



Welcome!

Who We Are...

Kathy Munie & Cyndi Cunico

SNAP & Aussielads Aussie Rescue

We're so excited about having our very first issue of Lethal Whites across USA. We get so many inquiries about these Special Needs Aussies that we decided we could easily share all the information here with everyone.

Kathy Munie is the founder of SNAP (Special Needs Aussie Placement). SNAP was founded in 2001 because of the large number of Special Needs Aussies in need of special homes that would look beyond their physical disabilities. SNAP provides hand signal training prior to adoption and upon request afterwards.

Cyndi Cunico of Aussielads Aussie Rescue began rescuing Aussies over 5 years ago. About 3 years ago, Aussielads began getting calls about blind and/or deaf Aussies that were scheduled to die in the pounds because they were deemed unadoptable.

During this past year, Cyndi and Kathy have been working together in a joint effort to save more Lethal Whites than ever before.

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Lethal Whites



The term "Lethal White"

Cyndi Cunico

Aussielads Aussie Rescue

I'd like to take a moment to explain why we choose the term Lethal White to identify with these wonderful Aussies.

We had been doing rescue for nearly five years and until we came across our Kandoo (very limited sight/hearing), we had never actually seen a "lethal white" Aussie. Since we began rescue on our own, our "method" of rescuing Aussies had changed and so did our exposure to Lethal Whites. They say, "What you don't know can't hurt you" and that is so true. Up until this point, we thought we were doing a great service by re-homing misunderstood Aussies. We now realize that we are on a completely different level. While all of the Aussies that have passed through our lives have taught us so much, you can't imagine what the blind and/or deaf Aussies have taught us!

The term "lethal white" was discovered while doing research to learn as much as we possibly could in order to help these poor babies. The decision to use this term was not one that was made lightly. We also came across the term "double merle", along with homozygous. We ruled out double merle because during our years of taking in Aussies from owners, many did not even know the Aussie they had was a blue or red merle. The term homozygous, well, I have trouble pronouncing it, let alone explaining it!

The term "lethal white" not only caught my attention, but it made sense to me. The word lethal means deadly and I believe that the result of Merle-to-Merle breeding is deadly, especially to those "1 in 4" pups that it affects. Approximately 1 in 4 pups born from a Merle-to-Merle litter are usually born blind and/or deaf

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Welcome!

Who We Are...

Now that we have joined forces, we will be able to bring you more information, exciting news and events across USA!

We hope you enjoy our very first issue. And we look forward to spending time with you again through future issues. ■

SNAP (Special Needs Aussie Placement)

Kathy Munie

Jim & Kathy Munie, along with Fran Cooney, of St. Louis, MO founded SNAP, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the rescue & re-homing of deaf and vision impaired Lethal White Australian Shepherds in 2001. SNAP provides basic training in hand signs to the deaf dogs in their care prior to adoption and upon request, offers training assistance after adoption. Special needs dogs do make wonderful companions; they are loving, affectionate and willing to please. We encourage all potential adopters to give careful consideration to the responsibility involved in sharing your life with a special needs dog prior to adoption. The Munies share their home with 2 children, Amy (15) & Matt (9), along with 2 Lethals, Angel & Mango, Kal (non-special needs Aussie), Casey (Great Pyrenees) and Merrygo, a Lethal White foster. Fran shares her home with 2 Lethals, Helen & Luke and Oly, a Lethal White foster. ■

Aussielads Aussie Rescue

Cyndi Cunico

Aussielads Aussie Rescue!



Dave & Cyndi Cunico founded Aussielads Aussie Rescue in August of 2000, after working several years with another rescue group. We have fostered and re-homed many wonderful Aussies and are now concentrating on finding Lethal Whites new loving homes. We share our life with 2 Lethals, Kandoo and Dimmer, along with 4 non-special needs Aussies, Augie, Austin, Alex and Stormy, and an African Senegal Parrot called Spanky ■

Until there are none - Rescue one!

Bliss' Incredible Journey!



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Subach

This is an amazing story of a 6-month-old Blue Merle Lethal White who was due to die in Orem City Animal Shelter (a kill facility) in Orem, Utah. A fellow Aussie rescuer in Utah placed a call to Aussielads Aussie Rescue for help. Thus began Bliss' incredible journey from Provo, Utah, passing through and spending time in Phoenix, AZ, Lawrence, KS and finally making it to her final destination of St. Louis, MO into the SNAP rescue. For details and pictures of her entire journey, please visit

http://www.aussielads.com/bliss'_journey.htm

Bliss had many "angels" to help her make her journey. She would like to thank Bliss' Angels: [Melissa & Kurtis Zobel](#) - Orem, UT; [Marilyn Subach](#) - Phoenix, AZ; [Dave Vodjansky](#) - Mesa, AZ; [Cyndi & Dave Cunico](#) - Mesa, AZ; [Lorraine & Dave Ayres](#) - Mesa, AZ; [Kathy, Chuck & Tony Johnson](#) - Lawrence, KS; [Kathy & Jim Munie](#) - St. Louis, MO

We would also like to report that Bliss has been adopted and doing wonderful in her new home!!! ■

Success Stories

In each coming issue, we will be highlighting a successful adoption story about one of the many wonderful Lethals that have found new homes. We even have some that are kind of famous (they've been on TV or in the newspaper).

We'll also introduce you to SAGE (Save Aussies Get Educated), our "spokesdog" for our Lethal White Awareness Campaign. ■

CONTACT US!

Listed below is our contact information. Please feel free to call or write for additional information or with questions or comments. We would love to hear from you!

SNAP

<http://www.snap4thedogz.org>

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Be sure to check here each issue for upcoming events or special notices!



If you read no other book in your lifetime, you MUST read this book! Although it is a "children's book", it will definitely be enjoyed by adults as well. Pete's story is about a blind and deaf (Lethal White) Australian Shepherd (although 9 years ago everyone thought Pete was a Dalmatian) from Chelsea's (Pete's canine sister) point of view. Please check out the site and order the book...what a great present...one that makes you laugh, brings tears to your eyes, and most importantly, teaches about believing in yourself when others don't. Thank you, Linda, for teaching us a little about life. Stop by to visit Pete & Chelsea today at <http://home.maine.rr.com/thevervilles/home.html> ■

The term "Lethal White"

(in varying degrees). Although there is no study that we are aware of to indicate that the immune system is also affected, we believe due to our experiences with Kandoo, that there is a possibility of immune system malfunction. While some lethals are born simply blind, many others have eye deformities, including being born without any eyes.

The breeding of Australian Shepherds is a complex process and should be thoroughly researched before considering breeding. Information about the genetics can be found at www.ashgi.org

Our goal is to educate the average Aussie person by bringing about awareness that Merle-to-Merle breeding in Australian Shepherds produces Lethal Whites. We do "Lethal White Awareness Campaign" presentations and provide educational materials about lethals. Materials for print are available at http://www.aussielads.com/lethal_white_packet.htm

We always have several adopted Lethals at our presentations so people can see how wonderful they are, but at the same time are able to see the disabilities that they live with for their entire lives.

We're hoping that the familiarity of the term Lethal White will be exactly what helps save their lives...either through prevention of litters or adoptions of the ones already here.

To learn more about Lethal Whites, please visit http://www.aussielads.com/lethal_white.htm ■

I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter....the castoffs of human society. I saw in their eyes love and hope, fear and dread, sadness and betrayal. And I was angry. "God" I said, "This is terrible! Why don't you do something?" God was silent for a moment and then spoke softly, "I have done something" was the reply, "I created you." - Jim Willis.



Language of Love by Cyndi Cunico

*I know you're there, but I cannot see you
I smell your presence and feel the vibrations of your
footsteps
You call my name, but I cannot hear you
Although, I can feel your breath gently ruffle my fur
You wonder, "What in the world would I do with this
dog?"
I wonder, "How can I let you know I understand?"
You decide to take a chance and give us a try
And I decide to do the same
You think I'll never figure out what you want
Because I can't see or hear you
But there's so much more to me than just sight or
sound
I can always feel what's in your heart
When you are asleep and your eyes are closed, I lick
your face
You know I am there because you can feel me
When you want my attention, you gently touch me
I react to your warm touch as quickly as though you
called my name
I do understand because you are patient and caring
Yes, life will be different
You will forget and call my name, and I will not
respond
Instead I will continue to do whatever it is I'm doing
But with the warmth of your touch
I will stop and wait for your next instruction
Language has a life of its own
And does not always consist of words or signs
I will learn your language
If you are willing to learn mine
It's called the Language of Love...Please speak to
me!*

Featured Rescue Lethal White



Meet Oly from SNAP

Oly is a 10-month-old male (neutered) Blue Merle (Lethal White) Australian Shepherd. He was left at a shelter by a breeder who requested that he be euthanized because he was deaf and therefore was considered un-sellable. Oly is totally deaf, completely blind in one eye and has about 40% sight in the other. He has been with us since he was 8 weeks old. Oly's brother was deaf, but sighted and he was adopted immediately. It seems as though Oly has been overlooked for some reason, although we don't why. He is very friendly and loves giving kisses. He is very well behaved in the house and loves to play with other dogs and children. He would do best in a home with another dog to help him figure things out. If interested in adopting Oly, please fill out an online application form found at <http://www.snap4thedogz.org> If you would like more information about Oly or would like to set up a meeting, please contact Kathy from SNAP. ■



Lethal White Graphics Available

We have received many inquiries about the Aussie graphics used on our site. We would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of Deborah & Kelly Burton (Silver Springs, FL) who have graciously designed the new Lethal White graphics. Please visit <http://www.fuzzyfaces.com/cdrom1.html> to order yours today. You can choose from many groups, such as: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, Herding and Special Cardigan Welsh Corgi and Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Agility, Obedience, Patriotic and Generic sets are also available. ■

Feedback!

Tell Us What You Think

Since this is our very first issue and we're rather new at this, we would love to hear what you think about our newsletter. 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 aussies@aussielads.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 Kathy at snap_4thedogz@sbcglobal.net for details on how to obtain a hard copy. ■

Information!

About our newsletter

Lethal Whites across USA is a publication by SNAP & Aussielads 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. ■

Advertise With Us

If you operate an animal related business that encourages and/or contributes to a pet-friendly environment, let us know.



Contact Lonnie for pet related signs/banners

Your business card could be in the next issue!

Want to advertise with us? Simply email Cyndi at aussies@aussielads.com for details ■

Lethal Whites



Looking for Foster Homes

Across USA

Both SNAP and Aussielads Aussie Rescue constantly get calls asking for help with Lethals-in-need all across the USA. As you know, Kathy is located in Missouri and Cyndi is in Arizona. Our goal is to establish safe havens for all of the Lethals located in other states. We are desperately looking for **Foster Homes** who can at least temporarily provide a safe haven until transport or space becomes available. We need foster homes in every state, especially in the **NORTHWEST** region. PLEASE HELP!

If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please contact Kathy Munie by email at snap_4thedogz@sbcglobal.net or call her directly at (314) 853-6542.

Any help you can provide either temporary or until adoption, would be greatly appreciated and is desperately needed. ■

Donations are welcome!



Donations are not only welcome, but are always needed. If you would like to donate to the efforts of saving many Lethals-In-Need, please send a check payable to **Special Needs Aussie Placement** and mail to 9328 Talbot Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123 or use MasterCard/Visa (for details visit <http://www.snap4thedogz.org> today. ■

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of Lethal Whites across USA and look forward to the next time we meet again. ■

Editors

Cyndi Cunico - Mesa, Arizona

Kathy Munie - St. Louis, Missouri

Our goal is to publish Lethal Whites across USA quarterly, so be sure to look for our April issue! ■