of hiking, she would make a devoted companion.

Blondie

s/f, dob 3/05, pale fawn with mini mask (nose and eyes). Reserved but friendly once she gets to know you. Housebroken, needs work on lead and socialization with people and other dogs.

Dancer

a/m, dob 3/05, fawn with black overlay, white markings. Happy, goofy, barky boy. Housebroken, needs work on lead and socialization with other dogs. Is currently kenneled,

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.

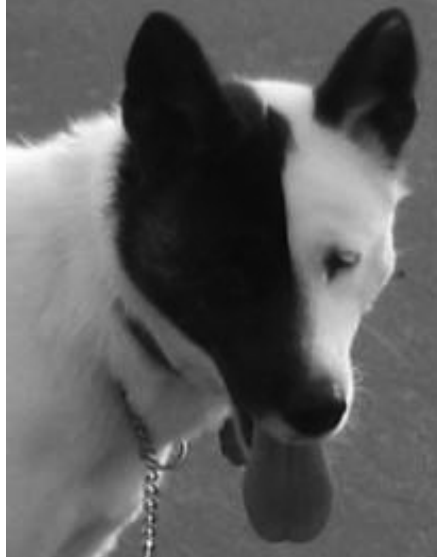
All ARMAC orphans are vet checked, up to date on vaccinations, spayed/neutered and are heartworm and fecal negative.

Visit akitarescue.org to see available orphans

ARMAC ORPHANS



Nakita



Tamira



Dancer



Maiko



Oreo



Blondie



Roxi



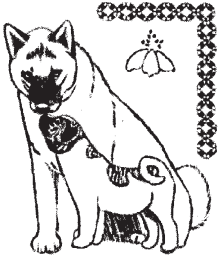
Maverick



Autumn



Lucy



ARMAC

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with check for \$18.00 made
payable to **ARMAC** to:
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Yes, I would like to subscribe to 'Uniquely Akita' (6 issues annually) for \$18.00 a year

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Obedience Training

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