

JAPANESE AKITA CORNER



Old/New Business, Carol Sjoberg - When Jessica first asked me to write an article for the "Japanese Akita Corner" she said to write anything of interest about the Japanese Akita.

After writing about "the split" in the first two articles I jokingly told her that "the split" wouldn't be the subject of every article for the "Japanese Akita Corner," but - alas! - I feel it must be mentioned once more because of the April 9, 2007 American Kennel Club board meeting. Please see below what was discussed under "New Business." Of course, to some of us it's considered "old business," but I don't care how AKC labels it! It's very encouraging news to those who have been trying for so many years to convince the ACA and the AKC that there are two breeds of Akitas.

Personally I'm holding my breath right now waiting to see what direction the AKC goes after the staff has reported their findings to them.



New Business Akita

The Board discussed the fact that in virtually every country in the world, other than the United States, notably the FCI countries as well as Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, the Akita breed has been divided into two distinct breeds. Both the United Kingdom and Japan have relayed their concern and reservations with continuing to accept AKC export pedigrees for Akitas. Staff was directed to look into this issue further and to report back to the Board.

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult. -Rita Rudner

HOT AKITAS IN THE RING

From Sid & Dawna Mauldin – As of the March Breed Standings, "Fudge" is still the #2 Akita, even though the last time she was in the ring was mid-March (she blew coat). So, we are pleased she had enough points to retain that position (she's almost 300 points ahead of the #3 Akita) while she puts her new spring and summer coat on!

Sid and I are very proud of our Veteran Bitch "Shelley", who at age 8 1/2 years old won Best Veteran in Sweeps, Best Veteran in Show and Best of Opposite at our own HOT Specialty in March. The miracle of the whole win is she hasn't been shown in 4 years since we finished & spayed her. And, she had a wonderful time just getting to go and ride in the motor home with Mom & Dad.



Finally, Ch. Red Cloud's Mini Me (named that because she's an identical version of her mother Amy), a Shiba, is doing well in the breed ring with her new handler(s) Michael Brantley and his assistant Holly. No group placements yet but we are optimistic.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

T-Touch, Jessica Allen – I imagine we've all heard enough about it, but I didn't REALLY know what it was until last fall when I attended a 1-day T-Touch workshop. It's a very interesting practice that reaches out to the body at a cellular level. A very light touch in a circular pattern is used to either turn on or off energy. Other techniques used in the T-Touch toolbox include body wraps and obstacle courses to create mind/body awareness. It is definitely something worth looking into and if you have the opportunity to spend a day or two at a workshop I think it's worth it.

HAPPY TAILS

Kuma's Story, Wilma Montz



Spring time in Texas is special because everyone wants to be outdoors taking their dogs for walks in the park or sitting in fields of wild flowers to capture those precious "Kodak moments". For Kuma, this was not a time for rejoicing or wonderment. Kuma's family introduced another female dog into the household and fights ensued. Nobody knows remembers if the dogs were first introduced at a neutral area or how the new dog was brought into the home. Nobody knows how much effort Kuma's family put into working with the two dogs or how long they tried to encourage the two females to get along. Whatever happened, it no longer matters. All we know is that Kuma pulled the short straw and she was the one cast aside.

When HOT CARES learned about Kuma's fate, she was on death row in a North Dallas shelter. Someone from Houston expressed interest in adopting an Akita so when one of the Rescue Angels went to the shelter to evaluate her temperament, it was discovered that she had just been adopted by a couple living in Denton.

What makes this adoption special is the Denton couple had contacted HOT CARES asking for advice on ways to introduce a second dog into the household. It appears that they had a small male poodle who thought he was lion-size and they wanted to make sure they were following proper "introductory procedures."

During DENTON DOG DAYS, Ryan and Ivett brought Kuma and her best buddy, the male poodle to the HOT information booth. They wanted us to see how Kuma had adjusted and how complete she had made their family. Since then, a very happy Kuma and her new family have been seen in the park on several occasions and the bond keeps getting stronger.

RESCUE NOTES

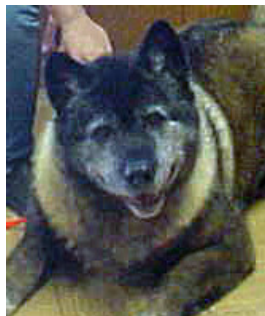
HOT CARES, Jill Drennan - We are always looking for people who are interested in helping out with rescue. Currently we still try to match up homeless dogs with dogless homes and answer emails from people needing assistance. If you have some free time each month and would like to help out homeless dogs, please contact us at rescue@heart-of-texas-akita-club.org.

Akita Rescue of Tulsa (ART), Donna Bennett



Nicki is a 3 yr old spayed female. She is current on vaccines, HW -, fecal -. Ideally, she would be placed with her mom (Nunya) but we are open to splitting the girls up. She is a large 90+ pound black brindle girl

who knows some basic commands. She does well kenneled with her mom and they can even eat together. She does show dominant aggressive tendencies toward other females though. She would do best placed with Nunya, or a similarly sized male.



Nunya is a 5 yr old spayed female. Don't let the gray face fool you! Nunya is an absolute delight! She was turned into the shelter along with her daughter Nicki.

Nunya is a smaller Akita, weighing in at just over 70# but 50# of that must be heart! She is a doll.

HEALTH WATCH

SNAKEBITE!!!, *Jill Drennan* – It's springtime and along with the flowers gracing our yard, there is also a hidden danger to people and pets as the weather and ground warms up – SNAKES.

Most people and pets will be lucky and will not encounter a snake close enough to worry about being bitten. But what do you do if your pet finds a snake and does get bitten?



Any dog that is snake bitten should be taken to the vet as soon as possible.

If you are with your dog when it is bitten, try to determine the type of snake. If possible, catch and kill the snake for easier identification. The type of snake will determine the treatment needed for your dog. If you are unsure what type of snake you have caught and killed, you can take it with you to the vet or emergency clinic for identification.

If you are not with your dog when it is bitten and/or cannot find the snake, then a period of observation is necessary to determine what type of poison was in the bite. The first sign that an owner will have of a snakebite is the area around the bite will start to swell, very quickly. The most likely place for a dog to be bitten is on the face, around the mouth and nose area or on the foot or leg if they step on one. Dogs will get in the snake's face and bark at it to try to chase it away, hence the bites on the face. If the dog grabs the snake and shakes it to try to kill it, it can receive bites in other areas of the face, head, ears and neck.

There are three main concerns with a snakebite:

1. Type of toxin
2. Amount and location of swelling
3. Other reactions such as convulsions or seizures.

If the dog receives a neurotoxin, it will start to show neurological problems and must have anti-venom treatment to survive. Other types of toxins only require anti-venom treatment if there are other reactions to the bite such as convulsions or seizures. Non-neurotoxin bites are typically treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory shot, and painkillers. Dogs should be carefully watched until the swelling stops to ensure that they don't have difficulty breathing. If the throat or tongue starts to swell and interferes with the dog's breathing, veterinary assistance will be required. Snakebites can cause large areas to swell very fast. You can actually watch the area swell! Be very careful with dogs that are snake bitten. They can be in a lot of pain and may react badly to anyone poking around the bite. If the head, neck and chest swell up – simply putting a collar on your dog can be painful

If you are in an area with a high incidence of snakes, you can watch for de-snaking clinics, which teach dogs to avoid snakes by using electronic shock collars. They use specific snakes to teach avoidance so it doesn't guarantee that the dog will stay away from all snakes. Another disadvantage is many Akitas don't react to electronic shock collars. They do also have snake venom shots that last for either 6 or 12 months that is supposed to protect the dog in case of snakebite. Whether or not to have these shots administered will depend on your area and incidence of snakebites.

If you and your dog are regularly in areas where snakes live, and de-snaking clinics or preventative shots are not practical, you might want to discuss emergency treatment with your vet and see if he/she will allow you carry a snakebite kit for your dog, that contains a few days worth of antibiotics and painkillers and possibly an anti-inflammatory shot for immediate pain and swelling control. I would also suggest that you become familiar with the location of any local vets and emergency clinics in the areas that you take your dogs in case they need immediate care for a snakebite or other injury.

TRAINING TIPS

Show Training Your Akita: A Multipart Series, *Jill Drennan* – Show training your Akita is a multi-faceted project. He/she needs to know some basic commands, should know what to expect and how to behave, and be groomed

– for the show ring. The earlier that you can start training your dog, the better it will be. Training sessions can take place at any time of the day and can last from a few minutes to 30 minutes or more. You can find many opportunities to work with your dog during every day activities.

Basic Commands

The basic commands that we teach to our show dogs are stand, stay, let's go, watch, teeth, open and no. Remember, when giving your dog a command; always use his/her name to get their attention first, then the command i.e. "Koda Stand", or "Koda Stay".

Stand - means that the dog stands where he/she is and normally we will stack the dog after this command is given.

Stay – means that the dog will not move from its position until released

Let's Go - releases a dog from a stay command and lets him/her know they will be moving along with you in whatever pattern you will be doing.

Watch - is what you will use when you want your dog to watch you and show expression – usually used when coming back to the judge or waiting in line before or after your turn for individual examinations or free-baiting your dog.

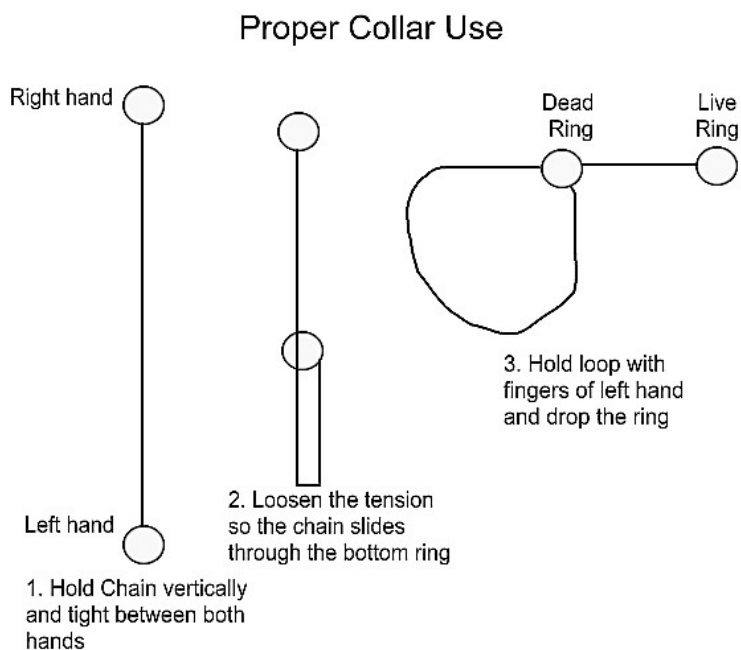
Teeth - is used in conjunction with the bite exam. It lets the dog know that he is to let his lips be opened for a bite examination.

Open - is useful for those judges that do a full mouth exam and want the mouth opened up completely.

No - is used as a corrective word to stop inappropriate actions at any time.

Training - Collar

Collar – should be large enough to fit easily over the dog's head. We recommend using a chain slip collar during the training process. A strong, medium weight collar is what we use to train puppies and young dogs. A heavier link chain can be used for older, stronger dogs. Hold one ring of the choke chain between the thumb and first finger of the left hand and the other the same way in the right hand. Hold the chain vertically, right hand on top and left hand on bottom, and pull the chain tight between the two rings. Slowly let some slack form between the two rings so that the chain slides through the inside of the bottom ring. Slide the 2nd-4th fingers of the left hand through the loop now forming and drop the ring. Lower the right hand so it's horizontal to the left hand and you should have a sideways "P". The ring that is now forming the loop of the P is now called the "dead ring". The other ring is the "live ring" and the leash will attach to that ring. With your dog



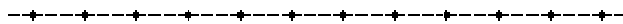
standing on your left side, facing the same direction you are facing, slip the loop over the dog's head. The live ring should always come across the back of the neck.

standing on your left side, facing the same direction you are facing, slip the loop over the dog's head. The live ring should always come across the back of the neck.

Setting The Collar – Once you have the collar on the dog, place the dead ring of the collar under and in the center of the dog's throat. Slide the rest of the collar up so that it is directly behind the dog's ears. See how the collar is set in these photos. Also notice how loose the collars are on these dogs. You don't want a tight fitting collar. You will want to practice keeping your collar like



this for better control of your dog. Your dog will probably fight this at first. If he/she shakes it lower or it slides lower, stop moving, reset the collar and then start moving again. With practice you will both get used to this. Whenever you are walking your dog, always use a chain choke and keep the dead ring in the middle under the throat. When you tighten up on the leash/collar to correct the dog, the dead ring will press on the dog's windpipe and temporarily close it to get his/her attention. When you release the pressure on the leash/collar the ring will release and the windpipe will open up. If the collar is on backwards, when pressure is released on the collar, it won't release and will remain tight on the throat. A looser collar is better than a tight collar. Tight collars can damage the ears when you put it on and also reduce the effectiveness of corrections since it will be tight all the time.



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Two ninety year old men, Moe and Sam, have been friends all their lives. It seems that Sam is dying, so Moe comes to visit him.

"Sam," says Moe, "You know how we have both loved showing and then judging dogs all our lives. Sam, you have to do me one favor. When you go, somehow you've got to tell me if there's dog shows in heaven."

Sam looks up at Moe from his death bed and says, "Moe, you've been my friend many years. This favor I'll do for you."

And with that, Sam passes on. It is midnight a couple of nights later. Moe is sound asleep when a distant voice calls out to him, "Moe.... Moe...."

"Who is it?" says Moe sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Moe, its Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam died."

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Sam!"

"Sam? Is that you? Where are you?"

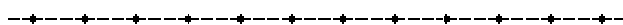
"I'm in heaven," says Sam, "and I've got to tell you, I've got some good news and some bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Moe.

"The good news," says Sam "is that there are dog shows in heaven." "Really?" says Moe, "That's wonderful!"

What's the bad news?"

"You're judging next Saturday"



Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.



The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for a month from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Black Labrador Retriever

The SECOND is a Senior Citizen

Next time take me to a vet.

