

# MIDWEST AKITA RESCUE SOCIETY

## OWNER RELINQUISHMENT INFORMATION

### **HISTORY OF MIDWEST AKITA RESCUE SOCIETY (MARS)**

In 1998, Midwest Akita Rescue Society (MARS) was formed by a very small group of concerned individuals that felt that they could assist orphaned Akitas residing in the Midwestern region. The purpose of this organization was to rescue, medically treat, rehabilitate and re-home abandoned, relinquished or otherwise homeless Akita dogs. Co-Founders Deanna O'Brien and Lisa R. McCluskey were a part of the initial individuals that helped create MARS.

### **HOW CAN MARS HELP?**

Akita Owners Rescue Foundation, Inc. d.b.a. Midwest Akita Rescue Society is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to helping Akitas in distress. MARS, founded in 1998, depends entirely on taxdeductible

donations to continue this work.

### **PROBLEM SOLVING**

We offer consultations on all types of AKITA behavior problems from destructive chewing to inappropriate aggression. Our consultants, who have extensive experience in the training and rehabilitation of AKITAS, are available for phone calls or emails. Sometimes, a brief telephone conversation is all you need to find a solution for your problem. There is no charge for such a service. If you require more extensive assistance, such as a home visit, you may be asked to make a donation. Before you decide to give up your AKITA, why not give us a try? We also work in cooperation with local canine behavior facilities and extensively refer many Akita owners to these experts. We can help recommend a behavior expert that is right for you.

### **PREVENTION**

The best way to solve a problem is to prevent it. To this end, we also offer information and advice about raising and training your AKITA. We can give you general instructions for establishing leadership without intimidating your dog. In addition, one of our consultants can evaluate your AKITA and home circumstances. Problems often arise not because the dog or home is "BAD," but because they are mismatched.

### **REFERRAL SERVICES**

Ever feel like your dog is the only AKITA your veterinarian has ever met, and therefore, they do not understand your needs as a client? From our work with large numbers of AKITAS in various conditions of health and development, we have gathered considerable information about veterinary services in the area. Our co-operating veterinarians have become somewhat of AKITA health experts, and may be able to offer a solution to your problems. Or perhaps we can refer you to a specialist. Our members include scientific researchers and information analysts who monitor the research literature for the latest developments of relevance to AKITAS.

### **OUT PLACEMENT**

For whatever reason, you may decide that you can no longer keep your AKITA. We hate it, but it happens. We offer two types of services to owners who have decided to place their AKITAS, help with DO-IT-YOURSELF

programs, or placement through AKITA RESCUE. Either way, we recommend reading a document entitled, "REHOMING YOUR DOG" found on our website or you may request a copy from us. Because rescue services depend entirely upon volunteers and contributions, we do request a donation when you have received service from us. Please call for more information about specific fees.

**The DO-IT-YOURSELF** program goes like this: You place ads in the local newspapers, tell everybody you can think of who might know someone who might be interested; post notices at work, in the supermarket, at school, at the Vet, or anyplace that comes to mind. We can help you compose the ad and screen telephone responses. We can also post a picture and description of your AKITA on our website under a specific heading for a reasonable fee. Once you have narrowed it down to a few good prospects, we can help you investigate them and make sure they offer a good home for your dog. Once the dog is placed, we will be a continuing resource to the new owners.

The **RESCUE PLACEMENT PROGRAM** goes like this: Your AKITA must be spayed or neutered at your expense, be up-to-date on all vaccinations, and have been tested negative for heartworm. You legally relinquish the dog, its AKC papers (if any) and all relevant medical information (names and locations of all vets who have treated the dog) over to an AKITA rescue representative.

We will first evaluate the dog's characteristics and decide what type of home he/she is best suited for. All prospective orphans must pass a complete temperament evaluation screen and have no history of biting (we will request a complete rabies history from your respective county). Placement with us is also subject to foster space availability within MARS. We will keep the dog in a foster home (if one is available) until someone who can offer the optimum environment for your dog submits an application and passes our rather vigorous investigation.

It generally takes about three months for a dog to be placed through rescue. Keep in mind that once a dog is relinquished to MARS, we become the sole owners of the AKITA, therefore allowing us to make any decision involving euthanasia for health or behavior reasons during the AKITA'S life.

**YES! I WANT TO HELP AKITAS IN THE CARE OF MIDWEST AKITA RESCUE SOCIETY (M.A.R.S.)**

**ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING**

**\_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE KEEP ME AWARE OF EVENTS M.A.R.S. ATTENDS**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_**

**ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_**

**EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAIL TO:**

**MIDWEST AKITA RESCUE SOCIETY**

**C/O DEANNA O'BRIEN**

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**MIDWEST AKITA RESCUE SOCIETY**

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