



## Orion's Diary



5 Feb

My owners took me to AreaK9 for a visit, what fun! I arrived at about midday to a chorus of barking from all the other dogs that wanted to say hello to me. The AreaK9 pack leader (Gary) let me go outside first, on my own, for a short time – and then all the other dogs came out to greet me. I've been to AreaK9 before, so I know the drill. Just stand still for a little while as everybody comes over to say "hi" and get familiar with my smell. When they finished, I wandered off to see what interesting smells there are since I was last here. I had a quick sniff of some of the other dogs – the more interesting ones: Daisy (Border Collie), Cino (Lab/Collie mix) and Casey (Golden Retriever). There were a lot of small dogs here this time, but I didn't bother with them.

Allegro (German Sort Haired Pointer) is a play-machine and he tried to get in my face a few times, but I simply ignored him and he went off to play with the others. I enjoy simply walking and running around the grounds, watching the others and discovering the new smells. I went over to the fence near the front of the house when all the others dashed over there to bark. Turned out a person was leaving. Had a quick sniff of a small black dog who smelt familiar, wonder why (Shadow Shih Tzu - Poodle mix)?



Figure 1: Shadow.

The other AreaK9 pack leader (Looda) came outside and I ran over to greet her, then off to chase Blueberry (mini Labradoodle), who is also a play machine, for a quick run before socializing with Daisy, who turned around and barked at me! Allegro was calmer after his running, so I said "hi" and then it was time to go inside. Looda went first, as always, and we all followed.

12:15 This was my first time in the house this visit so I wandered around smelling things to see what had changed. Took the time to greet Gary and was rewarded with a nice stroking – felt good. Decided to stay in the kitchen area as that's where the packleaders were. Allegro came over to bother me again and Cain (Shetland Sheepdog) growled him off. Cain, and his brother Abel, live at AreaK9 all the time so they know all the rules and help other dogs fit in.

12:30 I suppose Allegro got the message as he came up to me and licked my ears, respectfully in the way of an apology. Shortly after, I heard some other dogs playing in the dog room and some of them started to bark. Looda soon stopped the barking and game continued nicely! I was still in the kitchen with the packleaders who were eating something. Cafall (Husky Lab mix) went over to one of them and was being all affectionate and was secretly trying to get a bite of man-food. Didn't work!

12:43 Time to rest. We all sat on the floor around the packleaders and it was very peaceful. Too bad the packleaders kept barking at each other (they call it talking)-at least it was not loud like our barking. Had a little nap until Allegro came over to me again. He was being nice.

12:50 Heard a knock at the door and most of the others got excited and barked. It turned out to be Buggy and Harley (Boxers) coming to stay. I do love it when new guests arrive as it's really fun. They went outside first, then we all followed. Crowding round each in turn we all got a good sniff and then after we were done, let them do the same to us. I started to play with Harley, but Allegro butted in and took over. Just 'cos he has a nice blue coat, I bet. Some dogs played, some wandered around, like me until Harley came back to me to play. We both thought about it for a minute and decided to have fun for a short time. Looda called me over, and gave me some affection, and then we all went back inside. Some dogs wouldn't come in, but wanted to keep playing. As it was not too cold, I didn't want to go in either, but eventually I did as I was told.



Figure 2: Harley.

13:10. We were inside and the Looda put the new dog's food in the feeding room. We all followed to watch. I got another nice stroke and returned the affection.

Then Looda went into the small dog room with all the small dogs. And there were so many this time! She went to join Gary who was already in there. I couldn't fit through the small gate so I stayed in the area just outside and socialized with the other big dogs. Watched Allegro and Buggy playing - they seemed to really like each other as they played a lot together. I joined in for a short time. Cafall and Blueberry started to play with each other. Gary had come out of the small dog room and was in the kitchen, so we all stayed around him. Some lying, some standing. I lay down.

13:30 Allegro and Buggy are still playing. Harley joined in and tried to dominate Allegro. That was quickly stopped by Gary. Domination is not allowed at AreaK9. Gary checked our drinking water and filled all the bowls, but nobody was really thirsty. A lot of us eat the snow when we're outside so we don't drink as much water as you might think. Allegro started to whine, so we all went outside again.

14:10 I followed Gary for a while. He was cleaning the grounds. Its funny, but Cain gets really upset by this and barks. Abel, his brother, gets upset that Cain is upset and barks at him – what a show!

Another treat. A new dog came to see the place with his owners. We all had to go inside while the new dog got to smell the grounds by himself. And then the fun part, we all get to go outside and meet the new dog. The packleaders let Cain and Abel go first, and then each of us is let out one at a time. My turn came and I raced over to meet the new dog – Maomao (Labrador) – who was very young and shy. Allegro and Casey were a little rude – jumping up on the new people. They got told off. After we all had a good sniff of Maomao we just headed off in the grounds to have some more fun. The new dog went inside and most of the others tried to crowd in too, but they weren't allowed. We all went in shortly after, and stood in the entrance hall watching the new dog through the gate. Some barked, but Gary stopped that quickly. So all in all, we stayed pretty quiet. Max (big German Sheppard) and Cino simply lay down until it was all over. I noticed that Harley, Buggy, Cain and Abel paid no attention to what was going on.

14:35 The new dog left and we all went into the rest of the house. Allegro and Buggy started to play again. Each time they tried to dominate each other they got stopped by one of the packleaders. Allegro started to whine again, so he got to go outside by himself with Looda. Some dogs got excited about the noises outside and sporadic barking occurred. Each time Gary told the barkers off! I don't bark, so no problem there.

14:56 Allegro is back inside, and the playing begins as before. I lay down for a nap. Looda gave Allegro lots of hugs and kisses while taking his coat of. So I thought why he is the only one. I came to Looda and asked for affection. She was very nice, even let me put my paws on her shoulders and kiss her. Back to my nap.

15:15 Woke up. Got some affection from Gary, then lay down to watch Allegro, Buggy and Harley play again.

15:50 We all outside again. Blueberry, Allegro, and Harley started to play with each other. The rest of us just wandered around enjoying the smells of the outside. Then Allegro chased Cain, and Abel barked him off. So Allegro turned his attention to Cafall and they started the play hard. Just over the road some small kids were playing in the snow, so most of us rushed over to the fence to bark at them. I just watched. Then Allegro started jumping in the trees. Couldn't figure that out, why was he trying to jump into the trees? This was especially fun outside because Looda threw a ball for us. Those that wanted to play chased madly after it and you couldn't see the ball for the spray of snow when Allegro got to where it fell – he sure can run fast. I thought about running after it, but decided it was too much



Figure 3: Me, have a sniff at something new.

effort. Smelling things was much more fun. Looda only threw the ball a few times so that the excitement level remained controlled. Anyway, nobody minded when she stopped because everybody was getting tired.

16:05: We all went inside, I was last in. Max and Cino immediately lay down in their favorite spots in the entrance hallway. Others wandered around for a while. The small dogs went into their special room. I stayed in the kitchen with Gary. Daisy started to bark 'cos she couldn't fit through the small door to go into the small dog room. She wanted to join Cafall who could fit! Gary went there and we all watched what was going on.

16:24 The packleaders came out of the small dog room and we all got to socialize. After, Casey went to the dog room to lie down and Max and Cino went back to the entrance hall. We all stayed around the packleaders.

16:33 Looda took us all out, but nobody wanted to play. Too tired I expect. So we just wandered around. After a short time we went back inside and rested until dinner time.

17:00 Dinner time! We all stood behind the inner gate and watched Looda put out the food into the stainless steel dining bowls. The packleaders took us inside to the feeding areas one by one. Most dogs waited their turn, but some didn't and rushed in. Didn't do them any good as they got sent out again, and they had to wait their turn. I noticed that all of us were asked to sit first before being given our food.



**Figure 4: Feeding time. We all wait patiently for our turn.**

17:30 Dinner time finished. Most of us eat well, but Shadow needed special encouragement as did Max. Funny how some dogs don't want to eat their food. I don't understand that at all.

18:00 Time to go outside again, I tried to play with Daisy, but she ran away! Not many dogs played – still tired I expect.

18:15 We're all back inside and the packleaders are having man-food now. Before they eat, Looda gave each of us a treat. We have to sit first and then we get something yummy. Cain, Abel and Allegro were allowed in with the packleaders. The rest of us stayed in the downstairs, near the gate. Buggy and Harley didn't want their treats, so I got another!

18:45. Ellie (Lab Boxer mix) arrived and we all got excited so there was lots of barking by the others. Ellie went outside first, then we got to go and greet her. I

checked her out, then wandered off doing my own thing. Back inside after we all settled.

19:00 Allegro and Bugsy were playing too hard in the dining room, so they got told off again! I lay in the hall and watched as they kept on doing it – silly boys.

20:10 Time to go out again. Allegro gets his coat on, as usual, and Daisy barks with impatience. The others are excited too. Max charges outside and announces to the world that he's coming – how funny. He often does that. Somebody heard something on the road and barked, so all of us ran over to see what it was. Didn't see anything, so I don't know why the others barked.

21:00 Gary put away the water inside the dog room and put out the beds for the others. I got to sleep upstairs with the packleaders. As well, Allegro, Cain and Abel (of course 'cos they live here), Shadow, Mo (Boston terrier), and Blueberry were in the bedroom. Despite being offered a large dog-bed, I chose to sleep on the floor by the bathroom. Before we went to sleep, Blueberry and Shadow were playing in the bathroom. I left them to it and found a quiet corner.

02:00 Some of us went out for a pottie trip.

04:00 Another pottie trip. Only Mo and Allegro did not go.

06:30 A box in the room made noises and the packleaders got up. The day begins and we all go outside again. After we came back, Bugsy and Allegro started to play inside. Looked like they had become friends as they were playing very nicely.

07:00 We all get put in the entrance hallway while the packleaders start cleaning the floors. First they sweep, then they mop, and we sit and quietly watch. After cleaning, fresh drinking water is put out for all and we get to drink if we want. The packleaders clean the entrance hallway.

07:30 Various dogs played with each other. We're all full of energy after a good night's sleep. Cafall and Blueberry got too rough and had to be told off. Then Bugsy, Allegro, Blueberry and Ellie played with each other. Even Casey joined in when she wasn't rolling in the snow. Allegro, of course, had to butt in and Casey gave up!

07:36 Feeding time! We're all behind the inner gate, watching as Looda puts out our food. One of the pack was a constant whiner this morning, and had to be continuously corrected. Some ate fast, like last night, and a couple didn't seem to want to eat at all. I had a great appetite and ate all my breakfast.



Figure 5: Getting some treats.

08:07 Feeding almost done, so I went for some affection from Gary before we all went outside. The

packleaders cleaned the grounds and Cain and Abel did their usual thing. Most dogs were full of energy so the playing was fast and hard. A few didn't want to stop to go inside.

08:38. We're all back inside, and the usual suspects are playing inside now. I simply just watched until I had the urge for a brief fling with Harley – he's fun. Then I got to go upstairs with Gary when he had his breakfast. Just the two of us. I got to relax in the library on the soft carpet – wonderful!

09:25 Back outside for exercise etc. Max and Cino went back inside long before the others, still tired I expect. The rest of us played, wandered, sniffed, rolled in the snow and had fun. Then we went back inside for a rest.



Figure 6: Me, saying hello to max.

10:16 Another trip outside for more play and exercise. I didn't feel like playing so I just wandered around smelling things and watching the others play.

10:53 My owners came and it was time to go somewhere else – I was very happy to see my “mom” and jumped up and put my paws on her shoulders so I could say “hi” properly. I got a perfect report card (all A's) and my owners got a picture of me when I was outside in AreaK9's grounds.