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## LOOKING TO ADOPT?

Are you looking for a new furry family member?

Visit [www.aforeverhome.org](http://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](http://www.aforeverhome.org) for our adoption schedule and available pets.



It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over. Kids are going back to school and pretty soon we will be enjoying some cool nights.

It's been a very busy few months for AFH. We have been slammed with requests for help from our shelter and rescue partners. We get requests every single day for literally hundreds of dogs who need our help. Summer is a particularly bad time of year for rescues and shelters because many people abandon their animals because they are going on vacation and don't want to pay to board them. It's hard to believe but it's true.

AFH responds to as many of these requests as we can, but as always, we are constrained by available resources – foster homes and funding.

We are asking you, our friends, adopters, and supporters if you can help us.

First, we are asking if you can become a foster home. Fostering is a rewarding experience that directly saves lives. You can foster short or long term. You can foster a single dog, a litter of puppies, a pregnant dog, a mom with puppies – whatever works for you. Just let us know your preference and we will hook you up! Email [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org) if you are interested in fostering.

Second, we are asking if you can consider a donation – or a recurring donation. Just \$10 a month will make a huge difference for the puppies and dogs in our care. Monthly donations can be set up through [paypal.com](http://paypal.com) or [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com). You won't have to write a check, or look for an envelope and a stamp.

As always, thank you for everything you do for our dogs!

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# CECILIA



### CECILIA

Female (Spayed)

Breed: Blue Heeler Mix

Age: 17 months

Hi my name is Cecilia. I am a Cattle Dog mix that weighs just under 35 pounds. I love other dogs and just want to play, play, play with them. I should not go to a home with cats as I tend to chase them. I love attention and cuddling up with my people. I walk well on a leash and love toys.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# CHLOE



### CHLOE THE MOM

Female

Breed: American Pit Bull Terrier Mix

Age: 2 years

Chloe found herself in a high kill shelter - pregnant and abandoned by her owners. She was then transported hours away the day after giving birth to 10 puppies but nothing could dampen this girl's spirit. She settled into her foster home immediately, enthusiastically greeting her foster family whenever she saw them. She became best friends with the dogs in her foster home, especially her bestie (who she loves to wrestle with). They also love to chase each other in their yard. She is house trained and loves children and dogs of all sizes! She also walks well on a leash. Chloe is learning to wear her saddlebag backpack for future hikes and adventures but for now she uses it to carry her beloved squeaky toys. Chloe is ready for her forever home and a family to love.

## FLEA MARKET

AFH volunteer Heather Gutierrez has put together a flea market to raise money for AFH!

**When:** Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9:00am – Noon

**Where:** Winwood Children's Center - 12301 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033

There will also be a bake sale so come out and support your favorite rescue! For information on renting a space, please email [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org).



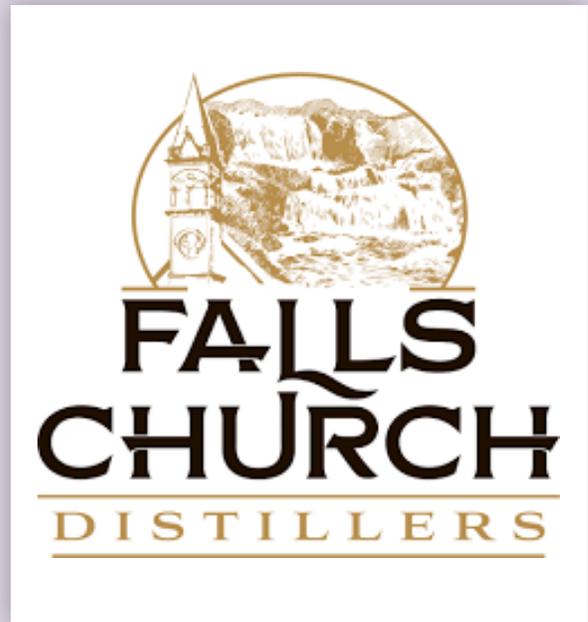
## FALLS CHURCH DISTILLERS

Michael Paluzzi owns Falls Church Distillers (<https://www.fcdistillers.com>). He also adopted a dog from AFH. Michael is a huge dog lover and wanted to help us raise some money to support our work. He hosted an adoption event in July and is hosting an event on 9/13/19. This one is not an adoption event – it's just a chance for all of us to get together.

Tucker Barnes from Fox 5 will be our special guest bartender from 7:00 - 8:00pm. Tucker and everyone at Fox 5 has been supporting AFH for many years. When we asked Tucker to help us out again, he immediately got on board.

Stop by, have dinner and drinks, listen to some live music, and socialize with other dog lovers! There is no charge to attend but we are asking for a \$10 donation per person. There will be a 50/50 raffle and some raffle items as well. The address is 442 S. Washington Street, Suite A, Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

We will also have a specialty cocktail in honor of AFH! For every one sold, AFH will get a \$1.00 donation!



## JUICE AND PUPS

One of our foster families has some great kids! They just had their first foster experience, which they said was wonderful, and they wanted to help AFH. They spent a morning doing a cookie and juice stand to benefit AFH. They raised \$23 to help our puppies! They had lots of visitors, including some firefighters from Crosspointe Fire Station (Truck 441). Thanks so much to these awesome kids for helping and thanks to everyone who came out to support AFH!



## 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](https://www.paypal.com) or [justgiving.com](https://www.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!



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## UPDATE ON TREVOR

Diana Hong and Trevor have been busy! We've written about them before but Diana just sent us a update.

On 6/9/19, Trevor completed a milestone achievement that was almost three years in the making. He earned the World Cynosport Rally's (WCRL) highest combined rally championship - the ARCHMX. Trevor is now an All Rally Master Champion in addition to being a United Kennel Club Companion Dog; titled in AKC Fast CAT (100 yard dash after a lure) with an average top speed of 26.17 mph, which is pretty respectable for a terrier mix; and a Canine Good Citizen with Trick Dog titles. At 5 years of age, Trevor now has 2 sisters to play with so life is good and he's blossomed into a great friend.

Diana wrote to thank us for allowing her to adopt him in 2014. Trevor is one lucky dog – but we suspect that Diana feels just as lucky. The photos are of Trevor in Finksburg Maryland where he won 1st and 3rd place in Fast CAT in his height class.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I was introduced to AFH in December 2013 when I picked up five puppies to foster. They arrived on a large transport that came to Virginia from Georgia. The sounds from all of those dogs who were being saved was breathtaking. For the first time I was saving the lives of unwanted animals through an amazing organization. My first foster experience resulted in a foster failure – who became my best friend! I continued to foster on and off and did many home checks for the organization. Fostering



**SHERRIE DUTTON**

for AFH meant saving lives and making friends until March 2018. My life had taken some downward turns. I received a call asking me to please foster four beagle mix pups . My mind wanted to say no, but my compassionate heart still beat in my body and the answer was yes! This was the day AFH saved me! With the help of my daughter Erin, we have fostered over 100 puppies and adult dogs since then. Fostering with AFH now means saving human lives while saving homeless puppies and dogs.

My husband Glen and I first became acquainted with AFH in 2007 after we lost our cherished Springer Spaniel Misty. The house was so quiet and lonely without her that we knew it was time to fill our home and our hearts again. Enter AFH, where we first fell in love with and adopted Ava, a 6-month old Hound pup, followed two weeks later by Moe, a 3-month old Hound pup. These two have had such adventures together! When they turned 6 we decided they needed more excitement and we adopted Shep (formerly Bam Bam), a shepherd pup who keeps us all in line! After having such a wonderful experience with AFH over the years, they were the first ones I reached out to while planning the beginning of my phased retirement. I read in the newsletter



**DEB BARTRAM**

about volunteers bringing puppies to senior centers and colleges, and it really spoke to me. I now help with weekly adoption events to interview potential adopters (and anything else that is needed!), conduct home visits, and I've had the joy of helping with a number of puppy parties and one puppy wedding! My husband is super happy that I am able to get my puppy longings satisfied in this way, though my three dogs give me a detailed inspection every time I return from an event! I

have received remarkably more than I expected through working with a fantastic group of volunteers, developing friendships, and learning so much about caring for and placing dogs than I could have imagined. I am grateful to be part of the team!

## THANKS TO MARCO'S PIZZA

Our new friends at Marco's Pizza in South Riding, Virginia are really good at making pizza and they love dogs! They reached out to AFH to offer us a fundraising night at their restaurant. Of course we jumped at the chance.

We want to thank everyone who participated by visiting Marco's, and the owners and staff at the restaurant. Not only did they deliver their donation check in person – they brought pizza for our volunteers too!



## PUPPIES AND PLANS WITH SAMANTHA BUCK

Samantha Buck owns Jazzercise Haymarket Fitness Center in Haymarket, Virginia and she's a huge animal (and dance) lover. She has held a couple of exercise class fundraisers for AFH at the Winery at LaGrange.

Samantha writes:

*I've always had a passion for animals and dance. I'm very fortunate to have had both play a big role in my life. Besides my fitness studio, I've also been a professional dog groomer for 15 years. I've enjoyed fostering dogs in need for local rescue groups and eventually rescuing both of my fur babies.*



*Both businesses bring such joy and fulfillment to my life. I'm excited to have found a way to bring them together in our puppies and planks classes! Jazzercise Strength60 classes, offered at the Winery at La Grange, along with puppies from A Forever Home are a great way for us to raise funds and support our furry friends in need!*

## ANOTHER QUILT RAFFLE

Patti and Michael Pratuch have been at it again! They are donating another beautiful quilt to AFH so we are having another quilt raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Get your tickets at <http://to-afh.org/Quilt>.

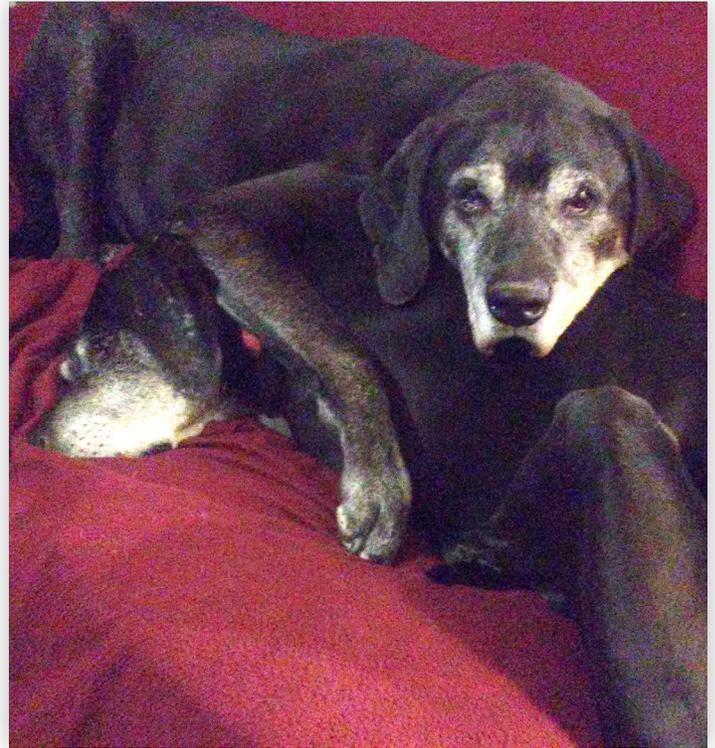


## SAYING GOODBYE IS HARD

Michelle Scott wrote to tell us about Archie and Rhonda

*In 2004, we had recently lost our 17 year old Lab. My children wanted another dog. We attended an AFH adoption event where a litter of 11 puppies were up for adoption. They were Lab/Weimeraner mixes. There was a large crowd and many of the puppies went quickly. We strolled over to where the remaining puppies were and asked if they had a male and a female. My children were each given a puppy and they said "we're not putting them down." So 15 years later, Archie and Rhonda, brother and sister, were two playful, mischievous, rambunctious, large lap dogs who enriched our lives. They were a huge part of our family and will be missed. They passed away peacefully in April and May.*

*This was their favorite spot to lay on and be with each other.*



## GOODBYE ROSCOE



Erin and her family wrote to tell us about losing their beloved Roscoe

*We adopted Rosco in the spring of 2007. Mike and I were newlyweds; Rosco was our first shot at parenting. From the start he was pure joy. A tiny little guy, our best guess was that he would grow to around 35 pounds but he topped out at 125 pounds! He was afraid to go down stairs so we had to pick him up to carry him down our condo steps. Rosco was a bright fella and he would ring "Santa Bells" to let us know he needed to go potty.*

*Our little family had some ups and downs but our constant was Rosco and his love for us. He always knew*

*how to comfort us and be the best friend anyone could ever hope for.*

*When Rosco became a "big brother" to our daughter Vivian, his life revolved around her. He oversaw anyone who held her, changed her, or walked her. He was her "Manny", protector, playmate, dress-up partner, and selfless best friend.*

*Sadly as he became older, Rosco's arthritis became uncomfortable. We tried swimming, acupuncture, laser therapy, and medication. On May 23, 2019 at 1:37 p.m., Rosco took his last breath. This was the most difficult decision in our life. Rosco left this world and entered the next.*

*We love you, Rosco. Every single day our hearts are full of sorrow, for we miss you so very much.*



## WHEN IS IT TIME TO LET GO?

Let's face it – no one wants to make THAT decision. We know that our lives will be forever changed, our hearts will be broken, and we will be sad – very very sad; however, as responsible pet owners, we can't let our beloved pets suffer. In the wild, animals will go off alone to die. They know when it's time and they accept death as a natural part of life. Unfortunately, a natural death is usually not peaceful because they are exposed to predators and extreme elements. In most cases, a natural death means prolonged suffering that we don't always see, because dogs (and cats) are far more stoic than humans when it comes to pain.

Dr. Alice Villalobos, a nationally recognized oncology veterinarian poses the following questions to help us to know when it is time to let go.

**Hurt:** Is the pet's pain successfully managed? Is he/she breathing with ease or distress?

**Hunger:** Is the pet eating enough? Does hand-feeding help?

**Hydration:** Is the pet dehydrated?

**Hygiene:** Is the pet able to stay clean? Is he/she suffering from bed sores?

**Happiness:** Does the pet express joy and interest?

**Mobility:** Can the pet get up without assistance? Is he/she stumbling?

**More:** Does your pet have more good days than bad? Is a healthy human-animal bond still possible?



## KRISTINA TO THE RESCUE

Kristina Robertson of Barkley Square Pets in Alexandria, Virginia started in the pet care industry in 1991 with the idea to give pets an alternative to being boarded in a kennel. She opened a pet sitting and dog walking business and operated for 12 years before adding a Gourmet Dog Barkery and Boutique. She wanted a storefront so she could offer space to rescues so they could get exposure for their rescued animals, so in 2013 she added a grooming salon.

For years Kristina and her team have been donating grooming services to AFH – part of her desire to help those without a voice. Her groomers are as compassionate as she is. They have taken some animals that were in horrible condition – including puppy mill dogs – and turned them into the beautiful animals they were meant to be.

Kristina says "I love to help and helping animals is my passion. When there is a chance that Barkley Square could help give an animal a chance at a new life, I am all over it. I like to say that I make Diamonds out of the Ruffs."

AFH wants to send out a huge thank you to Kristina and her team!

