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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.



Happy Holidays!

As another successful year of saving lives comes to an end, we want to thank you – our adopters, supporters, and volunteers – for everything you did and continue to do to help us save unwanted, abused, neglected, and abandoned puppies and dogs. You are the only reason why thousands of puppies and dogs are now enjoying wonderful lives in forever homes where they are treasured and loved.

This edition of our newsletter highlights some of your wonderful adoption stories. We love hearing about your furry family members and getting your pictures. We also enjoy interacting with you in our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aforeverhome>. If you're not already a member, stop by and join us. Our group is a place to share stories and pictures, ask for and share advice, and share information that is of interest to all of us who love dogs.

As always, the number of puppies and dogs we can save is directly tied to resources – funding and foster homes are our two most urgent ongoing needs. Your financial support allows us to provide both standard and lifesaving care for our dogs. When you open your home to foster a dog, you are directly saving his/her life.

As we move toward 2020 we hope to make an even bigger impact in the lives of homeless dogs. We can only accomplish this with your help. Please consider an end of year donation or even a recurring donation for 2020, and please email info@aforeverhome.org if you would like to join our amazing team of volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT ON

LEO



LEO

Male (Neutered)
Breed: Boxer Mix
Age: 12 years

Leo is such a sweet soul. He lost his family because they could not afford to care for him and now he is looking for a forever home. He is so good with people and older children, and is totally house trained. Although he weighs 70 pounds, you could not find a more gentle giant. He gets along with the six other dogs in his foster home and he sleeps through the night. He loves walks and rides very well in the car. He is a very easy dog as he is well mannered and bothers no one. This big lug would be a good fit for any household.

STILL WORKING ON YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Don't worry – you still have time, and if you shop on Amazon.com, you can make a donation to AFH at no cost to you – not only once – but twice!

Simply go to www.aforeverhome.org, scroll down to Support AFH by shopping at Amazon (on the right side of the screen) and click the link. You have just generated a donation for AFH at no cost to you!

Once on Amazon, enter smile.amazon.com in the address bar and start shopping! If you are not already

enrolled in Amazon Smile, you will be prompted to sign up. That's it – you have just generated another donation to AFH at no cost to you.

If you would like to donate an item on our Amazon Wish List, after following the steps above, go to to-afh.org/WishList and select and pay for any item. It will automatically be shipped to us!



SAVANNAH RETURNS FOR A VISIT!

Allison Sweeney and her family adopted Savannah back in 2006/2007 after a long series of trials and tribulations in her short life and they came back for a visit! Allison sent us the following information before her visit.

Savannah is now 14+ years old! She has been a little/big/foster sister to many pups, has lived around the world, and still has the same shy attitude. She has been an amazing pup with tons of adventures in her life. We call her Switzerland because she gets along with everyone and promotes a balanced doggie household with all our fosters. Up until about a year or so ago, people still thought Savannah was a puppy. She has aged a bit and is now nearly blind and deaf, which actually makes her happier in her little wonderland of peace and quiet. She still loves walks, belly rubs, and going bye byes.

We lived in Singapore since 2007 but moved to Texas recently and we still follow AFH and the wonderful things you do across the world. Thank you!

ROLLER DERBY

NOVA Roller Derby (NRD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit flat track roller derby league based in Northern Virginia with three home teams and two travel teams which compete throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. NRD is a competitive sports organization whose motto is "Skate hard. Give back." They strive to improve individual athleticism, self-discipline, and character while promoting team unity. Their community outreach includes special events, volunteer activities, and charity partnerships, which allows them to give back to their local communities. You can visit them at <http://www.novarollerderby.com>.

NRD partners with a local charity for each bout, and for the month of December they are partnering with your favorite charity – AFH!

The culmination of an entire season of hard work, sweat, and lots and lots of skating is finally here!!! NRD's awesome home teams, the Beltway Betties, the Metro Misfits, and the Vineyard Vixens have put it all on the track! Now the top two teams are skating it all out and going for the gold in the Home Team Championship Bout of 2019!

Catch all of the roller derby action live and in person on Saturday, December 14th at the Michael & Sons SportsPlex in Sterling, Virginia. Doors open at 3:30pm and the first whistle is at 4:30pm. Kids 12 and under are FREE. Bring your own chairs for the best seating options. Refreshments may be purchased inside the venue.

To get tickets in advance, follow NOVA Roller Derby on Facebook and follow the ticket link or purchase them at the door. You can purchase them now at <https://m.bpt.me/event/4422350>. Bring your friends and family to the exciting conclusion of NOVA Roller Derby's eighth Home Team Season!



AFH AND ASHBY PONDS

AFH routinely visits the Ashby Ponds Senior Living Community. We take puppies there to interact with residents of the memory unit. We recently received an email from the daughter of one of the residents and wanted to share it with you.

My mom has always had a special bond with dogs. Every time she's near them, her eyes light up, and you can just tell that she's full of joy. When A Forever Home comes to Maple Grove with their litters of puppies, it feels like an old part of her has returned. My mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease almost seven years ago, so seeing such an essential part of her come back means the world to me and my family. Thank you, A Forever Home!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I began volunteering with AFH in the fall of 2018 when I volunteered to ride along on a transport to Tennessee with my friend Arlene. We were to meet another transport to pick up about 30 puppies that were coming from overcrowded shelters in the south and bring them back to AFH. I didn't realize at the time that the trip would have such an impact on me. I knew the puppies would be tired, hungry, and scared but what I didn't expect is that through all of that they would still crave our touch and look to us for comfort; their affection was pure and unconditional. After looking into all those scared little puppy dog eyes and knowing that all they truly wanted was to be loved, I was hooked and knew that I wanted to



CRYSTAL KNUDSEN

do more. I became a puppy foster a few months later. I even became the proud parent of my own foster fail, Lola (pictured). The great thing about AFH is that there are many ways to volunteer! When I'm not able to foster, I have helped with event planning, wrangled puppies at special events like puppy yoga, and my son and I volunteer at the weekly adoption events. I love that with AFH I have the opportunity to help foster my son's love of animals and cultivate a compassionate heart by volunteering. There are many volunteers that do so much to save dog lives and my family is a very small part of AFH but the great thing is that there is a place for everyone in the AFH family!

I first started fostering as a way to heal after my sweet dog passed away. I thought it would be a way to know whether my heart was ready for a new dog. I wasn't prepared for the reality that fostering brought me and my kids. Fostering didn't heal a wound – that just takes time. Fostering created a new space in my heart that grows with every dog that comes to us.

Each foster teaches my children and me something new. We learn about patience and trust. We learn about healing from hurt and abandonment. We learn about blind love and inherent joy. We learn that every soul that comes to us is unique and special and each one needs a different way of interaction, entertainment, and affection. Each dog has a hidden history that we can't fully



DEBBIE SWEET

understand but we owe them all the respect of learning who they are for their own story.

The selfish side of fostering for me is that it's like a kid with a toy. You get this new toy and it's so much fun and exciting and you play and play and then you let someone else play with the toy. You then see the joy it brings them and you realize that as much as you love this toy, that other person was truly meant to have it.

The foster dogs are with us for a short period of time and we get to show them love and make sure they know they are safe and protected, but then they find their true person, and that is where they belong, but their time in our lives lasts forever.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

AFH came into my life subtly as I drove to work one day seven years ago. I never imagined that they would impact my life as much as they have. Through AFH, I found my first doggy soulmate. His name was Caesar, and he was the most AMAZING St. Bernard. When he passed away over a year ago, I realized that a way to give back to the rescue that saved him was to volunteer there – and I have dived right in! Everything has been an eager learning experience for me, and I'm so happy to help in any way needed. Volunteering at adoption events, home checks, doing

transports, fostering - you name it - I do it.

What's best about volunteering here is being surrounded by like-minded, passionate dog people. Our goal is to find forever loving homes for these dogs, and we go above and beyond to make it happen. Through A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, I've found friends, learned countless things, and helped save lives. I've found a home away from home.



JESSICA MILTENBERGER

Pictured, you'll find my AFH graduate Apollo (formerly Alexa's Nugget), and my Zeus. The boys and my tiny human, Gavin, are my world.

ASK THE VET

Dr. Martin Tohill, Chantilly Animal Hospital



Lately I've been seeing a lot of young dogs with white, cauliflower like growths in their mouths, on their lips, and sometimes between their toes. The growths are not painful and the dogs look very healthy. These are canine oral viral papillomas. Although they can be dramatic in appearance, they show up suddenly and sometimes a dozen at a time, but they are not dangerous. Spread by close contact between dogs, I just didn't see any for a large part of my career. So why so many

now? One word, "doggie day care". More and more people (rightly) want their dogs exposed to more activity and more dogs and take them to day care spas. Just like babies are more likely to get colds at day care, dogs get minor viruses at daycare.

Is there anything that can be done? Most daycares will not let the puppies back while they have visible warts and it can take months for them to disappear. I have had clients beg me to remove them but frequently two show up to replace the one I remove and most of the time the warts are in the mouth which means I have to sedate the puppies to remove them. Legend has it that you can crush one or two warts and it will stimulate the immune system to get rid of the rest but I've never seen it actually work so I'm not excited about it. So, unfortunately, I just recommend waiting for the warts to go away.

TANGO EBERLY

submitted by Nicole Eberly

Tango was supposed to be a K9 for soldiers fighting in the Middle East during the Afgan War. When he was just a puppy, someone hit him on the top of his head with the back of their gun and left a permanent dent in his skull. He was decommissioned and adopted but he changed owners twice until we adopted him when he was five years old. He is the sweetest little baby ever. He is incredibly intelligent and has learned countless human words, commands, and tricks in the seven years (and counting!) we've had him. He lives for human attention despite what was done to him many years ago. His favorite things in the world are belly rubs! Happy Holidays to all the animal abuse survivors and rescues out there and the wonderful people who give them safe and happy homes.



JOANIE NICHOLLS

submitted by Cynthia Nicholls

Ten years ago I found "Joanie" on the AFH website. I knew she was my dog. She is now known as Moneypenny, Penny, Princess Penny, or The Devine Miss M. She is spoiled, pampered and loved by everyone. Kind and full of cuddles, she is the best dog ever. Thank you so much AFH for finding her, fostering her, and giving her to our family. We will be forever grateful.

CHEWIE

submitted by his family

Chewie came into our lives a little over three years ago. We had just started our casual search when we came across his sweet face online. He has been our forever dog ever since. The youngest of our three daughters always rubs his face and says "You're such a cute dog!" He is so lovable, sweet, and happy that we recently began to think about sharing him with others as a Therapy Dog. He is currently undergoing special training to receive his certification, and the company with whom he is training said that he would be phenomenal at this. We can't wait to share his sweetness with those who are in need of a Chewie cuddle. Thank you for all that you do for canines and families alike. Our family certainly would not be the same without him.





CHEWIE ZIEGLER
submitted by Dana & Jordan Ziegler

Hello friends! My name is Chewie and I'm a very good boy! My parents tell me I'm the sweetest, most loving pup in the world! Soon after AFH rescued me from an Alabama puppy mill, my family adopted me, and I've been living the good life ever since with my parents and my Maltese sister, Abby. My favorite activities include snuggling on the couch, napping, belly rubs, and most of all, eating tasty treats. I love everyone I meet, and I'm especially thankful for the wonderful AFH volunteers who helped me find my forever home! My family and I wish everyone a very happy holiday season!

TOBY
submitted by Melissa Van Ness

Toby came to AFH as an owner surrender. He's a Great Pyrenees/Lab mix whose previous owner said he "didn't like water and didn't swim". Well... Toby (now Reef) is doing beautifully in his forever home and he is swimming!

I cannot thank Patricia Miller (AFH foster mom) enough for all of her loving assistance as I went through the process of adopting Reef! My other dog Dobby was devastated when he suddenly lost his brother and I knew he needed a companion. Reef and Dobby bonded immediately. These brothers are working towards their CGC and ultimately both will be therapy pups. Their trainer laughs at them because she says that Reef is Dobby's emotional support dog. For sure they enjoy one another's company and they love to go to the beach, out to eat, to breweries - basically anywhere that I go. Reef in particular is moving quickly through the levels of training, and I'm so proud of him! I can't imagine our family without him. Thank you AFH!



LILA
submitted by Heidi, Joe, Lindsey, Elise, and Lila White

Over the years we've been blessed by family dogs: Carmen, Audrey (A Forever Home), Kingston, and Lila (A Forever Home).

While losing a pet is emotionally devastating, finding the right pet can be tremendously uplifting! After Audrey died, we realized that Kingston sorely missed and needed a companion, so our daughter began searching for a puppy. We turned to AFH as they offered a reliable network of families fostering puppies. After selecting some possible matches for our household, we rode with Kingston to meet them. What better place than a spacious, fenced backyard for Lila and Kingston to get acquainted! Lila was fostered by a family whose friendly male pup helped her adapt to living inside and out. Our dogs played together for over an hour. Lila won Kingston's heart and ours too. Today Lila leads our pack (as Kingston is gone) and brings joy and unconditional love to us all.

How You Can Help A Forever Home Rescue Foundation

A Forever Home Rescue Foundation is a 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization located in Northern Virginia. Our goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused, abandoned, neglected, and unwanted puppies and dogs.

There are many ways that you can help a homeless puppy or dog. Please save this list and consider helping with one or more of the items on it. Please feel free to share it with interested dog lovers.

MONETARY

- Donate one time or set up recurring donations at [to-afh.org/JustGive](https://www.to-afh.org/JustGive). Recurring donations help us budget more efficiently and even \$10 a month makes a huge difference to a homeless, abandoned, or abused puppy or dog.
- Donate just by walking your dog – visit [to-afh.org/WoofTrax](https://www.to-afh.org/WoofTrax) to download the app.
- KARMAKARMA offers you the chance to make an impact through micro-donations. Go to www.karmakarma.com and register. Once you log in, click on Get Karmapoints to see how to get points and/or click on Make an Impact and then Animals to navigate to A Forever Home Rescue Foundation's page to make a donation.
- Include AFH in estate planning – leave a lasting legacy. Email info@foreverhome.org for information.
- Donate your used car. Email info@foreverhome.org for information.

HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER HELP

Our greatest need is for foster homes but we also need help at adoption events (interviewers, dog handlers, etc.); with conducting homechecks; or with driving transports. Please email volunteer@foreverhome.org if you can help with any of the volunteer activities below.

- Fostering – Without fosters, the rescue ceases operation. Fostering can be long- or short-term and AFH provides all supplies and pays for all approved veterinary care. You can choose what dog(s) you want to foster too!
- Drive a dog or dogs from our rescue/shelter partners to their AFH foster parents.
- Help at adoption events - We always need dog handlers, setup and tear-down crews (to set up our table and puppy pens and pack up our supplies after the event), and interviewers (training is provided). Interviewers also conduct interviews via phone.
- Home Checkers - We need home checkers throughout Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia (and sometimes beyond) to perform home checks as part of our adoption process.
- Do you have a special talent or skill? We would love to talk to you about using it to help us help homeless puppies and dogs.

SHOPPING

- Shop at Amazon through our website. Simply go to www.afforeverhome.org, scroll down to Support AFH by shopping at Amazon (on the right side of the screen) and click the link. You have just generated a donation for AFH at no cost to you!
 - Once on Amazon, enter smile.amazon.com in the address bar and start shopping! If you are not already enrolled in Amazon Smile, you will be prompted to sign up.
 - Donate an item through our Amazon wish list. After following the steps above, go to [to-afh.org/WishList](https://www.to-afh.org/WishList) and select and pay for any item. It will automatically be shipped to us!
- You can select AFH to be the beneficiary of a percentage of your eBay sales! Just select A Forever Home Rescue Foundation when you are creating your listing, and indicate what percentage of the sale gets donated to us.
- Shop with any of our partners:
 - Barkbox: www.BarkBox.com/AFHRBBX1
 - Jeanne Taylor Pet Portraits: [to-afh.org/JTPetPics](https://www.to-afh.org/JTPetPics)
 - Hale Pet Doors: [to-afh.org/Hale](https://www.to-afh.org/Hale)
 - Bissell: [to-afh.org/Bissell](https://www.to-afh.org/Bissell)
- Shop through [to-afh.org/GivingAssistant](https://www.to-afh.org/GivingAssistant) and donate all or part of your cash back to AFH.
- If you or someone you know is looking to buy or sell a home, you can refer them to us by emailing Homes@foreverhome.net. For every home referral successfully closed through this program, A Forever Home will receive a \$500.00 donation in your name.