

Lethal Whites *across* USA



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April 2004



Welcome!

Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue is a small (but growing) organization dedicated to rescuing and re-homing the many Lethal Whites who exist across the USA. The members of our organization include Cyndi Cunico, Lorraine Ayres, Paula Curry, Kelly Lapa and Deana Kilgos. We applied for 501(c) 3 status and are awaiting approval. For additional information on our rescue, please visit www.aussielads.com and click on the ABOUT US icon. ■

Our **Purpose** is to rescue and re-home existing Lethal White Australian Shepherds. Our **Mission** is to ensure, through support and education, a positive environment and successful *life-long* union for those adopted. Our **Vision** is to prevent, and ultimately eliminate, Merle-to-Merle breeding of Australian Shepherds through continuous efforts to **EDUCATE!**

Lethal Whites



Aussielads Forging Ahead

Cyndi Cunico, Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue

The year 2004 promises to be an exciting year! Aussielads is pleased to announce the addition of two new partners who have enhanced our organization tremendously. Kelly Lapa began as Foster Mom for the Mesa Four, featured in our January issue. She has since joined us, providing a new perspective and opportunity to introduce our Lethals to the arena of agility! Deana Kilgos, who also began by fostering Chico, brings additional training techniques, as well as fundraising opportunities. We welcome them and hope you soon have the pleasure of meeting them.

We have recently applied for our 501 (c) (3) status and hope to be approved soon. This status will enhance our ability to receive much needed donations and provide donors with a tax deduction.

We are in full swing attending Pets 911 adoption events. Attending these events enables us to educate the general public about the dangers of Merle-to-Merle breeding while providing the opportunity for many who attend to personally meet some of our wonderful Lethals.

Our Deaf and/or Blind Dog Support sessions continue to promote new ideas and activities for hearing/vision impaired dogs. Kelly and Lorraine demonstrate the amazing capabilities of these dogs to participate in agility. Deana shows how, with a little effort and consistency, these babies easily

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Meet Our New Arrivals!

Fresno by Paula Curry

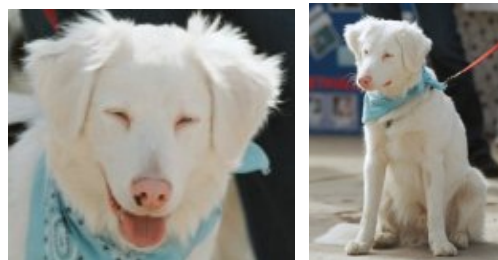


Rescued from certain death at a kill shelter in Grass Valley, CA by Dawn Allmandinger of www.newdawndogrescue.org Fresno's story is certainly a testimony of unconditional love. Thanks to the efforts of several loving families, including Winter's new family, Fresno made his way over 1,000 miles to our rescue. After a week of spending time getting acquainted with his new four legged family of six, he begins his initial training by touch commands and hand signals.

Fresno had no problem adapting to his foster home and playmates. He is a fun-loving (full of energy) pup that is truly a snuggler at heart. If (foster) mom is around, he wants to be in her lap or curled up on the couch beside her with a bone, rather than playing with Morgan (Black Tri Aussie) or K.C. (Cattle Dog). While K.C. is his true playmate, he thinks nothing of trying to get one of the four cats to play whenever possible. Fresno has quickly figured out just how much he can play with the cats and understands when enough IS enough! Even when taunted by "Princess Paddy" to play and chase, he understands that manners and respect are very important with the family kitties.

Completely deaf and sight impaired, his navigation skills are impressive. He has responded, with enthusiasm, learning his initial training commands of sit, come and "potty" this week and will now begin leash training. With Fresno's general love of life, I have no doubt that he will welcome and enjoy the opportunity to explore yet another new world, which awaits him. Thanks to all who gave him this "second" chance for a wonderful, loving life! For more info on Fresno, please visit www.aussielads.com and look for Fresno in the ADOPT section. He's waiting to meet you! ■

Joey by Deana Kilgos



Joey's the name...finding a "forever" home is my game! Somehow, I ended up at the local kill shelter, but lucky for me, they contacted Aussielads to help get me out of there. I ended up having Kennel Cough and had to spend a few days boarding at the Vet's office until I was better.

Now, I'm in foster care with some great doggie friends (some are just like me...and some can't even see) to play with. By the way, I'm totally deaf, but I've learned a bunch of hand signs, so I'm pretty easy to "talk" to. I'm learning a lot of things at my foster home. Mom says it will make me more adoptable if I have some manners!

I get to sleep in bed with Chad (my 2-legged buddy) and Chico (he's blind and deaf). The one thing I really hate is being crated. I think it has something to do with what happened to me before I came to Aussielads. I didn't even like being left alone, but I'm getting better at it, thanks to my foster mom and dad. I enjoy going for rides in the car, but panic a little if I'm left all alone.

I'm 9 months old now and I've been neutered and had all my shots. I'm very curious and love to check things out. I get along well with other doggies and enjoy meeting new people and discovering new things. My foster mom thinks I'd be a great candidate to learn agility. I do have lots of energy and I've already had some practice with the agility tunnel and going over jumps. I think it's fun and would like to do more.

I'm really hoping that someone will fall in love with me and make me part of their family. I enjoy being in foster care, but there's no place like home!

If you think you might be the right family for me, please visit www.aussielads.com and click on my page (Joey) available in the ADOPT section. ■

CONTACTS ACROSS THE USA!

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Join Our Team! See page 7 for details!

perform basic commands by communicating through touch and/or hand signals.

We have had the opportunity to attend several elementary schools, teaching children about impairments and showing how to communicate using a slightly different approach. Marco (Mr. Blue) attends and LOVES all the children and attention and he's always a big hit with the kids (and teachers, too). Toes continue to impress everyone by doing a fantastic job of demonstrating basic obedience commands.

One of the highlights at Aussielads is our wonderful new volunteer, Nick Ames. He has done such an outstanding job of donating his time and photography skills to help promote our organization and these wonderful Lethals. We are excited to announce that Nick is currently working on training videos demonstrating techniques and easy to follow instructions in basic training for vision/hearing impaired dogs. We are hoping to begin with a few short video clips on our website, featuring samples working with different impairments and eventually complete a full training video. Information regarding the video will be posted on the website when available.

Our fundraising efforts will include our new t-shirts. A picture, along with ordering information is available on our website. Stop by and order yours today! Paula is also making beautiful baskets for our raffle drawing at events, so be sure to stop by and see us for your chance to win one. We will be working on more fun things throughout the year.

This issue of our newsletter will be featuring some of our new arrivals and success stories of those lucky ones who have found their forever homes. Be sure to check out Magnus, one of the Mesa Four, showing off his agility moves. And don't forget to read about a few of our "longtime" fosters still awaiting new, loving families to call their own.

Visit our website to see some of the changes that we hope will make getting around a little easier.■

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible - Anonymous

Yes, I Can!



And the question is, "Can a sight-impaired dog perform agility?" You better believe he can!

Magnus loves going through the agility tunnels (pictured above) and is improving on the jump bars. His next goal is the A frame! A little direction, positive reinforcement and lots of treats are the key factors. Magnus can navigate the agility field as well as he navigates his foster home. ■

Meet Magnus and his sister Kissin' Kate



They would love to be adopted together!

Magnus and Kate, now 5 months old, are from the Mesa Four litter. Magnus has been in foster care since he was one day old; Kate was recently returned because she was being attacked by the dog she lived with. She is a little submissive, but growing more confident every day, especially with a little help from her brother, Magnus. Magnus is vision-impaired, but can hear. Kate is deaf and responds well to hand signals. Magnus is a "talker" and loves to tell you his story; Kate is a "collector" who is always proud to bring you her treasurers and drop them at your feet.

Both have wonderful personalities that seem to complement each other. They enjoy being close to their person when not off engaging in some playful activity.

Please visit them on-line for additional pictures and information in the ADOPT section of our website. ■

Success Stories

Kayte (Tula the Catahoula) by Kelly Lapa



Kayte is a severely sight-impaired Lethal White Catahoula. She was turned in to Pima County pound in Tucson (12/03), as a stray at the age of 5 months old. Thanks to Kelly Quinn of Border Collie Rescue, she was saved and sent to Aussielads.

Although not familiar with the Catahoula breed, Kayte was more than happy to teach us all a few things ☺ Her personality is quite strong and she is persistent, not to mention energetic! Finding Kayte the right home was certainly a challenge...at least until Anne came along.

Anne already shared her life with Sophia, a deaf Cattle Dog, so she knew about headstrong herding dogs, as well as living with an impaired dog. Anne was sure looking good as a possible home for Kayte. And then, it got even better.

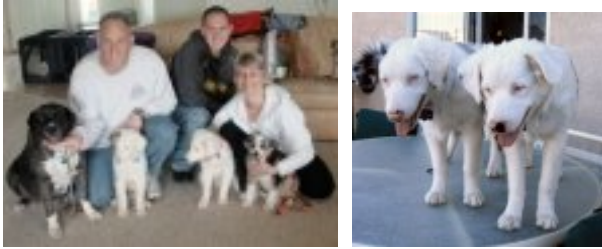
Anne is a tri-athlete and runs with Sophia about three miles daily. Anne was looking for a companion who would enjoy joining them on their runs. We knew that activity would satisfy Kayte's energy level, which is high. All that remained was making sure that Anne would provide love and care along with the activities. Anne proved to be the best mom Kayte could hope for.

Although Kayte's adoption went well, she suffered a slight setback the following day. Anne immediately let us know that Kayte was not feeling well and refused to eat (something Kayte was never shy about). We arranged for Anne to have Kayte treated at her Vet at our expense. Testing showed that Kayte had Parvo! She was spayed the week before her adoption and contracted the disease while at the clinic, even though she had been fully vaccinated.

Kayte has recovered and is doing well with her new family in Tucson. Thanks to all who donated to help with Kayte's medical costs. ■

Two of the Mesa Four

Booger and Lance by Cyndi Cunico



The Mesa Four, along with their “normal” siblings were born beginning the night of October 16, 2003 and on into early the next morning. A Merle-to-Merle breeding left 4 of the 8 impaired. Their fate was already sealed (a one-way trip to the Vet’s office), when Kelly stepped in and brought them home. Nursing them night and day produced 4 very chubby, healthy babies.

Lance and Booger, now known as Dakota and Cheyenne, reside happily in California with Scooter and Mimi, along with Mom, Dad and Corey, who provide all the spoiling they can possible handle.

Both are doing great and are very much loved. And in Luanna’s own words, “I’d like to add my thanks and appreciation to everyone at Aussielads for the wonderful care and fostering these two angels received (along with their siblings). Mark, I and Corey feel grateful, fortunate, blessed and fulfilled by having these two “special needs” puppies in our life.”

“The really great thing is you would never be able to convince Cheyenne and Dakota that they aren’t normal or they have special needs. They want what every pet wants, someone who loves them, cares for them and protects them.” I couldn’t have said it better!

Magnus and Kissin’ Kate, Cheyenne and Dakota’s siblings, are still waiting for their forever homes. ■

Thanks to All of Our Donators

All of us here at Aussielads would like to say a “Special Thank You” to all of our wonderful donators. Many of you obviously follow our website and always lend a hand for those special babies who need the extra care and loving due to some unforeseen medical problem. Without your help and loyal support, we could not possibly provide the medical attention to these unfortunate individuals and still continue on to save others. We could not exist without YOU and your support! Thank You!!!

A Foster Mom’s First Adoption

Winter by Deana Kilgos



I’ve always wanted to foster, but was too soft-hearted, afraid of getting attached and not being able to let go. My Maggie, a deaf and blind Lethal, is the reason I decided to “take the plunge”. These babies are special, and I wanted to share my experience with others in need. Chico was my first foster, then Joey and several days later Winter came. When we got an application request for Winter, a knot grew in my throat at the mere thought of giving her up. The application looked good and we proceeded with an interview and home visit (thanks to Bonnie with STAAR in CA). Now it was time for Laura, along with daughter Katie, friend Valerie and Aussie Gus, to meet Winter. I have to admit I shed a few tears at the thought of Winter leaving. When they arrived at the hotel, hubby Jim and I loaded Winter in the car and headed to finally meet everyone. On the way, I wondered, “Would I like Laura as much in person as I did on the phone? What if I made a mistake? After all, how could any home possibly be better for Winter than mine?” My fears were laid to rest immediately. Laura was great and Winter took to Katie and Gus right away. There was no reason for the adoption not to go through, so I took Winter back home for one last night with us. I said my goodbye to her early the next morning because I knew I would not be able to when it came time for her to leave. Through all the tears, I knew there wasn’t a more perfect home for Winter. She’ll be loved, spoiled and taken care of...the ultimate goal of every foster home. As difficult as it was, I’m proud of the role I played in Winter’s life. Will it be easier with the next one? Probably not, but finding that perfect home is worth it all. Thinking about fostering? I say, “just do it!” The satisfaction of knowing you helped make all of this possible is unmatched. Thank you Laura, Katie and Gus for loving Winter and providing me the opportunity to share this story! Check Winter’s page for updates. ■

Sponsorship Program



Ongoing Medical Care

Rescuing “special needs” dogs comes with an added responsibility of providing medical care beyond the normal Vet check visits and

treatment of typical diseases associated with rescue dogs. Our main concern is always the eyes because of the many conditions they are susceptible to. When visible signs of any eye condition are present, a visit to the ophthalmologist is required and this specialized care can become quite expensive. Such is the case with Ozzie (pictured). Ozzie’s eye condition requires daily medication and follow-up visits at the eye specialist. In addition to his eye condition, Ozzie also has Valley Fever. It is our responsibility to provide eye and Valley Fever medication for Ozzie as long as he is in foster care. This cost also includes bloodwork to check his Valley Fever titer and eye exams to check the progress of his eye condition. Yes, we knew all of this when we agreed to accept Ozzie into our rescue, but didn’t realize that his long time medical care would have such an adverse effect on our financial situation. We are but a small rescue group, still not 501 (c) (3) status and overwhelmed with Lethals-in-need, some needing similar medical treatment.

We will be introducing a Sponsorship Program for dogs such as Ozzie who need ongoing treatment and medications. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please check out website for details about the different levels available.

And don’t forget to visit Ozzie’s page, he’s still looking for his forever home! Or perhaps you would like to sponsor Ozzie? ■

Disclaimer

All content in this newsletter is provided solely to relate information obtained from experience, research and theories from the members of our organization, and should NOT be used as a means of diagnosis or treatment. Please consult your Veterinarian for all health, as well as behavioral issues (may be due to a medical problem). For pets with serious behavioral issues, please consult a professional for advice.

Long Time Residents

Still Looking For Their Family



Chico has been back with us (his first home didn’t work out) since August of 2003. He is blind and deaf and a very sweet boy.

www.aussielads.com/chico.htm



Bounce has been with us since October, 2003. He has survived Distemper and loves to snuggle and give kisses.

www.aussielands.com/bounce.htm



Sweet, gentle Marco is one of the original Lethal 5 and has been with us since July, 2003. Marco is blind and deaf and one of the sweetest dogs alive.

www.aussielads.com/mr_blue.htm



Scrapy has been with us since September, 2003. He has overcome many obstacles in his short life and continues to thrive.

www.aussielads.com/scrapy.htm



Toby joined us in December, 2003. He is totally blind and deaf, but such a treasure. He is a sweetheart and loves attention and giving kisses.

www.aussielads.com/toby.htm

All of the listed “long-time residents” are safe and happy in foster care, but would really love to have a family of their own. For more information about each individual dog, please visit their links. ■

Feedback!

Tell Us What You Think

Thanks for the feedback on previous issues. We would love to hear more!!! Tell us what you would like to see in future issues. All comments are welcomed!

If you would like to submit a "Lucky Lethal" story, please send your story, along with a picture, to Cyndi at Cyndi@cableaz.com You will receive notification of when your story will be published.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter but does not have internet access, please contact Cyndi at Cyndi@cableaz.com for details on how to obtain a hard copy. ■

Information!

About our newsletter

Lethal Whites Across USA is a publication by Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue for those interested in the support of Lethal Whites (Special Needs Aussies). The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed to be of interest to our readers, but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of all Aussie Lovers. Reader input is encouraged and will be seriously considered for future publications. ■

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Lethal Whites



Join Our Team

Lethal Whites Across the USA

Aussielads, as well as SNAP, constantly gets calls asking for help with Lethals-In-Need all across the USA. Our goal is to establish safe havens for all of the Lethals located in other states. We are attempting to establish "contacts" in as many states as possible to help get these precious babies to safety. If you can offer any assistance such as fostering, temporary fostering, transport, evaluations, home checks or simply answer questions someone might have about Lethal Whites, please consider joining our team of great people! If you would like to "join our team", please email Cyndi@cableaz.com for details!

PLEASE CONSIDER FOSTERING!

If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please contact Deana (Arizona) at dfkilgos@aol.com or call (602) 750-2722 or Kathy Munie (Missouri) at snappdogz@sbcglobal.net or call (314) 853-6542 ■

Donations are welcome!



Donations are not only welcome, but are always needed, especially for Vet care. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help us save many more Lethals-In-Need, please send a check payable to: Aussielads *Lethal White Aussie Rescue*, 926 W. Nido Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210 or use PayPal, available on our website. ■

Editor: Cyndi Cunico - Mesa, Arizona

Look for our July 2004 issue for news and highlights from Aussielads! Have a safe summer and remember to use sun block for those pink noses!!! ■

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