



# AARTA"facts"

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## Canine Vision—Can Dogs See in Color and Other Interesting Facts

I think we've all been told that dogs don't see in color, only black and white. However, researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara did some tests in 1991 and found out that dogs do see color, just not the same way we do! What they do see is very close to what humans see who are determined to be color blind!

Dogs can determine violet, indigo and blue quite well. However, they have a lot of trouble distinguishing between red, orange, yellow and yellowish-green, although they can tell those colors apart from white. Blue-green appears white to them. And although green is a problem for them, they can tell it looks different than violet.

As an example, an orange retriever dummy would be difficult to see in green grass if the dog goes by color alone. If you want your dog to easily see you at a distance, wear something indigo. However, we need to remember that dogs have a lot of other senses that are stronger and help them interpret their world. Hearing, smell and touch are better developed senses for our canine companions.

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## Cocoa Mulch and Swiffer Wet Jet

Have you received emails about these 2 products and how they can kill your dog?

One is **true**, one is **false**. (They were checked out on Snopes)

It is **true** that cocoa mulch can be harmful to your dog if they eat it. It contains a lethal ingredient, Theobromine. It smells like chocolate so animals are attracted to it. This ingredient is also in chocolate, which is why chocolate is so harmful to dogs. The mulch is made from cocoa bean shells and has enough of this theobromine to be toxic. If they eat it, it will cause severe convulsions and they can die. So be sure to check what you are buying at the garden store, and don't use it in parts of the yard that your dog can get to.

It is **false** that Swiffer Wet Jet uses a similar ingredient to antifreeze. Proctor and Gamble's material safety sheet says that the cleaning fluid used is 90-100% water (hmmm, maybe a mop and a bucket of tap water would be just as efficient and cheaper??). Some of the other minor ingredients are NOT antifreeze ingredients, but are used in many different kinds of cleaning products. In addition, antifreeze causes kidney failure, whereas the false rumor mentioned liver damage, not the same thing.

The company says they designed the product to not leave a residue on your floor, so there is no need to rinse, thus nothing to leave behind to harm your pet. The rumor mentioned that the packaging said "may be harmful to small children and animals", when in reality the label said "avoid accidents, keep out of reach of children and pets" and goes on to indicate how to flush the eyes with water if it comes in contact with them. So if you've given up your Swiffer, it's safe to bring it out of the closet. ❖

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**How to contact us:** Update email: [AkitaAdvocates@cox.net](mailto:AkitaAdvocates@cox.net)



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## Canine Vision (cont.)

There is other interesting information about a dog's vision. Dogs are descended from wolves who were nocturnal hunters and scavengers, so they have large pupils to allow them to see at night. However, their distance vision is not as good as you might think. If a person has perfect eyesight when they have 20/20 vision, dogs have closer to 20/75, which means if we can see something clearly when 75 feet from it, the dog needs to be 20 feet away to see it well.

A Greyhound has different vision than a Pekingese. Due to the cells on the retina's surface and the placement of their eyes, sight hounds like Greyhounds and Salukis have wide peripheral vision that allows them to detect and follow their prey over a great distance. However the short-muzzled dogs like Pekingese & Pugs, don't have much peripheral vision, but up close they see extremely well. If a Pug is looking into your face, they will be able to see more than a Greyhound. This is why these little lap dogs seem so attentive and charming.

Dogs have 3 eyelids, and blink about 3 times a minute.

### Eye Diseases:

There are a couple of eye diseases that can affect Akitas, as well as many other breeds.

PRA: Progressive Retinal Atrophy, which is a form of inherited retinal degeneration. It destroys the cells of the retina and the blood vessels that supply it. The dog goes blind, and there is no treatment or cure.

VKH or UV: Known as Vogt-Koyanangi-Harada in people or Uveodermatologic syndrome in dogs. It starts with color loss in the skin and coat, especially around the nose and eyes. It progresses to inflammation of the eyes. It is a chronic disease, and some of the treatments have side effects. Blindness can occur.

There are veterinary ophthalmologists who treat diseases of the eyes. Breeders can have the eyes of dogs used for breeding checked and cleared of any inherited disease. There is also a registry of dogs who have been cleared---it is called CERF or Canine Eye Registration Foundation.

Information condensed from articles in the AKC Gazette:  
"Canine Color Vision" by Dana K. Vaughan, PH.D, May 1991  
"The Uncommon Sense" by Bud Boccone, December 2006 ❖

## Register Your Dog with AKC for Performance Events!

Even though you got your dog through Rescue, with no AKC paperwork, if the dog looks like a purebred, you can still register your dog with the AKC to enter performance events and gain titles.

The program is called PAL / ILP, which stands for Purebred Alternative Listing / Indefinite Listing Privilege. The program was designed to let you train and enter your dog in performance events such as:

- Agility Trials (All Breeds)
- Earthdog Trials (Small Terriers and Dachshunds)
- Herding Tests and Trials ( Herding Breeds, Rottweilers and Samoyeds)
- Hunt Tests (Most Sporting Breeds and Standard Poodles)
- Junior Showmanship (All Breeds)
- Lure Coursing (Sight hounds)
- Obedience Trials (All Breeds)
- Rally Trials (All Breeds)
- Tracking Tests (All Breeds)

All you need to do is fill out a form, send in 2 pictures to show that your dog is an AKC registrable breed, and a certificate from a vet that the dog has been spayed/neutered. The pictures should be taken at dog level, one full side profile and the other head on.

I registered my 2<sup>nd</sup> Akita, April, this way. She was an injured Akita I found in the center of an 8 lane freeway in San Diego, and she had been hit by a car or fallen out of a pickup truck. I trained her in obedience, and competed in a number of obedience trials. However, we never got our title, as she was too afraid of men judges and acted weird around them. (Ed. Carol Harris)

Just check out the AKC website at:

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Click on the Registrations tab, then look for the Purebred Alternatives section to click on. Forms, instructions and fees are all listed. ❖

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**AARTA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion Picnic  
was Sunday, Oct. 19 & was a great success!  
Thank you to Carol Harris our hostess and all  
our great adoptive families and dogs in  
forever homes who attended.  
Watch for photos in our next issue!**

## SPOTLIGHT ON AVAILABLE DOGS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### ST. FRANCIS FESTIVAL

OCT 25 & 26, SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 4 PM  
FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER  
5802 E. LINCOLN AVE, PARADISE VALLEY

#### KPMG ADOPT-A-THON

NOV 8, SAT, 10 AM – 3 PM  
MESA RIVERVIEW MALL, DOBSON & 202 FREEWAY

#### ANIMAL ADOPTION & BLESSING

NOV 8, SAT, 9 AM – 6 PM  
NEW VISION CENTER, SCOTTSDALE & HAYDEN RDS

#### WINTER WAGLAND ADOPTION FESTIVAL

DEC 6, SAT, 10 AM – 3 PM  
MARICOPA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL  
35<sup>TH</sup> AVE NORTH OF CAMELBACK & SOUTH OF MISSOURI

#### \*\*SPECIAL EVENT\*\*



DO YOU LIKE CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLIDAYS?  
WANT TO HELP AARTA AND GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT?



WE'LL BE SETTING UP DATES TO WRAP BOOKS & GIFTS AT BORDERS BOOK STORES IN DECEMBER. THE STORE PROVIDES THE PAPER, SUPPLIES AND A TABLE, WE BRING THE PEOPLE AND A DOG TO DO THE WRAPPING AND SOLICIT DONATIONS FOR THE SERVICE (PEOPLE DO THE WRAPPING, DOGS SOLICIT THE DONATIONS BY LOOKING HAPPY OR PITIFUL, WHICHEVER GETS MORE SYMPATHY!!!!)



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH SOMEONE, CALL CAROL HARRIS (602-547-9658) OR YOU CAN CONTACT A NEARBY BORDERS AND SET UP YOUR OWN TIME IN DEC. TO WRAP ON BEHALF OF AARTA. WE CAN GET YOU A POSTER BOARD WITH AVAILABLE DOG PHOTOS, A DONATION JAR, AND BUSINESS CARDS.



IT'S FUN! YOU GET TO TALK TO PEOPLE, THEY GIVE YOU MONEY, AND THE DOGS GET ALL THE ATTENTION!!



**Kaito**—Foster Mom is beginning to think he is Marmaduke, the cartoon dog. Kaito is under 2 yrs old, and is a big, goofy, fun loving dog, looking for mischief to get into. He'd love a family with some preteen or teenage boys to roughhouse with. He loves all people, but cannot live with other dogs. He has been learning his obedience commands and putting on weight. This boy looked like a skeleton when we took him in.



**Sasha**—A little over 1 yr old, Sasha's ears will not be standup Akita ears. But she loves people and kids and does well with small dogs. She has a lot of puppy enthusiasm and could benefit from some obedience classes. She was injured when she came into rescue, but has healed well and is ready for her new family.



**Kira**—She ended up in the shelter as a stray. We think she is approximately 2 yrs old. Kira seems to know sit and shake and is house trained. She's eager to want to meet a new playmate and become friends. She's a bit thin, but will fill out nicely once she has a family to love her and feed her well.



**Tano**—Isn't this all black boy handsome? We think he might be Akita and German Sheppard mix, and the kennel workers describe him as an "old soul", very at peace with the world and what happens around him. He was left behind, tied up in the back yard, when people moved, without even a bowl of water. He is sweet and loving, and just wants to rest his head in your lap and be petted.



**Mari**—This little girl came through rescue 3 years ago, and found a home right away. Mari seems to be part Border Collie, part Chow, and she ended back up in rescue when her Mom passed away. Dad is confined to a wheelchair and unable to take care of her. She loves kids and most other dogs, and would like to find her final home this time.

**Adopted:** Only Sadie was adopted from the last newsletter. Nikko, Rosie, Tessa & Raven are still waiting for their forever homes!

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