



AARTA"facts"

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2007

First Edition of AARTA* News

**Akita Advocates Relocation Team Arizona*

Carol Harris

Editor and Chief Pooper Scooper

This is the first AARTA newsletter to hit the press. We will bring you articles on new medical advances, training tips, upcoming events, feature some of our adoptable dogs and some of our behind-the-scenes workers, and we may even have a few dogs give us their viewpoint.

We plan on making this a quarterly newsletter to start, but if things go well, it might come to you on a bi-monthly basis.

Our first edition is coming to you via "snail mail" just to get your attention. **Future editions will arrive via email. So make sure you update us with your current email address. If you would like to continue to receive this by US Mail** (for those of you with a slow dial up that would take a century to open), **you can subscribe to a paper copy for \$10 a year** (to cover paper and postage). See "How to Contact Us" at the bottom of the page. ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reunion Picnic
- 2 Bloat / AARTA Statistics
- 3 AARTA Calendar / Upcoming Adoption Events / Volunteer Opportunities / Adoptable Dogs
- 4 More Adoptable Dogs

How to contact us:

Update Email address: AkitaAdvocates@cox.net

To subscribe to paper copy: mail \$10 check, payable to AARTA, to Carol Harris, 7341 W. Libby St, Glendale, AZ 85308

Reunion Picnic

Saturday, October 13, 10 am to 3pm

Put this date on your calendar. We're planning our first ever Reunion Picnic! This should be a fun event. Bring chairs for sitting. You can come alone or bring your adopted Akita, but also bring either a crate or enough people to hold dogs at all times. We won't be letting the dogs run loose with each other (can you say Akita Rumble?). We have saved and adopted out many non-Akitas too, and they are also welcome. We want this to be a fun time. Plan on:

Games you and your dog can participate in, like Musical Mats (same idea as musical chairs, but you and the dog have to end up on a doormat when the music stops), Bobbing for Hot Dogs (canines only), and Dress Your Dog Relay, just to name a few. There will be prizes for winners, and biscuits for all who play.

Potluck Lunch so bring a dish to share with a crowd. We will supply fried chicken, plates & utensils, and drinks.

Raffle so bring some extra cash and win toys for the dogs and other unique Akita gifts. This is a fundraiser to help cover kennel costs.

Location:

Ken & Carol Harris backyard (1 acre lot, with shade)
7341 W. Libby St., Glendale, AZ ** 602-547-9658
Directions from the 101 Agua Fria Freeway (Westside):
Exit 75th Ave, go south
Cross over Union Hills
Left on John Cabot (2nd left)
Right on 74th which curves around into Libby St.
House is 3rd on the right, Akita flags out front

****RSVP if you can 602-547-9658 or 602-882-4542 so we can plan enough chicken. ■**

BLOAT Update

AKC Gazette, Oct. 2004

Never heard of Bloat? Read on, as this can affect our Akitas.

Bloat is the 2nd leading cause of death in large breed dogs (50-99 lbs) and giant breed dogs (100 lbs +). The mortality rate is as high as 30%. It's officially known as Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), but most people know it as bloat. It's caused by a rapid build up of air in the stomach. The stomach then expands and sometimes rotates, which cuts off the blood supply at both ends, then the dog goes into shock.

Symptoms are an abdomen that looks larger than normal, pacing and restless, looking at the abdomen, rapid shallow breathing, salivation, and nonproductive attempts to vomit. **This is an emergency!** Rush your dog to the nearest emergency clinic for immediate treatment and be sure they know that you think it is bloat. You have only a few short hours to get help. Your dog will usually require surgery to untwist the stomach, and the vet will usually tack it in place to the lining of the abdominal cavity to prevent it from happening again.

Recent research at Purdue University by Dr. Larry Glickman, VMD, Dr. PH, and Dr. Malathi Raghavan, DVM, Ph.D, has uncovered feeding and diet factors that increase the risk of bloat. They are: "feeding only one meal a day, feeding only dry dog food, feeding food with only small particles, feeding a large volume of food per meal, eating rapidly, increased physical activity before and after eating, restriction of water before and after eating, moistening dry food before feeding and eating from a raised bowl." Also, increased risk was noticed when feeding dry foods that have: "fat among the first 4 ingredients, more than one corn ingredient among the first 4, or citric acid as a preservative."

Recommendations:

1. Feed 2 or more meals a day
2. No more than 1 cup per 33 lbs of body weight per meal
3. Make sure the first 4 ingredients of any dry food are protein from animal origin (beef, poultry, lamb, fish)

4. Feed a variety of food regularly. Including human food with a dry food diet was associated with a 59% decrease in bloat risk, including canned dog food gave a 28% decrease.
5. Include meats with dry food. (Editor's note: I cook chicken or beef liver, beef kidney, chicken gizzards, beef heart or on-sale steak and add to all meals.)
6. Feed dry food with larger particles
7. Don't moisten dry food
8. Find ways to slow down a fast-eating dog
9. Place the bowl at ground level
10. Restrict exercise 1 hour before & 1 hour after meals ■

AARTA Statistics

AARTA rescued its first Akita in November of 2005 and since that time has rescued and placed over **100 dogs!** We owe it all to you who have adopted these wonderful, homeless dogs and given them forever families of their own. But they give us so much more.

I recently bought a plaque that says:

"Our furry friends.....We rescue their lives....They rescue our hearts!"

That's why we do it. These dogs enrich our lives beyond anything we ever imagined. It's also very rewarding to be part of the process of bringing dogs and families together.

If you ever thought you'd like to help, there are many jobs that volunteers can do. Even a few hours a month will mean a lot to us. Here are a few ways you could help:

- Help at adoption events (see upcoming calendar next page)
- Foster a dog
- Website updates
- Check shelters for dogs on the euthanasia list
- Do home checks
- TV, Radio, Newspaper contacts who can help us raise public awareness ■

2008 AARTA CALENDAR— PICTURES WANTED!!

This is your chance to make your dog famous! We are soliciting pictures of your rescue Akita (dogs only, no people in the picture) to put in the upcoming 2008 calendar. We need 14 pictures in all, one per month, and one each for the front and back cover. Dress them up for the season! Pictures of them on vacation, playing or working, or just sleeping (what they do best). You can buy your way into the calendar: \$250 for front or back cover, \$100 for a particular month or \$15 for a small photo in a filler day of a particular month. This donation will help fund our upfront costs, and sale of calendars will help us pay for kenneling costs.

Deadline: Sept 25. Send pictures to the email address on the front page. We'll hope to have calendars available by the picnic in Oct., ready for Christmas giving. Or check our website for ordering information after Oct 13:

<http://www.akitaadvocates.com/> ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ADOPT-A-THON

ANIMAL KINSHIP MINISTRIES, NEW VISION SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER, HAYDEN & MTN VIEW, SCOTTSDALE
SAT, OCT 6, 10AM-2PM

ADOPT-A-THON

BARK AVENUE, 3109 E. MCKELLIPS RD, MESA
SUN, OCT 14, 9AM – 4 PM

ADOPT-A-THON

FRANCISCAN RENEWAL, 5802 E. LINCOLN DR, PARADISE VALLEY
SAT & SUN, OCT 27TH & 28TH, 10 AM – 4 PM

BORDERS BOOKS--BOOK WRAPPING FUND RAISER

Borders graciously allows non-profit organizations to come in during the holidays and wrap purchases for donations. Borders supplies all the paper and wrapping supplies, we just need people to show up for a 4 hour shift. But to get the best times, we need to start lining up dates and times NOW in SEPTEMBER. If you would like to help in Dec (4 hours in the evening after work, or 4 hours on a weekend day, or 4 hours during the week), please let us know that you have the holiday spirit and which store is nearest to you. We can work to get you in there.

Call Deb 602-882-4542 or Carol 602-547-9658 to participate. ■

Spotlight on Available Dogs!



Mina is a sweet, kissy girl turned in by her owner to the shelter with a litter of pups. Mina is approximately 3-4 yrs old, and is great around kids. She loves everyone. She's learned to respond to the commands of sit, down, shake, speak, knows how to use a doggie door, rides nicely in the car, is housebroken, and is learning not to pull on leash.



Amanda or is this Zoe? It's hard to tell these 2 adorable female Akita pups apart! They are approximately 5 – 6 months old and were abandoned. They are potty trained, and Amanda is the talker. Right now they are in kenneling, which is not the best place for such young ones. They are both super sweet and friendly.



Lucky Girl is just that---lucky! She was found on the road to Crown King wandering by herself. She is about 2-3 yrs old, and has had obedience training. She is smaller than most Akitas---about 55 lbs. She is sweet with people and fine with male dogs.

More Available Dogs!



Koko is a one year old female who loves kids and gets along with cats and other dogs. We have learned that she has "pancreatic insufficiency" meaning she needs to have a teaspoon of special enzyme powder so she can properly digest her food and get out all the nutrients. She will be on this for life, however it is a simple thing to do, just a teaspoon twice a day with meals! This girl has lots of energy and loves to play with her toys. Koko has lots of personality and is learning new commands quickly.

AARTA c/o Carol Harris
7341 W. Libby St.
Glendale, AZ 95308

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

More Available Dogs!



Kajee is a 2 yr old male who is potty trained. Kajee is a talker and will tell you all about his day. He's in a foster home where he is learning how to walk nice on leash and he looks forward to his daily walks. He is crate trained, but doesn't need to be crated, as he is very good in the house. He is currently living in an apartment with his foster family.

→ **Correction: Page 2 "AARTA Statistics"**

AARTA rescued it's first Akita **Nov 2004** (not '05).

Page 2 had already been printed when it was discovered. **NO! BAD EDITOR, BAD BAD!**



