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**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

SANNO THE MOUNTAIN KING

BY PULLER LANIGAN

Some time during the months of February and March we were inundated with calls from various individuals and shelters reference a great number of Akitas residing at said local shelters. We had recently lost two foster homes (we are now down to 2) and had to board the two dogs being fostered. One facility was purported to have 9 Akitas. This was very dismal, not only for the shelter, but for us. I took off the week of Spring break to spend some time with our son and do some catching up on things needing attention at home, but in a boring moment of house maintenance doldrums, I decided to go look at the dogs currently residing in the shelters. Not to mention there was some heated discussion on various web-sites and I felt it only right to go look at the dogs in our area.

The shelter we were informed as having 9 dogs, in fact, only had 4 Akitas. One was found a stray and then bit (severely) his benefactor when a skirmish broke out between the resident dog (non-Akita) and the Akita. An accidental bite could be forgiven, a displaced aggression resulting in several bites, could not. He was passed over. Not to mention our insurance does not allow known biting dogs to be adopted. Dog #2 had been adopted from another shelter and was an anxiety dog. He was at shelter #2 because he escaped his loving home and they had no way of confining him. Dog #3 was a humane hold. He had been removed from a neglectful environment. He was a very friendly and outgoing fellow, a bit on the thin side and VERY animal aggressive. It was apparent he spent much of his waking hours without his humans, entertaining himself as the avenging Akita. It was being discussed if he would even be put up for adoption. Dog #4 was 2 year old surrendered neutered male. He was panic stricken at being in the shelter, but very sweet and listened and responded well. He got lucky and was adopted. So I went to the next shelter. What I found was a mountain of a dog, who was polite but basically not terribly concerned with his current situation. He was obedient to the dogs on either side of him. As the shelter was not officially open at the time, I had to come back another day. I was so awestruck

by this guy's sense of self, that I started calling people who had obtained dogs locally to go look and see if they recognized him. The next visit produced the same self assurance, however, after a week at the shelter, the novelty was beginning to wear off. Some lines of worry were beginning to etch on this handsome stranger's brow. One of the individuals I called went to the shelter to meet this male and was also duly impressed. His companion insisted on calling this dog 'Snowman' as he is large and white with a dark cap like an old fashioned aviator's leather helmet. Going down the aisle he was willing to respond to aggression with feints of threat. In the yard he was confused when told to leave the other dogs alone and then quickly

became depressed. He wasn't used to being on the auction block. He was still sweet and biddable. He was getting to me. I still had no place to put him. In the meantime, we got a call on another owner surrender. So I went to look at this male.



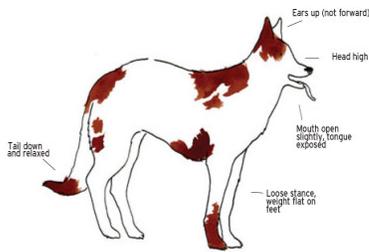
He was 2 years old and had a mild previous eye injury. He was male oriented and not particularly interested in meeting new people. Categorically I would compare him to a late teen with the hurry up and 'see ya' attitude. The big older male by now was moved to a corner run. His attitude was calmer, still worried, but every bit dignified. He remembered me and came up to say 'Hello' and 'ask' if I might be taking him out for a walk around the yard. It was commented by a kennel worker that he had to be walked daily as he would not soil his run. Of course, neither did the other male Akita, but the older male was far nicer to walk, the 'kid' always wanted to take one out for a drag. I then thought of a previous adopter who lost her Akita a couple of years ago and finally made contact with her. She now has a child and wanted to know how this guy was with children. I had to tell her, I didn't know. We didn't have a foster, I was hoping she could foster him but he had been polite with children at the shelter. Her husband came out to meet the 'Snowman' and fell in love. (cont'd on page 5)

BOW WOW BODY LANGUAGE BASICS

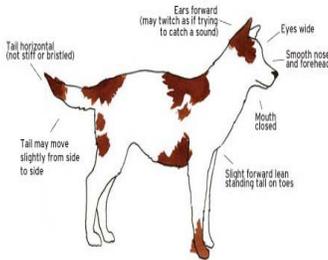
BY STANLEY COREN

What is your dog trying to tell you? Dogs have a language that allows them to communicate their emotional state and their intentions to others around them. Although dogs do use sounds and signals, much of the information that they send is through their body language, specifically their facial expressions and body postures. Understanding what your dog is saying can give you a lot of useful information, such as when your dog is spooked and nervous about what is going on, or when your dog is edgy and might be ready to snap at someone. You do have to look at the dog's face and his whole body. To help you, I have illustrated (see corresponding images) to allow you to interpret the eight most important messages your dog is sending to you.

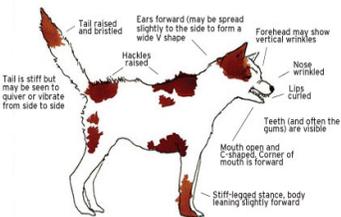
1. Relaxed Approachable- This dog is relaxed and reasonably content. Such a dog is unconcerned and unthreatened by any activities going on in his immediate environment and is usually approachable.



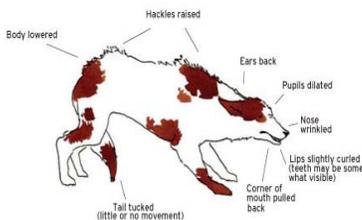
2. Alert- Checking Things Out- If the dog has detected something of interest, or something unknown, these signals communicate that he is now alert and paying attention while he is assessing the situation to determine if there is any threat or if any action should be taken.



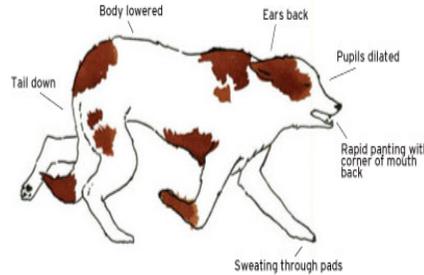
3. Dominant Aggressive- This is a very dominant and confident animal. Here he is not only expressing his social dominance, but is also threatening that he will act aggressively if he is challenged.



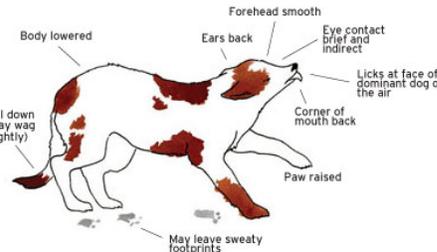
4. Fearful and Aggressive- This dog is frightened but is not submissive and may attack if pressed. A dog will generally give these signals when he is directly facing the individual who is threatening him.



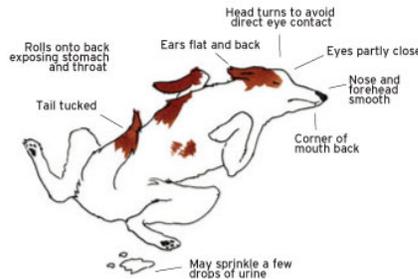
5. Stressed and Distressed- This dog is under either social or environmental stress. These signals, however, are a general "broadcast" of his state of mind and are not being specifically addressed to any other individual.



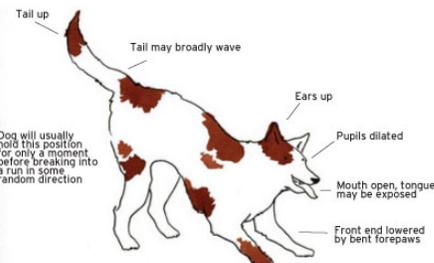
6. Fearful and Worried- This dog is somewhat fearful and is offering signs of submission. These signals are designed to pacify the individual who is of higher social status or whom the dog sees as potentially threatening, in order to avoid any further challenges and prevent conflict.



7. Extreme Fear- Total Submission- This dog is indicating total surrender and submission. He is trying to say that he accepts his lower status by groveling before a higher ranking or threatening individual in the hopes of avoiding a physical confrontation.



8. Playfulness- Here we have the basic invitation to play. It may be accompanied by excited barking or playful attacks and retreats. This set of signals may be used as a sort of "punctuation mark" to indicate that any previous rough behavior was not meant as a threat or challenge.



PECULIAR PET NAMES

VPI pet Insurance released the top 50 wackiest dog names from their database of more than 465,000 pets insured nationwide. Here are some of the wackiest:

- Rush Limbark
- Sirius Lee Handsome
- Low Jack
- Peanut Wigglebutt
- Sophie Touch & Pee
- Admiral Toot
- Hairy Putter
- Major Deposit
- Pickles Honeyheart
- Fannie Mae
- Lovechuck
- Stockingstuffer
- Porter House
- Taco Bella
- Tater Bug
- Drama Mama
- Chauncey
- Peppertooth
- Killer Van Damn
- Cowboy Von Dawg
- Gladys the Badest
- Sushi Barksdale
- Sonic Biscuits
- Scooby Poo
- Bitey



CHEF HILLARY'S KITCHEN BY HILLARY LAMAY

Summer Breath Busters

Beat the heat and doggie breath! With summer guests coming over for cookouts and afternoons outdoors, why not help your pup's breath stay extra fresh with these yummy and simple breath busting treats?

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 c whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 c bisquick
- 1/2 c mint leaves
- 1/4 c milk
- 4 tablespoons margarine
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tablespoons maple syrup

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in food processor, process until well mixed, mint is chopped, and a large ball forms. Press or roll on non-stick surface (floured board or ceramic) to a thickness of 1/4-1/2". Cut into 1x2" strips or with bone-shaped cookie cutter and place on non-stick cookie pan.

Bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool and store in air-tight container.

Makes about 30 medium biscuits.

Bow Wow Wow Yippee Yo, Yippee 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



I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

"I rescued a human today. Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them. As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one. I rescued a human today."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Do you have talent with web design? We're looking for a volunteer to help us redesign our webpage! All time spent is tax deductible! Do you have a groomer or vet you rave about? Who is your trainer? Where do you board your Akita when you travel? What is your favorite brand of dog food? Dog treats? Interested in volunteering at upcoming events? We are compiling information for future newsletters and want to hear from you. Anything at all- tell us what you want to read about or pass on stories to share! Please email contributions to our Volunteer Coordinator Hillary LaMay, hjlamay@yahoo.com!



USBONES.COM!!

ARMAC has joined forces with USBones.com to offer your Akitas healthy, 100% all natural USA made bones. For every purchase you make via their website, using our custom link, 25% of the proceeds will go directly to ARMAC. Hurry and visit USBones.com Order some yummy bones for your Akitas and help ARMAC at the same time!

DOGGIE DEFINITIONS

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: A liquid which, when combined with sad eyes, forces humans to give you their food. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and get the drool on the human.

SMELL: A social custom used to greet other dogs, similar to the human exchange of business cards.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it

is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. It is important to evenly distribute its contents throughout the house before your person comes home.

BATH: If you find something especially good to roll in, humans get jealous, and they use this degrading form of torture to get even. Be sure to shake only when next to a person or a piece of furniture.

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!," especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the regular bump doesn't get the attention you require ... especially effective when combined with the sniff. See above.

CHILDREN: Short humans of optimal petting height. Standing close to one assures some good petting. When running, they are good to chase. If they fall down, they are comfortable to sit on.

LOVE: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail.

If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

TO OUR ADOPTERS

Another Rescue Angel has offered to pay for half of the Basic Training fees for up to 10 Adopted Dogs who enroll in the PawPaws Canine College for 2008/2009!

The 2-week course is \$425. One could say this patron believes in dogs and believes in Sue Clauss!

The format involves boarding the dog for 2 weeks with Sue so that she can work one-on-one with the dog and then the owner joins her for a 2-day training seminar where you are trained to work with your dog.

Instruction with the humans after the two weeks of dog training involves a 1 1/2 to 2 hour lesson when the owners pick up and then several follow up lessons spaced 1-3 weeks apart

Please go to:

PawPawsCanineCollege.com for more information.

If you are interested in signing up for this training after talking to Sue, please notify Puller (puller@akitarescue.org).



TO OUR FOSTER HOMES:

The Maryland SPCA will be offering Wellness Days, providing discounted basic pet care such as a basic exam, core vaccines, and tests, every Wednesday from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm by appointment only.

For dogs:

Rabies, distemper, Bordetella, heartworm test, fecal test, deworming, flea and heartworm preventive, nail trim, ear cleaning.

For cats:

Rabies, distemper, FeLV/FIV test, fecal test, deworming, flea preventives, nail trim and ear cleaning.

To set up appointments or discuss pricing, please send an e-Mail to wellnessclinic@mdspca.org or call 410-235-8826 ext 122.

If you don't get a hold of a person, please leave a message and someone will call you back within 24 hours.

INTEREST IN LEARNING CPR FOR YOUR PET? VISIT THE WEBSITES BELOW TO LEARN HOW!

<http://www.dogandcatfirstaid.com/>

http://www.pettech.net/directory_virginia.html

(SANNON, CONT'D FROM COVER)

It looked like our Mountain King might have a foster if not a home. He was sprung from jail and neutered and then went to his 'new home'. He was delighted to be back in a house and showed his new family all tricks he had been taught. He was totally housebroken and house trained. He liked to sleep on the couch and was quiet in the bedroom. He walked well on lead. Sadly, this family was notified their respective parents were having health issues. It was learned that both adults would have to be traveling to opposite ends of the U.S. and abroad and that maybe now was not the time for a new dog. So, back our big guy came to the kennel. It is unknown how he would adapt to another dog in the house. He is not a trouble maker at the kennel, but we are advising he be an only pet (cats seem to be a weakness for him). He is around 6 years of age. He needs some muscle tone as he has been a couch potato somewhere. He is good with children, but not a child's dog. Please keep this handsome fellow in your thoughts for a new home!!

BOARDING UPDATE

CORA

Please, please keep our old lady, Cora, also in your thoughts for a forever home. She is so cute and cuddly. She loves all people, she cannot however, live with other pets. She is very clean in her run. We had some problems with her crating (she felt she was too old for a crate). It would probably be a good idea for either someone to be home who adopts her initially or have a dog run (inside or outside) for her convenience until you are both attuned to each other's schedules. Cora came to us from a shelter after whelping 9 puppies. She was terribly underweight from having lived on her own for awhile. She is not a wild dog, she is very devoted, she just doesn't want to share. At a young 9'ish, she shouldn't have to share after all she has been through. Her puppies found homes, won't you consider our fiery red head?? She too is currently being boarded.



TORA

Tora is now being boarded after having bolted out the door one too many times and thrashing the neighbor's dog. Tora is a terrific house dog. She is housebroken, loves all people, doesn't care to share her life with other pets (that we know of). She has been through obedience class and was considered a good student and passed the class. Tora needs someone who has the time to take her jogging, camping, hiking - she is an ACTIVE dog with lots to give. She is great with children, you just need to watch her around those doors!!! She is also being boarded.



NOTE ON BOARDING:

Three dogs are currently costing us now \$900/month. Our resources will not last forever. If you know of someone who would make a good foster home, please have them contact us ASAP. If you know of someone who is handy



SAVE the DATE:

Sunday October 11th 1-5p

as

ARMAC Celebrates 25 Years of Hands-On Rescue!!!

To celebrate 25 years of service to the community and beyond, please join us for a celebration cookout!!

More details to follow...



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 2002, RED with white markings and black mask. If this girl doesn't scream 'Cadillac' (for all you older Akita fanciers), then nothing will. She is a classic 'old style' Akita with a very loving personality towards humans. She is not particularly tolerant of other dogs and she will NOT do cats (or will, but not in the fashion a cat owner wishes). Cora came from a shelter with 9 puppies. Her puppies have all found homes, but Cora needs her own.



Tora-s/f, dob 2006, flashy brindle with white markings. Tora is housebroken, good with kids, currently living with a grumpy old male Akita so there is no love lost there. Was temporarily kept by a family with a Dachsund and got along fine with the Dachsie, but probably best with a dog of her choosing or only pet. Tora was initially a shelter dog who was seen on our website under shelter listings....'adopted' by a young man whose parents did not want a dog and within 24 hours was deposited in another shelter in another state! When he surrendered this hard luck girl, he told the shelter he got her from ARMAC and we were contacted. Pieced together the details and the initial contact agreed to foster for us, so ultimately, she ended up in Rescue. Tora has been through obedience class, now the question is, are you smarter than a dog? (**Needs a foster home**).



Princess – Princess -s/f, dob 2005, fawn with black mask. Our beautiful 'Classic Beauty' has been stricken with Pemphigus. She is responding well to treatment, but will have to be maintained on meds the rest of her life. She has graduated to being with her foster's dogs (several of different sizes). Her best buddy (also looking for a home) is Cracker Jack, a neutered male smooth coated Jack Russell Terrier. Princess is housebroken and walks well on lead. She and CJ are just waiting for the right home



Romi – s/f, dob 2008, silver fawn with black mask and white markings. Abandoned this past summer and left in the backyard for 2 months before a neighbor took her to the shelter. She was depressed and combative. Since recuperating and gaining weight, she is active, happy, playful, bundle of fur. Probably too rough for young children.



Kodiakita, dob 1/07, neutered male. This little (in stature...he is low to the ground and a tank) guy's owners lost their home, moved in with relatives and he and his female companion were tied outside until the owner turned them over to the shelter where they stayed for two months. The owner claimed that the pair had been indoor dogs prior to the loss of the



(Kodi- cont'd) home, but that is in doubt. Kodi was polite at the shelter, passed all the temperament tests and came into rescue. Unfortunately his companion had some issues and was euthanized. He was 68 lbs at his first vet visit, loaded with intestinal parasites, but heartworm negative. He now weighs in at over 80 lbs. He is housebroken, up to date on shots, HATES the crate; actually panics in the crate. We are going to try a wire crate and see how he does. Most of the time when other dogs are out, he is "gated" in the hallway and is quite content to stay there. He is not aggressive with Jodi's dogs, sniffs noses with them over the gates, actually escaped once when they did not close the gate tightly, and they came home to him and Annie running loose together. He is very sweet and affectionate with us, but is somewhat headshy at times. He prefers women to men, but is quite content to be petted by Charlie. He has actually started "talking " to them. He is a very nice guy, but has decided his foster home is where he wants to stay, so acts out when people come to see him. Are you the person who can see past his facade to the nice dog inside?

Mr. Handsome- Red/fawn pinto, black half mask, Kabuki eyes, dob 11-17-2001. Was pulled from a local shelter after he was picked-up as a stray. Although initially aloof he warmed up to his foster parents and is showing new and interesting facets to his personality. He knows how to sit and down for his treats, and behaved very well at his vet visit. He loves car rides. He needs an experienced Akita owner, in a home with no cats or small dogs, and no children of any age. He requires a home where he is walked on leash all the time or with a very, very secure fence. No food aggression that we've noticed.



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

Needs to be ONLY pet!

RAINBOW BRIDGE



In Memory:

Helen loved by Jim Price

Baby loved by the Peer family

Colby loved by Tom O'Donnell

Lucy loved by the Gray family

Nancy Baun

It is with deep regret and much sorrow that I announce the sad and untimely death of Nancy Baun on March 14, 2009. She died at her home in Hawthorne, New Jersey. A long time akita rescue advocate, she was a member of ARMAC, ARSA and founder of AORF (Akita Owners Rescue Foundation) and first appointed chair of the ACA Rescue Committee. She was involved in many groups supporting rescue and had a generous heart. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother. There are no known living family members. Nancy personally adopted several akita orphans including one from the infamous Centralia, Kansas puppy mill closedown. Broker, became her constant companion and inspiration. What we have once enjoyed we can never lose, All that we love deeply, becomes a part of us.

...Helen Keller

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy....Unknown

*Never forgotten,
Myrna Pearce
OAR Missouri*

Get well soon to Bear Cook:

ARMAC sends well wishes for a speedy recovery!



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/>



**CONGRATS ON
YOUR ADOPTION!**
**BUDDY
GUMDROP
ROCKY**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DONATIONS:**

**KEVIN LANIGAN
DONNA MCKENNA**

**SHARON
THEOLOGUS**

JIM PRICE

ELEA WARF

**TO DONATE TO
ARMAC, VISIT
UNITEDWAY.ORG
#84389**

UPCOMING EVENT

**PRINCE WILLIAM
SPCA
ADOPT-A-THON
&
FALL
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17TH
11A-4P**



ARMAC

313 Quaint Acres Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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



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

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Please mail subscription request with check for \$25 made payable to ARMAC to:
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