

AFH is experiencing some growing pains and we need your help. We know that we're really good at rescue but one thing we aren't great at is marketing ourselves. We are still saving over 1,000 puppies and dogs every single year, but our infrastructure is not solid enough to support growth. We have realized that we don't have some of the resources and experience that are necessary to propel us to the next level and make our organization even more effective and efficient, which will result in even more lives saved.

We are hoping to find a marketing professional who can help us to grow our brand. If you are an experienced marketing professional and can provide some guidance, please email info@aforeverhome.org.

We would love to speak with you and get some advice on how to make AFH even bigger and better!

As you all know, we recently updated the design of our newsletter. Now we need a new name to go along with our new look! We are holding a contest to pick a new name and the winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Weber's Pet Supermarket! Act fast because the new name will be selected around 9/30/21.

Send your idea to suggestions@aforeverhome.org no later than 9/25/21.

We are also in need of foster parents. While we do have a number of wonderful, dedicated foster parents, bringing more on board will allow us to save even more lives. Fostering can be a long-term or short-term commitment depending on your availability, directly saves lives, and makes you feel good! Think about it—what's better than puppy kisses?



Please email info@aforeverhome.org if you would like information on our foster program.

Finally, our pups rely on your generous financial support. We have recently had to pay for several expensive surgeries and can use your help. **Please visit <https://to-afh.org/Donate> to donate** or mail a check to AFH, PO Box 222801, Chantilly, VA 20153.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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Looking to **ADOPT?**

Are you looking for a new furry family member? 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 to see our available pets.



ANNALISE TO THE RESCUE!

Editor's Note: Annalise proves that you don't have to be an adult to make a difference – kids can make a huge difference in an animal's life. We are grateful to Annalise for her creativity, hard work, and generosity!



Hello. My name is Annalise and I'm the creator of Pepper's Puppy Pops. Each year my elementary school offers the fifth grade students the opportunity to participate in a pretend Shark Tank project. Just like the TV show, we come up with a business or invention and pitch it to the sharks. I came up with the idea of Pepper's Puppy Pops—popsicles for your pup—named after my dog. I wanted to do some real-world market research for my project and decided to sell my pops in my neighborhood. Shortly before I had the opportunity to participate in Shark Tank, a dog named Lulu was abandoned in my neighborhood. **A Forever Home** was kind enough to help my neighbors catch her and she was fostered by our neighbor Karen. I decided to donate all of my profits to Lulu's veterinary care. In total, Pepper's Puppy Pops raised \$375 for Lulu! My neighbors and friends were inspired by her story and my efforts to help her and they were very generous. After my successful market research and pawsitive reviews, I presented my idea to the sharks, and with some negotiation we struck a deal and my project won Best Overall! It was very exciting to have won such an honor but I was most proud that Pepper's Puppy Pops helped Lulu and **A Forever Home Rescue.** ●

IN MEMORY



COLIN *Submitted by Adelaide Mayhew*

We were fortunate enough to adopt Colin when he was 8 years old, and while we had hoped to have him for a long time, he had brain cancer and left us way too soon. Everyone loved Colin and he loved everyone! He could spend hours standing next to his Dad getting lots of pets. Those two were so close! Colin loved to run around his yard with his friends and he loved his daily walks. He was so affectionate with our grandsons and loved playing in the yard with them. He also helped my family get through Covid restrictions! Colin was the sweetest most gentle dog I've ever had. He brought great joy to us and we all miss him terribly. Many thanks to all the folks at **A Forever Home** for choosing us as Colin's family. ●

ISIS *Submitted by Kathy Lombard*

In 2007, I adopted a puppy who I named Isis (her original name was Gumdrop). For 14 wonderful years, Isis was my constant companion. We walked for two hours or more per day! Isis was part Beagle and part Whippet, so she loved to sniff and loved to sprint. She obsessively chased squirrels and frequently asked for snacks. She provided our family with lots of love and cuddles. Isis was sweet and gentle to the end. We said goodbye to her on April 2, 2021 but she will remain in our hearts forever. Thank you for giving us this wonderful gift! ●



PETEY *Submitted by Dale Morgan*

Editor's Note: *Read Petey's story of survival in this newsletter*

With a heavy heart, I said goodbye to my faithful friend and companion, Petey (formerly known as Pierre) on March 30. He had been steadily going downhill since he lost his buddy Kylie a year ago. The three of us had been a pack, going on countless beach trips over the years. Petey was a gentle soul, he never knew a stranger—human or canine. I know he's playing with Kylie and that big black Rottweiler mix who protected him, but now he is free of pain. I will always miss you my gentle Petey (2004-2021). RIP sweet boy ●

WRANGLER

Submitted by Brittany, Todd, Thatcher, Trevor and Madelon Monfette

We wanted to let you know that our amazing sweet boy Wrangler (formerly Gideon) passed away on March 25, 2021 due to cancer complications that came on very suddenly. We adopted Wrangler from **AFH** in 2011. He lived with us in Virginia for seven years and then moved with us to Michigan three years ago. He welcomed each of our three children home after each of their births and loved and watched out for his human siblings as if they were his own. We are struggling without him, but know he is running around in puppy heaven having the time of his life. We are so thankful for the 10 years we had with him and that everyone was able to say goodbye to him in his final moments. He will forever be missed. Thank you **AFH** for choosing us to be his forever family. ●



PETEY'S STORY OF SURVIVAL



At five months of age, Petey was adopted by a couple in Maryland. Just a month later, **AFH** got a call from a veterinarian in upper Florida. A young lady had brought him to the vet because he had been outside her apartment begging and looking lost. The vet scanned him for a microchip (please always get your pet chipped – chips save lives) and found one from **AFH**. He told the lady he would call us and get back in touch with her. He reached out to us and we tried to find the couple. They had disappeared so we called the vet to tell him that we would send someone to Florida to pick him up and bring him back to Virginia, but when the vet called the woman who found him to tell her that, she no longer had Petey.

After leaving the vet, she had pulled up in front of her apartment building with Petey, and the apartment manager approached her and told her she would be evicted on the spot if she took the puppy inside, so Petey disappeared again (she apparently set him loose somewhere) but this time it was for two years.

In June 2007, when Petey was 2-1/2 years old, **AFH** again got a call. An Animal Warden in the Everglades had rounded up dozens of dogs, and among them was a badly injured little dog who was being protected by a large black Rottweiler mix. Of all the dogs rounded up,

Petey was the only one who had a microchip. **AFH** was given only 24 hours to come and claim him or he would be euthanized. **AFH** contacted a volunteer who had retired to upper Florida and she immediately went to pick Petey up and bring him back to her home. The Animal Warden said the injuries were from an alligator attack. Petey had lost over a third of his body weight. Over the next month, he had several operations, including a tail amputation and bone removal. He then spent a month recovering.

We will never know why his original family dumped him, why the woman who first helped him abandoned him, how he ended up in the Everglades, how he survived on his own for over two years, or why that Rottweiler became his protector, but this tough little guy finally found a loving forever home in July 2007. RIP Petey.

Editor's Note: *Petey's medical treatment, costing thousands of dollars, was only possible because of the generosity of our donors. Once **AFH** commits to a dog, we provide whatever level of care is needed.* ●



AFH QUICK TIPS... WALKING YOUR DOG

Written by AFH volunteer Annette Anderson
with excerpts from The Animal Foundation



The Importance of Walking Your Dog

Walking your dog is about so much more than just “potty breaks.” Walking your dog provides mental stimulation, physical exercise, chances for socialization, and opportunities for behavioral training. Moreover, it gets both of you out and about while helping to grow the bond you have with your dog.



Walking Provides Exercise and Mental Stimulation

Walking your dog regularly provides a basic foundation for physical and mental health. Like a child, your dog wants to know the world. If he or she is confined to the house for too long, your dog will get bored, and boredom can lead to destructive behavior. Your dog is dependent on you to take them out to explore the sights, smells, and sounds of the world. This is why it's also good to vary the places you take your dog as much as possible. You've probably noticed how busy (and excited) your dog gets when he or she is walking, so let them enjoy every opportunity to discover!

Walking is Good for Your Dog's Health

Remember, too, that a sedentary pooch can quickly become an overweight one, and that brings potential health problems with it. Even if your dog is active inside the home, he or she still needs another outlet for pent-up energy. You'll benefit from having a well-exercised dog, as tired dogs tend to behave better, and you'll help your pet avoid unnecessary weight gain!

Walking Helps with Your Dog's Socialization

While out walking, your pooch is most likely going to meet other dogs. This is a great opportunity to help your dog learn acceptable ways of socially interacting with new animals. It will also help build doggy confidence so your pet will be less afraid to make friends. If your dog does show fear, taking them to a training class is a great way of removing that anxiety in a more controlled environment. Well-socialized pups still like a bit of rough-and-tumble play with other dogs when out for a walk, but they'll know when to stop and will come away without any battle scars. Walking your dog and exposing him or her to different dogs, people, and situations is a win for everyone.

Walking Your Dog is a Training Opportunity

When walking your dog, consider it a training opportunity. Dogs aren't born knowing how to walk on a leash, so you'll have to teach your dog how to follow your lead. On these walks, you can begin teaching commands like “sit,” “stay,” and “heel,” especially if you take treats along to use during the process.

Just Walking Your Dog May Not be Enough

Exercise needs are based on your dog's age, breed, size, and overall health, but a good rule of thumb is you should spend at least 30 minutes every day on an activity with your dog. Younger dogs and dogs bred for sports or herding activities may need much more. If your dog has a yard to play in, walking isn't the only form of exercise available. However, don't expect your dog to create their own exercise routine just because you've put them outside. Dogs don't self-entertain, so if you want to tire your pet out, play catch or fetch!

If you're at work all day, consider taking your dog to doggie daycare, hiring a dog walker or asking a friend to take your dog out during those hours. Your pet will enjoy the company, and you'll come home to a happier dog waiting to greet you. ●



**LOOKING
FOR OUR
FOREVER
HOMES**

UTAH ROAD TESSIE AND MARIO

Breed: Shepherd Mix

Age: 3 months

Tessie and Mario are sweet, playful, energetic pups. They love and seek attention. They will snuggle for brief moments in between playing with their favorite toys. Tessie enjoys some TV and will stop what she is doing to intently watch some Netflix.

Mario prefers to watch over the humans in the room. They both follow their foster family around wherever they go. They are doing great learning to walk on leashes and going potty outside, and they are both learning simple commands. They sleep in a crate and enjoy time in a puppy pen. They have a ball playing with the two bigger dogs in their foster home. They are intrigued by the two house cats and like to see what they are up to but seem to know to not get too close. ●

STARLING

Breed: Labrador Retriever Mix

Age: 8 months

Gender: Female (Spayed)

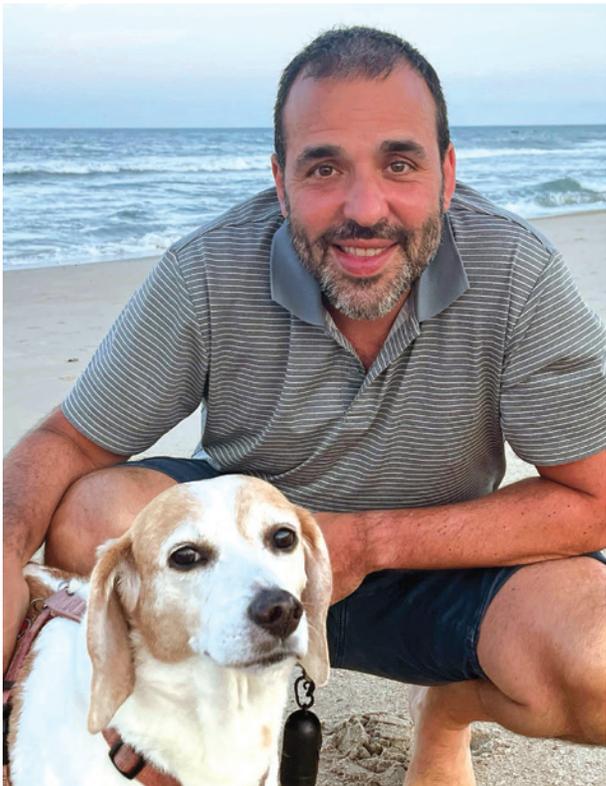
Editor's Note: *This beautiful girl has been with AFH for four months and we can't understand why. She came in with her mother, who was recently adopted. She is a sweet, beautiful, well behaved girl. Please stop by www.aforeverhome.org to get an adoption application.*

Starling was found on the streets of Texas with her mother, Raven. She is a wonderfully happy gal. If a dog had a sense of humor, it would be her. She has the cutest, most endearing mannerisms you can imagine. This sleek black, leggy pup loves to run and play with her dog friends and to go on walks with her humans. Her current fosters are pretty slow (according to them!) and they think she would love to find someone a little speedier because this girl was meant to run. Starling is an affectionate dog and gets an A+ at snuggling. However, she can also occupy herself just relaxing or chewing a toy. She is observant, alert, and curious and she learns quickly. She adjusted well to her foster home and made great strides with housetraining, crate training, leash walking, and commands such as sit, leave it, and down, and she certainly has the potential to learn so much more. Starling deserves to find her forever family, and any family would be lucky to have this girl in their lives. There are videos of her on our website: www.aforeverhome.org ●

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Washington

I came into fostering as a blessing in disguise of sorts. We had adopted our dog Cookie (formerly Margarita of the Italian Delight litter) from **AFH** in January 2020 and I thought we were ready to give her a playmate. I came very close to adopting a dog but at the last minute I decided to give fostering a try first as a trial run. With lots of help from my son, daughter, and granddaughter, we fostered our first puppy in April and we recently welcomed our third, with several temp fostering assignments in between. Being a foster mom to such amazing animals is truly a labor of love. I get so much joy from knowing that I am helping deserving dogs find their forever home but selfishly, I also get my puppy fix...and Cookie gets a steady stream of puppy playmates. When I receive the foster emails, I want to sign up to take them all, but I have to settle for one or two or six! I came very close to becoming a foster fail with our last little darling, but so far I'm 2-for-2 in adoptions! The family of **A Forever Home** volunteers is a dedicated and selfless group and I feel honored to be part of it. ●



Dima Pechenik

AFH has been part of our family since 2008 when we adopted our Beagle, Lucy. She's been such a great companion on all our travels and while teaching our kids what it means to care for an animal.

I wanted others to have the same experience and I began volunteering with **AFH** in 2016. It started with a couple of Sundays a year to now helping several families a week find their forever dogs by interacting with potential families as a home check volunteer. The excitement a potential adopter has towards their forever dog, seeing how they plan to add the dog to their family circle, and helping answer questions and prepare families makes volunteering so rewarding. ●



EAGLE SCOUTS

By Liam D'Souza-Bohannon

I've been a scout in BSA Troop 160 for six years, slowly working my way up the leadership structure and earning every rank and badge I could, but with senior year approaching, I figured it was finally time to shift into high gear and face the one obstacle remaining in my scout journey—Eagle Scout Rank. There's a reason this rank is held in high regard. As each older scout has told me while reflecting on their own experiences, this final rank is much more work than any scout could possibly expect. This process has taken almost two years due to the pandemic and changing guidelines.

In March, I reached out to **A Forever Home** to ask if they were in need of a service project. My family has been fostering with **AFH** for six years and I've become well acquainted with the group and I received an energetic and inviting response. I wrote out a plan for a donation drive and presented it to my troop leader. I thought the planning phase was done, but his response was a simple "great first step." I would then

continue to revise my plan, going into further detail with each advisor check-in before finally presenting to a panel of troop adults, a district advisor, my troop leader yet again, and a senior volunteer with **AFH**. I received the green light from all parties, and finally breathed a sigh of relief. I finished the planning stage... or so I thought.

I then went on to call a number of stores requesting donations of space, food, and advertising. Organizing scout volunteers was arguably the most difficult (I had to coax younger kids to volunteer with candy). A troop leader later told me that Eagle Projects are 99% planning, 1% doing, and I 100% agree. It was a great learning opportunity to discover how to interact with local businesses, send professional emails, and garner support from the community. My project resulted in many donations and I feel successful knowing that I was able to organize this project mostly by myself. ●

Thanks, A Forever Home!



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