



## Akita Club of America, Inc.

### Rescue Funding Guidelines

*Revised November 14, 2007*

The ACA Rescue Fund was created for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to individuals and/or groups relating to "Emergency" expenses for purebred Akitas who are abandoned, rescued, or waiting at a municipal shelter and for whom no other funding is available or other funding may be insufficient.

These Guidelines are designed to standardize emergency funding efforts and to assist the Akitas, and the individuals and groups involved in their rescue, in a fair and equitable manner.

The following outlines what the ACA Rescue Fund will, and will not, consider for emergency financial assistance. Each claim application submitted to the Rescue Committee will be individually assessed and will require a majority vote of the ACA Rescue Committee members.

Funding Guidelines will be reviewed annually, based on actual requests and determinations.

Before any consideration is made, each group must have been assigned a Rescue Fund Identification Number. A Request for Funds Application with complete documentation must be submitted in accordance with the Funding Guidelines. The Rescue Committee has final approval authority in whether or not to assign a Fund ID number.

For the purpose of claims processing and payments, first priority will be given to claims involving Akitas that are in immediate peril or displaced Akitas at emergency veterinary facilities.

There is no limit as to the age of an Akita referenced in a claim. Each claim will be evaluated as to quality of life and adoptability of the dog.

The Rescue Committee will verify all claims submitted.

**Please note there are "monetary caps" on reimbursements.**

### **The Rescue Fund WILL consider:**

**1. Emergency Medical Expenses: (Cap of \$500 per dog; \$1500 per group/per year)**

These funds will be used to save the life of an Akita, or improve its health or physical condition so as to bring it to an adoptable state. This would include the following: severe deprivation, neglect, starvation, abuse, trauma, and surgically correctible conditions such as ectropion/entropion, cases involving commercial breeding facilities, puppy mills, and humane seizures. Other medical expenses may be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.

**2. Diagnostic Testing and X-rays of an Akita: (Cap of \$200 per dog; \$600 per group/per year)**

These funds are for an Akita with a suspected or known medical condition to determine adoptability. Including tests for insect borne diseases, hip dysplasia, thyroid condition, and other, non-routine, necessary diagnostic testing.

**3. Extraordinary Expenses: (Cap of \$300 per dog; \$900 per group/per year)**

These funds are for unanticipated additional expenses discovered during a routine examination or procedure on a rescued Akita. For example: During a routine spay, a tumor is discovered. The ACA Rescue Fund will consider reimbursement of the additional expenses of tumor removal and pathology.

**4. Emergency Boarding: (Cap of \$200 per dog; \$600 per group/per year)**

These funds are for emergency boarding for Akitas that are in immediate peril and when a rescue space, foster home or permanent home is unavailable at the time.

**5. Treatment for Insect Borne Disease: (Cap of \$500 per dog; \$1500 per group/per year)**

These funds will be used for the treatment of a rescued Akita with Heartworm, Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, Ehrlichia, or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The results of any of the listed conditions must accompany the claim.

**6. Pound Seizure: (Cap of \$300 per dog; \$900 per group/per year)**

These funds will be used to rescue an Akita from a shelter that falls under the "Pound Seizure" law. This law allows, and in some cases, mandates the sale of dogs and cats to medical research facilities.

**The Rescue Fund WILL NOT Consider:**

1. **Routine medications\*** such as wormers, heartworm preventative, thyroid supplements, glucosamine, etc.
2. **Capital expenses** such as the construction or renovation of kennels.
3. **Incidental expenses** such as crates, ex-pens, bowls, buckets, food, leashes, transport costs, etc.
4. **Spay/Neuter costs\***
5. **Transportation costs\***
6. **Routine boarding costs\*** (see #4 above for exceptions)
7. **Vaccinations\***
8. **Hereditary/Congenital Orthopedic Conditions\*\*** such as hip replacement surgery, cruciate ligament repairs and patella luxation. Unless orthopedic injuries are sustained through accidents or malicious acts.
9. **Degenerative Diseases\*\*** such as Cushing's, diabetes, VKH, SA or other autoimmune – mediated disorders that make adoption unlikely.
10. **Genetic Diseases\*\*** that are severe or debilitating, such as glaucoma, PRA, and epilepsy.
11. **Medical treatment of an individual's personal pet** will NOT be funded.
12. **Microchips and Tattoo's**, including their application/insertion.

*\* Akitas rescued from commercial breeding situations, puppy mills, dog auctions, BYBs, humane seizures and natural disasters, including fire, flood, earthquake, tornado and hurricane, involving 3 (three) or more Akitas are eligible for Rescue Funds. The Rescue Committee will discuss and determine the best way to handle the situation in question, including the possibility of increasing or removing caps and funding expenses that may not otherwise be covered. The Rescue Committee may request consultations with ACA Board Members, veterinarians, animal behaviorists, trainers, or experienced Akita breeders. Every effort will be made to determine the*

*best way to serve these dogs and the individuals/groups rescuing them. **If a claim of such nature is approved by the Committee then a cap of \$500 per dog will apply, up to \$2,000 total claims (including boarding) for each rescue group involved, per incident.***

*\*\* A few exceptions will be made to include dogs with any condition when a permanent adoption is imminent (proof to be supplied with claim). For example: VKH – where the dog will be able to live a quality life in his new approved home. **If a claim of such nature is approved by the Committee then a cap of \$500 per dog will apply.***

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Has an active ACA Rescue Fund ID number.
2. Must spay/neuter before placement, (excluding danger to health).
3. Uses Adoption Contracts with protective clauses for each adoption.
4. Has guidelines to ensure the safety of both people and dogs.
5. Temperament tests all dogs before placement.
6. Maintains the dogs in a well-kept facility and/or foster homes.
7. Provides educational material to help the adoptive family adjust to an Akita.
8. Provides veterinarian and vaccination records to adoptive families.
9. Visits potential homes prior to and after adoptions.
10. Continues to follow-up with adoptive family for at least one year.
11. Keeps a record of all placements.
12. Takes back all dogs if placement does not work out.
13. Must provide veterinary and adoption references upon request.
14. Is willing to give a public accounting for all donations.
15. Is willing to have an ACA Rescue Committee member or a designated representative of the ACA Rescue Committee inspect the facilities/foster homes and inspect all Akitas on the premises.
16. Is willing to euthanize a dog that is a danger to people.
17. All Akitas are cared for humanely, including providing quality food, clean water, adequate and clean shelter, regular exercise, socialization, training and medical care.
18. All Akitas adopted are either micro chipped or tattooed.
19. All Akitas adopted are bearing the rescue organizations tag, containing the rescue organizations name, telephone number(s) and other contact information.
20. All Akitas are adopted as indoor dogs only.
21. Will notify the ACA Rescue Committee of any change in address(s), telephone number(s), 501(c)(3) status, or named directors within two weeks of change.
22. Will notify the ACA Rescue Committee immediately if any director, officer, volunteer, agent, or member is charged with or convicted of animal cruelty. Or if any animals are seized by any law enforcement or animal control agency.
23. Will notify the ACA Rescue Committee immediately if the individual and/or organization no longer rescue's purebred Akitas.

## **CLAIM REQUIREMENTS**

1. The application must be filled out in its entirety, one application per dog, providing all names, phone numbers and addresses.
2. A licensed veterinarian must assess the dog's injuries or ailments and state the dog's health and that prognosis will be compatible with adoption.
3. Original bills and paid receipts must be submitted.
4. Bills must be less than 90 days old.
5. In the case of an estimate, the estimate may be turned in and the committee will advise

- what charges would be covered. No checks will be written until the procedure has been completed and invoices submitted.
6. Each dog's progress must be followed and reported back to the Rescue Committee.
  7. If an "Insect Borne" disease claim is being submitted, the results of the test must accompany the application.
  8. A photo of the dog must be included, as well as follow-up photos after treatment and adoption has occurred.

## **RESCUE FUND PROCEDURES**

**All claims must be mailed to the Rescue Coordinator. After receipt of the claim, the following steps occur:**

1. The group or individual will be contacted to indicate the claim has been received.
2. The veterinarian or boarding facility will be contacted to verify the claim. Veterinary advisors may be contacted, when necessary, to assist the Rescue Committee members' final determination for funding.
3. The claim will be posted to the web via a secure website.
4. All committee members will vote on the claim.
5. If the claim is approved by majority vote, the said group or person will be contacted via email and/or regular mail and a check will be cut by the ACA Treasurer and mailed within 45 days of receipt of the claim.
6. If the claim is not approved, the said group or person will be contacted via email and/or regular mail stating the reason for denial.
7. Any appeals to the Rescue Committee's decision may be made to the ACA Board of Directors through the ACA Rescue Committee Liaison.