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LOOKING TO ADOPT?

Are you looking for a new furry family member?

Visit www.aforeverhome.org or stop by an adoption event to find the perfect one. We have many wonderful dogs waiting for forever homes. Once you've fallen in love, the next step is to fill out an adoption application to get the ball rolling.

Go to www.aforeverhome.org for our adoption schedule and available pets.



Spring is here and AFH is busy as usual saving lives! We receive hundreds of emails every single week from shelters begging us to save their dogs so they don't have to euthanize any of them. Do you ever wonder how we select the dogs that we bring in?

Most of our dogs come from poor rural shelters with few resources, little to no funding, and a shortage of adopters. Without us, the future for these dogs would be bleak. We have partnerships with many shelters that have been in place for years. Our shelter partners take dogs in (some from the public and some are strays) and care for them while actively marketing them to rescues. They provide whatever information they have on each dog so we can make informed decisions. Once we commit to a dog, the next step is to find a foster home and transport the dog to us.

The first consideration when selecting dogs is to determine which dogs will appeal to our adopters. We try to have a wide variety of breeds, sizes, and activity levels.

The second consideration is which dogs our foster parents will be interested in fostering. They choose the dogs they want to foster. Some of the factors they use to decide are breed preference, housing constraints (breed or size restrictions, the size of their home, etc.), and/or a dog's activity level and temperament

Our foster homes are the lifeblood of our organization. They are directly responsible for our success. We have an exceptional team of dedicated foster parents who provide love and care to our dogs while they wait for forever homes, but we can always use more. If you are interested in becoming part of this lifesaving team, please email info@aforeverhome.org.

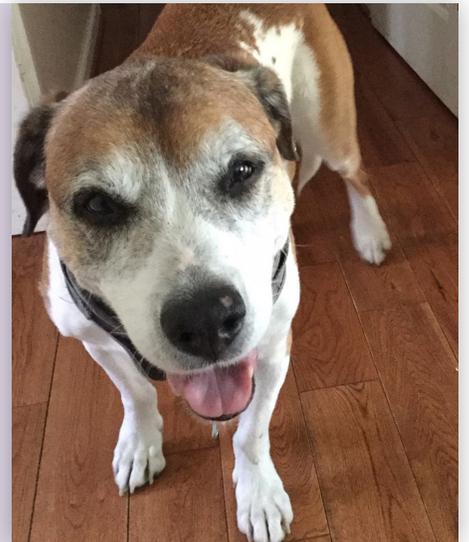
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LONG TERM RESIDENTS LOOKING FOR LOVE



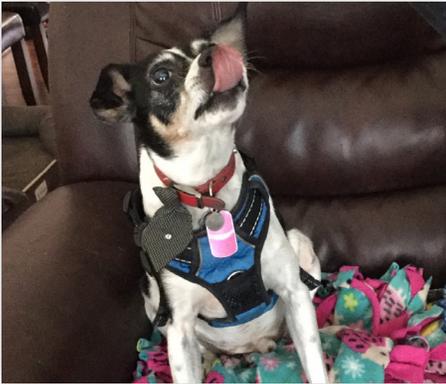
Bailee is a sweet almost 2 year-old hound mix. She loves to run and play and gets along great with other dogs (and seems to do okay with cats too). She is very gentle, but also very energetic, because... well, she's almost 2. She would love an active family that wants to run and play and wrestle. She is house trained, crate trained, and knows basic commands like sit, shake, and come. She is full-grown, so you get all the fun and energy of a puppy without having to worry about how big she is going to get or if she'll have an accident in the house. Bailee loves to chew so you will want to have lots of toys for her to chew on. The thing Bailee wants more than anything else is someone to love her and a place to call her forever home.

Leo is a 12 year old Boxer Mix. This handsome guy was given up because his family could no longer afford to care for him. Leo is active and energetic – don't let his age fool you. He loves to follow his humans around and talk to them. He is good with all people, including children. He is totally house trained too! Leo weighs 75 pounds and is a gentle soul. He gets along with 6 other dogs in his foster's home. He sleeps through the night, absolutely loves walks, and rides in the car very well. He is a very easy dog and he is well mannered. This gentle giant is a joy to be around. He would be a good fit for any household.



Freya is a sweet little 2 year old dog who can be your little princess. We have to be honest – she's just a tiny bit spoiled but just look at that face! She is a super lapdog and when she wants your attention she will let you know. She is not afraid of anything even though she only weighs 10 pounds. She loves other dogs and she is fine with her foster mom's cat. She likes bones and some toys too.

LONG TERM RESIDENTS LOOKING FOR LOVE



Prince is a 10 year old Rat Terrier Mix. We can't understand why no one has fallen in love with this little guy. He loves humans and other dogs. His favorite things are lots of attention, treats, playing, kisses, and long walks. All he needs to make his life complete is you!

Trixie is a 17 month old Boxer mix. She is a wiggly, loving, petite, girl who had a litter of puppies. Now that the puppies have been adopted it is her turn to find a home. She has been focusing on building confidence through learning her basic commands, proper leash walking, and practicing self-control. She does really well in a crate and has not presented with any chewing tendencies. She is a willing, loyal, and active girl who will do best with a combination of physical and mental work. She would make a fantastic running partner.

Due to her nervous nature, she would do best in a home without children. It's also recommended that she doesn't go to a home with cats or other small animals, due to her prey drive.

Trixie has been fostered by AFH's trainers, so you will get a dog who has learned a lot about how she is expected to behave. Her new family should build on that foundation.



AFH'S HOME REFERRAL PROGRAM

Are you looking to buy or sell a home? If so, please email homes@aforeverhome.net. Arlene Mains is a licensed real estate agent. For every home referral successfully closed through this program, AFH will receive a \$500 donation in your name! AFH's own Patricia McIntyre was the first person to sell a home through the program and AFH got a \$500 donation! There are no geographic limitations, by the way. Through Arlene's network, this is a worldwide program!



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The next consideration is a dog's health. AFH provides whatever level of care a dog needs, but as we all know, vet care is expensive and dogs with certain illnesses/conditions can require an extended period of time to treat. For this reason, we try to bring in dogs who are healthy; however, we do take in as many medical cases as we can because all dogs deserve a second chance.

Finally, our finances play a huge rule in our decisions. We

carefully balance every dog's medical needs with our available funds to ensure that we can properly care for every single dog.

In this issue we are highlighting some of our long-term residents. Most have been with us for six months or more, and it's time for them to find their forever families.

Please take a look at them and consider adding one of them to your family. You can get more information by emailing info@aforeverhome.org.

AMAZON HELPS AFH

Amazon has donated several thousand dollars to us so far thanks to those of you who shop there. There are two ways that you can generate donations to AFH at no cost to you. First, go to our website (www.aforeverhome.org) and scroll down to Ways to Support AFH. Enter what you are searching for and click Go! It's that simple. Since we are an Amazon affiliate, you have just generated a donation for us!



Now that you are on Amazon, type smile.amazon.com in your navigation bar. If you are already an Amazon Smile member, your shopping trip generates another donation for us! If you are not a member, you can sign up! It literally takes less than 30 seconds to generate donations!

While you're on Amazon, check out our wish list! Just click on Account & Lists, then Find a List or Registry, enter A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, and click search.

CAN YOU COMMIT?

As you likely know, AFH does not receive federal or state funding. Our operating expenses (which are minimal) and our yearly vet bills of approximately \$400,000 - \$450,000 are covered by your donations and adoption fees. We owe it to you to be good stewards of this money and we spend every penny carefully and thoughtfully. Our overhead is very low; vet care is our biggest expense. Every single service is negotiated to ensure that we get the best possible care at the best price. Still, we are hampered, like every charity, by available funds.

We are asking if you can consider a monthly donation in any amount. Just \$10 a month (the price of two of those fancy coffees) can make a huge difference to our puppies and dogs. Over 14,000 people receive this newsletter. If just half of you would commit \$10 per month to help us with our work, that would mean a whopping \$840,000 per year in donations. Imagine the work we could do with that kind of funding!

Please consider a monthly donation in any amount. Payments can be set up through paypal.com or justgiving.com. You won't have to write a check or look for an envelope and a stamp. This can make a huge difference in our ability to save even more dogs!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering with AFH is so rewarding! I have been volunteering for 12 years now, ever since we adopted Midge (pictured). Actually, Midge adopted my wife and me. We had just lost our beloved dog and needed someone to fill the void in our hearts. I stopped by PETCO and Jen the foster was picking up Midge and her siblings. It was love at first sight. I picked up Midge and she promptly peed on me! Jen brought Midge and two of her siblings by my house to meet my wife. Midge found the basket of toys we had from our other dog, climbed in,



JOHN CHARLTON

and laid down. She was HOME! I started helping out at the adoption events, holding dogs and watching the puppy pens, and then around 7 years ago, I started helping another volunteer with the adoption speech that all adopters hear prior to taking their new family members home. When that volunteer left, I took over that responsibility. I love being that final step before our dogs go to their forever homes. I have learned so much from AFH and I am looking forward to many more years helping puppies find their forever homes.

It is an easy task for me to describe what AFH has meant to me over the years. I have close friends who have asked many times why I would volunteer my time when I could get paid for it. They did not understand that I was being paid for my time, not with money, but with something much more precious. My love of animals has always been present in my life. AFH has allowed me to give purpose to that. I have loved every puppy and dog that has come through my home, and because of that I know that I am doing something important.

It is not an exaggeration to say that AFH saves lives every day. The dogs and puppies who come to AFH are the lucky ones. Far too many do not share their fate. Every volunteer in the



ANN SEDLAK

organization, whether they are setting up tables, walking dogs, helping with the public at the events, or making phone calls are important to this group. Every single one is saving lives.

AFH has played a vital role in my life in another way as well. When times were very bleak in my life the women of this group, whether they knew it or not, kept me focused on puppies. Snuggling puppies is awesome therapy!

AFH is a purveyor of love. They allow volunteers the opportunity to experience unconditional love of all the dogs and puppies that come through the group, and then they pass that bundle of love on to their forever homes where those dogs and puppies will be loved forever. How lucky I am to be part of that!

BELLA AND BEAR

Fourteen years ago, a standard poodle puppy, Bear, became a member of our family. He was high energy and a bit unfocused but incredibly affectionate. He did seem to miss being with other pups though and it just so happened that one of the wonderful rescuers from A Forever Home chanced upon an amber colored dog wandering the green space around the Beltway. With great patience, she was able to finally, after much trying, convince this independent creature to come to her car. This ragtag being turned out to be the most beautiful female apricot standard poodle! My friend Patti Stinson mentioned that a standard poodle was available for adoption, and with Bear in hand, we raced to the adoption event and it was true love all around! We found a sweet, beautiful girl to join our family and Bear and Bella became companions in an instant and did everything together for the next 14 years.



Bella was the leader. She was older and wiser of course and made sure Bear followed her! In the mornings, when they were both getting their treats, Bear would take the treat then give it to Bella, then come back for his! They ate their special roasted chicken dinners side by side. We shared many adventures and changes. When grandchildren came along, Bella could be found watching over a napping little one, demonstrating real maternal instinct. They loved to run and jump and play with each other, and oh how they loved snow! Bear and Bella were my "babies" and with them I was never alone. They owned my heart! So many people loved them — Bella was our Princess and Bear was our gentle giant.



We were shocked and upset when Bella was diagnosed with cancer last Spring. After consultations with outstanding specialists, we decided to let her enjoy whatever time she had left and she certainly did - exploring her big new yard, running with the handsome neighbor Lab, and getting whatever she wanted to eat! Bella



remained happy until it was time for her to go to the Rainbow Bridge on January 24, 2019. She did not suffer and we knew what was happening to her, so with broken hearts we had to say goodbye. She remained our Beautiful Princess till the end. Bear was so quiet after Bella was gone; we knew he missed her, but on February 1, 2019, with no previous notice, Bear became so ill that he could not move. A trip to the emergency vet revealed a shocking surprise - Bear had a highly invasive, fast moving cancer and he was going to join his Bella at the Rainbow Bridge. Our devastation knew no bounds.

While our hearts are torn apart at the loss of these very special companions, we are so grateful to Patti and all the volunteers at A Forever Home for making such special times possible. Without the persistence and kindness to convince this "stray" to come get some food from a human, without the willingness of volunteers to groom and care for Bella (she had Lyme disease and severe ear infections), without the kindness and effort of a foster family, we would never have known the great joy that we did. Thank you A Forever Home for all you do.

With much affection and appreciation, *The Mayhew Family*

Editor's Note: The Mayhew family just adopted another wonderful Poodle from AFH.

HAMBONE IS LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

Hambone is a Dachshund/Basset Hound mix who came to AFH a year ago. When he arrived, he was so morbidly obese that he had trouble getting around. His adopter, Alice Park, immediately got Hambone started on a diet and exercise program. Hambone has lost an amazing 25 pounds, and at 13 ½ year old, he is now living the good life! Alice also has another rescue dog, Casserole, and the two are best buds! His transformation is amazing and he is healthier and happier.



BEFORE



AFTER

AFH AND FACEBOOK

Do you know that not only does AFH have a Facebook page (AFH2002), but we have a Facebook group where adopters, supporters, and volunteers can share stories and pictures of your dogs (we can never see enough of your pictures!), and ask for and give advice. Just log in to Facebook, search for A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, and click join.



TWINS?

Carol Weishuhn lost her 17 year old dog Legend in 2013, two months before she adopted Rocky Raccoon. The litter Rocky came from had 5 puppies and she remembered one of the females looking just like him. Both pups were adopted around the same time.

Carol enjoys looking at pictures of our puppies and was recently doing just that (with no plan to adopt another dog) when she saw Zoey's picture. She immediately knew that this was Rocky's sister! She had been returned to AFH.

Rocky is an amazingly sweet dog. He is perfect with Carol's two granddaughters. He's been around both of them since birth. When she spoke to the foster mom, she described Zoey's behavior and it sounded just like Rocky. What happened next? You guessed it! Zoey went to live with Carol and Rocky. Carol says that it's like Zoey was always there and the two dogs bonded immediately. Zoey recently visited Carol's son's house

and Zoey was introduced to the young, very large group of neighborhood kids. She was in heaven. After giving out many doggie kisses she & Rocky stayed quietly by Carol's side.

Carol wrote to say thanks to everyone at AFH for everything they do!!!!



RILEY

Wendy Doherty wrote to let us know that her AFH dog Riley has started basic obedience classes, which is the first step of many to getting her certified as a therapy dog. Every vet she meets agrees she has a great disposition for that role.

Wendy writes:



This girl has clearly stolen our hearts. We knew her recovery may be more extensive than the rescue group thought. We were right. Today her physical therapist told us that at some point, sooner than later, she will need surgery to permanently immobilize her left ankle. This is the best long term comfort option to avoid or at least minimize arthritis and joint pain in her legs, hips, and back.

Thing is we didn't really even flinch. She's worth it. This sweet girl brings a smile to everyone who meets her. She absolutely melts the bad days away. She has cured anxiety, pain management blues, and insomnia. She has created laughter and smiles on the toughest of days for all four of her assigned humans. Her job is at least as important as mine and Tim's. We've barely had her three months and yet I can't imagine our family without her.

This is a picture of her during her PT appointment today. They had her wear goggles during her laser therapy. Despite the fact that she didn't like it, she never lost that smile.

ELECTRONICS DRIVE

So you have a basement and/or garage filled with old electronics that seem to be reproducing? Lots of us do, but don't feel bad about it. You now have a way to get rid of all that junk and help our puppies and dogs!

AFH is holding a recycling drive. You bring us your old junk, we recycle it, and we get money!

Bring your recyclable junk to us on Sunday June 9th from noon – 4:00pm at the Greenbriar Shopping Center located at 13043 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22033. Look for the white cargo van.

For a list of items we can accept, please visit <http://www.alcrecycling.net/items-we-accept.html>. **Please note that we cannot accept items that require payment.**

