

Lethal Whites *across* USA



Volume 2, Issue 1 © Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue 2003 – 2004

January 2004

Welcome! *Who We Are...*



Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue (formerly known as Aussielads Aussie Rescue) is a small 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 and Kristie Reese. We are in the process of applying for 501(c) 3 status and hope to be up and running with that certification by the end of February.

For additional information on our rescue, please visit www.aussielads.com and click on the “about us” icon. ■

Lethal Whites



Aussielads A New Beginning

Cyndi Cunico
Aussielads Lethal White Aussie Rescue

Since our October issue, Aussielads has been quite busy! We are excited about the addition of our two great new partners, Paula Curry and Kristie Reese. Paula and Kristie started out with an interest to foster for us and, before long, became our partners. Their devotion and dedication to this breed, especially the Lethals, is outstanding. Their very first foster involved a trip to California to get Branwyn and bring her safely home. In addition to fostering/training this beautiful special needs girl, they were eager to help with our Pets 911 educational presentations. Before we knew it, they were doing so much more than simply “volunteering”. We soon realized that we relied on their expertise, talents and the immense energy they offered and we couldn’t afford to “lose” them. So, we invited them to be part of what we feel is a great, worthwhile organization. We’re happy to announce that they accepted!

One of several changes at Aussielads includes our Blind and/or Deaf Support Group monthly sessions. Our January 18, 2004 session will include a demonstration in agility by a non-special needs Aussie, as well as Lorraine’s Hope, who is deaf and slightly vision impaired. Our intentions are to do more than offer support and/or advice to those who already share their lives with these extraordinary creatures, as well as those who are considering doing so. We want others to see what great accomplishments they can achieve in addition to being our best friends.

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Meet Our New Arrivals!

Cody by Kristie Reese



Hi, my name is Cody and I am 3 months old. My birthday is September 18, 2003. When I went to the doctor yesterday, I weighed 18 pounds. My foster Mommies tell me I am going to be a big boy. (I think I am already a "big boy") When I was born I had a lot of white fur and my mom's owner Cyndi knew that I was different than my brothers and sisters. Cyndi and her husband talked about what would be the "right" thing to do since they knew I might have trouble seeing and hearing. After a lot of talk, they decided to give me a chance just like all my bothers and sisters. When it was time for us to leave our Mom, Cyndi knew that I could hear fine, but had a little trouble seeing. She was worried about finding the right home for me and considered keeping me for herself. It was a really hard decision for Cyndi when she was contacted by Aussielads, but she decided it would be OK for me to go live with them until I found my forever home. I am now living with Morgan (5 year old Black Tri) who thinks just because she is the oldest she should be the boss. But that's OK because I also have KC (3 year old Cattle Dog mix) and Cassidy and Sundance (Sedona kids) to play with any time I want. I also live with 3 girl CATS!! They aren't as much fun to play with since they always jump on the furniture where I can't get them. I am having fun while I am waiting for my forever home and every day I know how lucky I am that Cyndi and her husband took a chance on me. I am learning lots of fun stuff, not just the boring things like potty training and how to walk on a leash, but the fun stuff like what's under the grass and what a tree tastes like. For more info on Cody, please visit www.aussielads.com and click on Cody in the navigation bar. ■

The Mesa Four

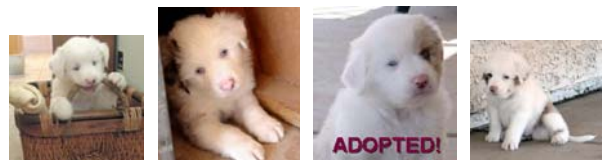


On October 19, 2003, we were contacted by a wonderful lady who saved these 4 precious babies from being put to sleep. The breeder deliberately did a Merle-to-Merle breeding, fully knowing the consequences. The litter was born October 16 and October 17, 2003, and consisted of 8 puppies; 4 of them being Lethal Whites (50% of the litter). This breeder intended to take these four pups to her vet to be put down, but fortunately for them, he was on vacation. Kelly convinced the breeder to turn over the Lethals to her so she could try to find them good homes, and that's when she contacted us. Since the breeder refused to allow them to nurse with their mother, Kelly and her family bottle fed them day and night, while Storm and Jigsaw (Kelly's Aussies) helped provide the necessary canine socialization and "motherly" love.

The Mesa Four consists of Booger (Blue Merle female); Lance (Blue Merle male); Kissin' Kate (Red Merle female) and Magnus (Red Merle male). They are now nearly 2 months old and are quite healthy, socialized, loving pups. They each have some varying degree of sight impairment and the girls are both deaf.

To learn more about each pup, please visit www.aussielads.com and click on Available Aussies.

Here's a "sneak peek" of them today! (in order as listed above)



For more details, please visit them online ■

CONTACTS ACROSS THE USA!

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Another great feature offered at Aussielads is the "Ask Lorraine" section on our website. Lorraine Ayres, a vital and talented partner, spends much of her time helping others understand how to effectively work with these special needs babies or to recognize many of the harmful conditions involving their eyes. Many of the emails requested advice on how to communicate with them, especially those who are blind and deaf. So others could learn and benefit from Lorraine's advice, we now post the Questions and Answers on our site. Just visit www.aussielads.com and click on the Ask Lorraine icon. We also offer in-home training for special needs dogs in the Phoenix, AZ area. Visit our Training page for details!

As our organization grows, our efforts to educate about the dangers of Merle-to-Merle breeding grow as well. The past several Pets 911 events were extremely successful due to the efforts of all involved. We reached twice as many people and provided additional pictures and information about many "foster babies" who were unable to attend, on our new display board, built by Kristie and Paula. Be sure to check our scheduled events list (page 6) to see where to find us this year. To learn more about the Pets 911 Auxiliary, check the ad on page 7.

Many of you will notice a major change in this issue of our newsletter...the absence of Kathy Munie of SNAP (Special Needs Aussie Placement) as a contributing editor. This absence is one of convenience only! This decision was based solely on my ability to work more effectively from one location to prepare and publish this newsletter in a timely manner. Aussielads and SNAP work closely together to ensure safe havens for all the Lethals, regardless of their location. We each have many different contacts that we readily share when helping a Lethal-in-need and we will continue to do so. Please stop by to visit all the wonderful Lethals available for adoption at SNAP and learn more about their training efforts.



To learn more about Kathy Munie and SNAP, please visit www.snap4thedogz.org ■

Ask Lorraine!



Good Morning!

I am writing from the Jacksonville Humane Society in Jacksonville, Florida and am searching for some guidance. I am the foster mom of a "lethal white", 3 month old female sweetheart that is both blind and deaf. I would very much appreciate any information/time tested tips for getting Bonk (her name) off to a good start. Instilling a soft mouth without corrections (if this is even possible) is my greatest challenge. Really anything you have time to jot down would be great. Thank you so very much!

Becky (Becky Howard Customer Services Supervisor)

Dear Becky,

You will have to use touch signals with Bonk. Is there any possibility she sees light and dark, or maybe shadows? Always have a light on at night, especially when she has to go out to potty, make sure the porch light is on. Leave some lights on in a dark hallway...if there is some vision that will help her navigate. The touch signals I use for Toes (and my foster pups) are listed below. You can also make up your own signals as needed for specific situations.

Touches to right or left shoulder..... pay attention, turn this way (depending on what shoulder you touch)

One finger rub forward under chin..... come forward

Rub right (or left ear)..... good girl/boy

Touches to rear end..... sit

Touch between shoulder blades..... lie down

Hands flat on top of head..... get down (if jumping on you or counter when older!)

One finger tap slightly across top of nose (2 times).... quit doing that

Hand flat on chest..... stay

Continued next column

It is very important that you touch her a lot. She needs to know she is cared for and loved, and by touching, you are telling her this. Of course lots of hugs and kisses help too. Always wake her up from sleep with a gentle touch to the body. I usually touch the shoulder, but if I am reaching in the kennel and the hip is closer, I touch that first...depends how far you want to crawl in the kennel! And speaking of kennels, I recommend the open wire ones, as not only do they allow for air flow (these kids get hot quickly), they allow for the senses to be used.

You can use your hand to gently guide her in the direction you want her to go when she is walking. She will get the idea after a while. I use this to help the pups to the door and get them to where it will open...just kind of "steer" her with your hand. I also use this to "guide" them to the food bowl, but the sense of smell helps lots here!! Puppy potty breaking works the same way; out as much and as often as needed and lots of hugs and kisses for pottyng outside. You know with a regular pup, you pretty well have to run and scoop up and take outside, it works the same way with these special needs kids!!

As far as the puppy biting, I do what you would with a regular puppy...put something they should be chewing on in their mouth! If it keeps up, I hold the bottom jaw until they want it released more than they want to bite you. I have been told pressing the thumb down on the tongue and holding it will make them quit biting, but it hasn't worked for me, but worth a try. I also roll the bottom lip over the bottom teeth, so when they bite down, they feel the pressure on their lip. This has worked well for me with some pups, but not with others. Of course with continuous biting, you simply stop all play. Try to give her a little leeway with the mouthing, as since she is blind and deaf, she is using her mouth for taste and feel. I allow more of this with blind and deaf pups than I would with a hearing and/or seeing one. Treat her as much like a regular pup as possible and let her find her way around by herself so she can "map" out things in your house and yard. Of course, keep her from any danger or from running into something too hard. Most of the time, it will just be a "bump" off this or that. I think you will be surprised at how quickly she learns to get around.

Lorraine & the Ayres Gang ■

The Sedona Kids

Cassidy and Sundance



On November 7, 2003, two very precious 4-week-old pups joined our rescue, courtesy of the Sedona Humane Society. These babies were owner turn-ins as a result of a Merle-to-Merle breeding. At the tender age of 4 weeks, they needed some hands-on care that the Humane Society could not provide. They were graciously released to us for a refundable deposit when proof of spay/neuter is provided. Cassidy is a Blue Merle Lethal White, totally deaf with some slight vision impairments. She is a total sweetheart and enjoys playing with all the other dogs. Sundance is a non-special needs self Blue Merle (no copper markings) who is very high energy and way too smart for his own good! They both also enjoy quiet time getting lots of loving from their foster parents or just hanging out chewing on a toy.

They are currently in foster care, being potty trained and socialized. Cassidy and Sundance are "cat friendly" as they currently share their home with 3 wonderful, tolerant cats. They will be spayed/neutered and current on vaccinations before adoption (as are all of our pups). For additional information about Cassidy and Sundance, please visit our website and click on the Sedona Kids link in the navigation bar. ■

[Pets 911 Events Schedule 2004](#)

Please stop by to see us at the scheduled events;

February 14, 2004 – Unitarian Church Adopt-A-Thon

March 21, 2004 – Franciscan Renewal Adopt-A-Thon

April 17, 2004 – DC Ranch Adopt-A-Thon

August 7, 2004 – 2nd Annual Bowling for Animal

Please check our [Pets 911 Adoption Events](#) page for complete details!

Success Story

Duncan (non-special needs Aussie)



Although Duncan is not a Lethal White, his success story is definitely worth telling!

Duncan is a 7-year-old Blue Merle male who had been around the rescue circuit for some time. He had been neglected and had some physical problems. A rescue group had taken him in, cleaned him up and took care of his medical problems. He was diagnosed with an overactive thyroid and an eye condition called pigmentary keratitis. Both conditions require daily medication. We heard he had found a good home, but a few months ago, we were contacted by a very nice lady, Pam Mundy. Duncan had been returned by his new home for chasing the cats. Pam asked her uncle to foster Duncan and he did, until he had medical problems and could no longer do so. No one would take Duncan, so Pam boarded him at her vet's, sending him daily to a doggie day care for exercise and socialization. Pam realized that she couldn't do this forever and it wasn't fair to Duncan. She called us for help. We lined up a great foster home, Carol & Dean, who adopted Jazz & Taz (Lethals) from us a year ago, but they also have cats. Kristie evaluated Duncan and tested him with her grandmother's cats (thanks Grandma). He did just fine, Kristie took him to Carol & Dean's, along with Pam, making sure everything was good for Duncan. It was perfect! Duncan enjoyed his stay in his new foster home, living happily as one of the family. When Duncan's new "forever" family came along, it was difficult for Carol to let go, but she knew it was the perfect home for him, especially after meeting everyone. Duncan now has a "mom and dad" of his very own, as well as two great "brothers", Chopper and Rocky to spend the rest of his life with. He gets lots of loving and his mom reports that he is a perfect gentleman. Please check out our website for new pictures and updates. Way to go Duncan! Please visit our website, click on **OUR LUCKY LETHALS** to see who has been adopted! ■

Can You Help?



Ozzie Needs A Loving Home!

Ozzie appears to be a Lethal White Aussie mixed with Rhodesian Ridgeback and maybe a little Cattle Dog

thrown in and is an absolute sweetheart. He is about a year old and has been with his owner since he was 5 weeks old. His owner lived in a trailer with no fenced yard, so each day he was chained outside to a tree. He has been tormented by kids who threw rocks at him just for fun. He had also been attacked by some of the neighboring dogs. Ozzie was brought to Power Road Animal Hospital to be put down because his owner thought he had been poisoned. He was vomiting, had bloody diarrhea, was filled with ticks and was so skinny. The great staff at Power Road thought that Ozzie deserved a chance to live, so the owner relinquished him to them. Ozzie has been tested for just about everything, and it was discovered that he does have Valley Fever, (1:8 titer), which is treatable. Ozzie only has about 10% vision, but hears just fine. He was seen by an ophthalmologist and is currently on medication. Ozzie is now healthy and has been neutered. He is a little shy, but is learning to trust every day. Right now, he is living at Power Road Animal Hospital. The staff has been evaluating him, as well as socializing him. We are working to get him into foster care, but we currently have no space available.

If you would like to learn more about Ozzie and are interested in adopting him, please contact Power Road Animal Hospital at 480-641-4141. If you are interested in fostering Ozzie, please contact Paula at k9critters@cox.net for a foster home application. ■

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.

Update on N. CA Lethal 5

Where Are They Now?



Mr. Black aka Riku born 5/24/03 died 8/27/03 from aspiration...his family still mourns him deeply. He will always be in our hearts.



Mr. Blue aka Marco still resides in foster care with Lorraine. Marco is totally deaf and blind and at 6 months of age, loves living and playing with the Ayres Gang, but would love a family to call his own.



Mr. Green aka Albi was adopted 9/29/03 and lives with his brother Ty, a deaf Lethal. Albi knows over 30 hand signs and enjoys his new home immensely. Chris and Desarae are wonderful parents and Albi is one lucky boy!



Mr. Red aka Mad Max was adopted 9/6/03 and lives a wonderful life with a sweet, loving white boxer named Ali. Although Max cannot hear, he does have sufficient vision to learn from Ali as she excels in agility. Max is a very smart and happy boy!



Ms. Purple aka Lyla was adopted 11/14/03 to a wonderful home where she is "queen" over a sweet, adorable English Mastiff. Goliath is so gentle and allows Lyla to be the queen she was meant to be!

For more information, great new pictures and current updates, please visit www.aussielads.com and just click on the "Aussie butts" to read all the latest updates on the Northern California Lethal 5 Pups! ■

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

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 Paula (Arizona) at k9critters@cox.net or call (602) 750-2722 or Kathy Munie (Missouri) at snap_4thedogz@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 ■

Editor: **Cyndi Cunico** - Mesa, Arizona

Look for our April, 2004 issue! We hope to bring you news about other new, exciting changes going on at Aussielads. Hope all your Holidays were filled with much joy and happiness!!! ■

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