



AKITA RESCUE, MID-ATLANTIC COAST, INC  
(aka ARMAC, INC.)

Mission Statement and Bylaws

Mission Statement:

The purpose of this Akita Rescue is to provide aid to Akitas in distress, and to find adoptive homes for homeless Akitas.

I. Bylaws

A. Acceptance of dogs

1. ARMAC will give Akitas from “kill” animal control facilities and shelters highest priority. ARMAC will maintain contact with animal control facilities and shelters who interact with rescue groups in the Washington, DC metropolitan area: Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Stafford County, Fredericksburg, Loudon County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Anne Arundel County, City of Frederick, as well as other shelters who contact us on a regular basis. When an “adoptable” Akita (as determined by temperament testing) is at risk of being euthanized by any such facility, ARMAC will make every effort to to remove that Akita from the facility on a space available basis. “Temporary homes” may be used as a part of that effort. It is our goal to establish and maintain friendly working relationships with all area animal control facilities and humane organizations, including preparing and presenting program for the staff to educate them about Akitas and acquaint them with the activities of ARMAC. However, if there is a conflict between a particular bureaucracy and the welfare of an individual Akita, ARMAC will act in the best interests of the Akita
2. Akitas who have been “found” and need new homes will also be accepted by ARMAC if the finder cannot keep them. ARMAC will notify local animal facilities and keep the Akita for the prescribed number of days before offering the dog for adoption. ARMAC will also help any finder directly place an Akita provided all legal notifications have been made. ARMAC will request \$50 donation fee for any dog accepted from a finder, but no dog will be refused if the fee cannot be paid.
3. Akitas abandoned at veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, or other animal care establishments will be accepted by ARMAC on the same basis as “found” Akitas.
4. Akitas being given up by their current owners will be accepted by ARMAC, but have the lowest priority. A donation fee of \$50 will be requested, but no dog

will be refused because the owner does not pay. All owner surrenders must be up to date on shots, have a recent heartworm test, and no bite history. If ARMAC is unable to accept a dog because of space restrictions, we will assist the owner in placing the dog in the following ways: website, checking out prospective owners, house checks, educating prospective owners.

5. Reasons for refusing an Akita

- Known advanced heartworm infestation
- Crippling medical condition
- Bite history
- Failure to pass temperament test/evaluation by ARMAC representative
- Any other serious problem as decided by ARMAC executive committee.

6. Any Akita who cannot be accepted for placement will be accepted for euthanasia by ARMAC for a donation fee of \$50. Any Akita accepted for euthanasia will be injected in the presence of at least one ARMAC member. It is possible that an Akita accepted for euthanasia by ARMAC from any of the above listed sources even though the source may believe the Akita will be placed for adoption. This extreme situation requires the agreement of a majority of the officers/executive board of ARMAC.

7. Picking up Akitas will rotate among ARMAC members and volunteers. Assignments will be made according to considerations such as geographic location, time available, and the ultimate destination of the Akita. Most ARMAC pick-up members will have DHLPPV vaccine to administer to any Akita picked up that has no proof of vaccination.

B. All ARMAC orphans will:

- Be up to date on shots
- Be maintained on heartworm preventative
- Be spayed or neutered prior to adoption
- Be micro chipped and or tattooed
- Remain in the foster home for at least 30 days prior to adoption for evaluation

C. Foster Care

1. Who: any ARMAC member who has the facilities and desire may provide foster care for an Akita. These facilities can be either indoors or outdoors. Outdoor dogs must be brought inside on a regular basis to interact with the family and learn how to be good house dogs. Special requirements of foster homes will be taken into consideration in the assignment of dogs. Example: a cat aggressive dog will not be placed in a foster home with cats.
2. How long: there is no time limit on foster care. It can be 2 months or two years. If an Akita must be moved from a foster home, it will be placed in another foster home.
3. Conditions: all foster homes will receive the foster home guidelines, and sign a contract. They must abide by the conditions of the signed foster contract. Any foster home failing to do so will be removed from consideration as a foster home. All foster homes must sign a statement saying they or anyone living in their household have never been charged with or convicted of

animal cruelty, or animal, spousal, or child neglect or abuse.

4. Functions: ongoing evaluation of the Akita's physical, emotional and mental health. This includes veterinary care as necessary, general description of the dog's temperament to include any unique characteristics that may have an impact on the adoptive placement such as the reaction of the dog to children of various ages and to other animals, marked preferences or aversions in people, i.e., not comfortable around men.
5. Expenses: the foster home usually bears the cost of food, toys and heartworm preventative. If they are unable to do so, ARMAC will. ARMAC will pay for veterinary fees at approved vets or emergency vet costs; unusual travel expenses or long distance calls, or other expenses approved by the officers or executive committee.
6. Neither ARMAC, its officers nor executive committee will be held responsible or suffer any legal action as a result of damage or injury caused by ARMAC dogs.

#### D. Criteria for Adoptability of Akitas

1. The Akita must be in good physical and mental health, and be accepting of people.
2. Akitas with special health or personality problems may be placed for adoption at the discretion of the officers or executive committee if an appropriate home has been found.
3. No Akita will be placed with the following:
  - A serious medical condition that inhibits the dog's ability to be a pet
  - A bite to a well known person who is a caregiver.
  - Severe mental problems
  - Toy, food or human aggression
  - Extreme dog aggression
4. The decision to euthanize an Akita who cannot be placed must be made by a majority of the executive committee. Important considerations in making this decision must be the consequences of placing the dog and their impact on future adoptions.

#### E. Adoption Procedures

1. Accept Application
  - Check over and call applicant with any questions.
  - Call all references, making notes about each on application
  - Process as expeditiously as possible
2. House check
  - Done by at least 2 ARMAC members; if there's a disagreement, a third member will visit and make a "tie-breaker" vote.
  - Must have concrete facts as a basis for rejection. If a home checker has a "bad feeling" it should be explored by further conversation and visits to determine its origin. For example, does the person have odd ideas about

veterinary care, harsh training methods, punishment, housing, etc. Or is there something in or outside of the house that is not compatible with dog ownership.

### 3. Introduction of applicant and dog

- Home must have passed house check.
- Dogs appropriate the applicant's situation will be discussed
- Appointments made at applicable foster homes
- If there is another dog in the adopting household, the applicant should be to the available orphans without the adopter's resident dog.
- Input from the foster home should be considered after they meet the applicant.
- Once one or two dogs have been selected, the resident dog and the orphan can be introduced on neutral ground, under the supervision of one or more ARMAC members.

### 4. Placement

- Once a dog is selected, if possible, the dog should be taken to its new home by the foster parent, who should stay long enough for the Akita to become comfortable.
- \$200.00 adoption fee for all dogs under five years, which can be lowered or eliminated at the discretion of the executive committee.
- There is a 4 week trial period to see if the placement is successful for both owner and dog.
- If there are AKC papers, they will be returned to AKC with notation that the dog was surrendered to rescue. The owner will receive a copy of the papers.
- ARMAC is available to the owner for the life of the dog for any assistance, support, or information needed.
- The foster home will be available to answer questions about the dogs daily routine, behavior etc.
- After the four week period has successfully passed, the donation check will be deposited.
- If the adoption has not been successful, depending on the circumstances, another Akita may be introduced to the applicant at a later time; this decision will be made by the executive committee.
- If the dog is returned before the 4 week adjustment period, a refund will be given to the applicant, and the dog will be returned to its original foster home if possible

### III. Exceptions

The executive committee may upon unanimous agreement, suspend any of the above described policies or conditions in the event of an unusual case, i.e., an elderly dog may be spared surgery.

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313 Quint Acres Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904  
(703) 730-0844