



RESCUE STORIES : Operation Chihuahua

One of our rescue partners recently got a call from a Sheriff in Florida about a severe hoarding case involving 50 to 100 Chihuahuas packed into a small trailer. However, when our partner arrived, they found over 150 dogs crammed into a filthy mobile home surrounded by trash and waste. The trailer had no running water or electricity, making it one of the most heartbreaking cases our partner had ever encountered.

AFH has experience with cases like this, so we jumped right in to help. We're happy to share that eight of the dogs, including a pregnant female, are now safe and finally getting the love and care they need from our amazing fosters.

Animal hoarding is a complicated issue, often involving mental health, animal welfare, and public safety concerns. Hoarders may not even realize they're unable to meet the basic standards of care for their animals. If you ever see signs of animal hoarding, don't hesitate to contact the police.



Sydney



DONATE

These sweet dogs need veterinary care, and will get that care with your help. Make a difference by donating at: <https://to-afh.org/Donate> or by mailing a check to: **AFH, PO Box 222801, Chantilly VA 20153.**

A PUPPY for the HOLIDAYS?

Adopting a puppy around the Holidays can be a joyful experience, but it's good to plan carefully to make it as smooth as possible! Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Avoid Giving a Surprise

If this adoption is a surprise for a family member, involve them in the decision. Adopting a pet is a big commitment, and everyone in the household should be prepared. Most rescues, including AFH, do not allow our adopted dogs to be given to others.

Consider Timing Carefully

The holiday season can be busy with guests, travel, and decorations, which can be overwhelming for a new puppy. If possible, bring the puppy home a week or so before or after the peak holiday events to allow for a calmer introduction.

Puppy-Proof the House

Festive decorations can be tempting for a curious puppy. Keep lights, tinsel, glass ornaments, and other small decorations out of reach. Be cautious with holiday plants like poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe, which can be toxic.

Create a Safe Space

Designate a cozy, quiet spot just for the puppy to retreat to. A crate or bed in a calm room works well. Puppies can get overstimulated, so it's helpful to have a space where they can rest undisturbed.

Have Supplies Ready

Stock up on essentials like food, bowls, a bed, chew toys, and newspapers before bringing your puppy home. This minimizes extra trips and makes the transition smoother.

Plan Training Early

Start establishing a routine right away, including potty training, crate training, and basic commands. Consistency will help the puppy feel secure.

Adopting a dog is a big commitment, but it's also one of the most fulfilling decisions that you can make. The holidays can be a special time to welcome a puppy, and with a little planning, you'll be able to focus on enjoying the new addition to your family! ●



Devi

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Looking to Foster or 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.

Visit <https://www.aforeverhome.org> or email volunteer@aforeverhome.org to request information on fostering and to see our available dogs.



PHOTOS with SANTA PAWS Sunday • December 1, 2024 • 2-4PM

It's time to spread that holiday cheer!

Join **A Forever Home** at **Pender Pet Retreat** for photos with Santa. For a \$25 donation, you will get a digital photo of your fur and/or human children with Santa!

Pender Pet Retreat
4508 Upper Cub Run Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

All photos will be e-mailed to you for personal use.

All proceeds will benefit the dogs and pups at **AFH**.

All dogs must be leashed, cats must be crated and children should be on the nice list! ●



Available DOG SPOTLIGHT

Born under an abandoned house on March 1, 2024 in rural Louisiana, **ROSCOE** and his eight littermates made it to **AFH** thanks to the hard work of a devoted rescue partner. Roscoe is a sweet, friendly social butterfly who adores people and other dogs. He's housetrained, responds well to commands, and loves nothing more than snuggling and getting belly rubs. This handsome, affectionate guy is just waiting for his forever home!

Please come by to meet this special boy at our next adoption event or contact us at info@foreverhome.org. ●

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

The **AFH** family is composed of a wonderful, varied group of volunteers dedicated to helping us save lives. Whether it's an hour a month or the majority of your day, we greatly appreciate the support of all our volunteers.



STACY KING

Stacy King is a longtime foster who has saved somewhere around 300 dogs. She says she lost count over her 16 years as a foster!

Stacy says, "When I hear that pups are on a last call/euthanize list, I know I have no choice but to provide a temporary home to these dogs. When they find their forever homes, it is amazing to see them thrive and be loved. While I've 'foster failed' and adopted my fair share of my fosters over the years, we leave room in our home for those who still need a place to land safely until they can find their forever home." •

Thank you Stacy, for your big heart and dedication!



PETER

Peter knew what he was getting into when he started dating Stacy - one of our long time fosters. Peter has always had rescue dogs. He even moved five of his rescue dogs (which were strays) from Dubai to France—desert to snow!

Peter foster failed (adopted) two dogs from **AFH** almost right away. He didn't stop fostering though! He has fostered pregnant dogs, puppies, and adult dogs too. He's also driven countless miles to ensure our rescue pups get to us safely.

Peter says, "It's not the dogs' fault that they end up homeless, and someone needs to save them.

"Fostering saves lives." •

Thank you Peter, for jumping right in and continuing to save more pups!



Hudson

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FOSTER?

IT'S EASY! You take care of our dogs like they're your own. You feed them, walk them, love them, and teach them basic commands like sit and stay. You bring them to adoption events once a week (three hours) or work with our Care Team for support. We pay for everything – vet bills, food, and supplies (crates, leashes, collars, bowls, etc.). When you foster, you not only save your foster dog – you also open up a spot in a shelter for another homeless dog. It's a win-win. •

IN MEMORIAM

“There is no faith which has never yet been broken, except that of a truly faithful dog.” *Konrad Lorenz*



KINGSTON

I adopted Kingston, one of Hopscotch's pups, in 2007. While he was a rescue, he is certainly the one who rescued me and went on to become a companion for my mother and the first dog for both of my children. His companionship over the past 17 years has enriched all of our lives. Kingston passed away on 6/17/24 after living the most incredible life with us, traveling from Arlington to North Carolina to Brooklyn to Virginia Beach.

We have the **AFH** team to thank for the work you do and for making it possible for this sweet soul to come into our lives. ●

With gratitude and appreciation,
Karen Lilley



BANJO

I knew Banjo was special when I met him on our late family dog's birthday. Call it fate, but I felt a Greater Power brought us together. I was nervous, but from our first walk through the neighborhood, Banjo touched lives and made folks smile. His love knew no bounds, and words would diminish the joy he brought to my life and to the lives of others. He peacefully crossed the beautiful Rainbow Bridge on July 11, 2024. I am so very grateful to **A Forever Home** for allowing me to care for and love such an amazing dog for almost 11 years. Rest in peace, little man. I love you to the moon and back and more than tongue can say. ●

Love, **Alissa**



ROSIE

We had the great joy of sharing our lives with Miss Rosie, aka Rosalina, Rosebud, and Princess. We adopted her in 2015, and she was such a gift! We then adopted her brother, Fred. They loved playing, hanging out, and going on adventures. We walked many trails together, crossed rivers, and went on vacations. Rosie was a sweet-natured, adorable pup who loved getting her belly rubbed. She was an awesome greeter—tackling us with lots of licks (doggie kisses) whenever we walked through the door or woke up in the morning. We miss her immensely but are so grateful for the love and companionship we shared. ●

We love you, Rosie!

Thank you for the great work you do!
Gayle, Mark and Fred

LOTTIE

Lottie was such a good girl and a joy to be with. She was sweet and shy but also tough. In her last year and a half, she endured several different and difficult cancer treatments in an effort to save her life. She was stoic and took everything in stride. She loved all the vets and technicians, and they loved her. She was my best friend, and I loved her so much. ●

Maureen and Jay Donn

LETTERS FROM HOME



AFH Alum ROMAN *Cutest Pet In Fauquier County*

Roman recently won the title of "Cutest Rescue Pet in Fauquier County," so naturally, we want to celebrate him! He joined our family in October 2017 and was our first "baby." Roman is the perfect mix of smart and goofy, and he's incredibly loyal. He spends his days lounging by the open windows, chasing squirrels and hoping for belly rubs. He is always on guard to protect us from the Amazon or FedEx truck. Roman is such an integral part of our family; we can't imagine life without him! ●



Beloved Dorm Dog NOVA

Daisha and Cassandra adopted Nova and she has become a student favorite in the dorm at Foxcroft school where her mom works. ●



Pet Mayor of Chantilly **ELECTION 2024**

2024 PET MAYOR OF CHANTILLY ELECTION **Nominations Opening Soon!**

GET READY TO VOTE! Nominations for the 2024 Pet Mayor of Chantilly election will open soon. This fun event not only celebrates our community's beloved pets but also serves as a fundraiser to support **A Forever Home (AFH)** in covering medical costs for rescued animals—**AFH's** largest expense, which can reach tens of thousands of dollars each month.

Make sure you're following **AFH** on Facebook and Instagram for details on how to nominate your furry candidate. Join the fun and help support a great cause!

Don't miss your chance to let your pet shine while making a difference!

Happy Tale : PERFECT MATCH for ATHLETIC ALEX



ALEX (formerly Harry) arrived at **A Forever Home** as a puppy in a large litter but grew up before he could find his forever family. Elaine, a long-time foster, took him in. However, without other dogs to help burn off his boundless energy, he wasn't always his "best" self at adoption events. Thankfully, our partner, Playful Pack took him on, giving him the playtime he needed to become the gentleman Elaine knew him to be at home.

When Ana, another **AFH** volunteer, met Alex, she immediately thought of her friend as a great fit. Though they missed seeing him at the adoption event, Maribel, an **AFH** founder and volunteer, felt this was the perfect family for Alex and went the extra mile—making a four-hour round trip (plus another three hours of playtime) to bring him over for a visit.

After such a successful first meeting, the family gave it some thought. The next day, they began the adoption process. Alex settled in quickly; on day one, he jumped into bed, claimed his spot, and has slept there every night since! Now, the family, along with Alex and his three new packmates, spends nearly every weekend at Disc Frisbee competitions across the DMV and sometimes even farther. They travel in a camper that Alex absolutely *loves*!

Alex is still learning the ropes from his "brothers" and fellow Disc Doggers. While he hasn't competed officially yet, he'll be hitting the field this spring. He's got a touch of stage fright, but the family is optimistic he'll overcome it.

Alex is a happy, goofy boy with his new family, even with the cat, Shirley, who couldn't care less that he's obsessed with her.

"Alex is a very happy boy here. We are smitten! He is just a perfect addition to our family. Thank you, Ana, for bringing him to our attention; thank you Maribel, for making the trip to meet him; and thank you **AFH**, for all the good you do for the wonderful pets in your care!" ●

Linda Gray and Family



In a world full of chances to make a difference, few things compare to rescuing a helpless animal. At A Forever Home, this isn't just about being kind; it's about giving dogs the care, love, and second chances they desperately need.

A Forever Home (AFH) 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:

MONETARY

- **Donate once or set up recurring donations through JustGiving** (<http://to-afh.org/Donate>) or through **Paypal** (Paypal@foreverhome.org) 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.
- **Corporate Giving Programs**
Does your company have a giving program? Many companies offer volunteer and donation matching programs that can significantly enhance your impact when supporting causes like **A Forever Home**. Speak with your company's benefits or human resources representatives to find out.
- **WoofTrax:** Donate just by walking your dog—visit 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. 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 **AFH's** page to make a donation.
- **Estate Planning:** Leave a lasting legacy. Email info@foreverhome.org
- **Donate Your Used Car:** Email info@foreverhome.org

HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER HELP

Email volunteer@foreverhome.org if you can help with any of the activities below.

- **Fosters:** Without fosters, the rescue ceases operation. Fostering can be long- or short-term. **AFH** provides all supplies and pays for all approved veterinary care. You can choose what dog(s) you want to foster too!
- **Transporters:** Drive a dog or dogs from our rescue/shelter partners to their **AFH** foster parents.
- **Home Checkers:** Home checks are done virtually.
- **Care Team Members:** Help fosters on a short-term, temporary basis.
- **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

- **eBay Sales:** 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 **AFH**.

Shop with any of our partners:

- **Jeanne Taylor Pet Portraits** to-afh.org/JTPetPics
- **Hale Pet Doors** to-afh.org/Hale
- **Bissell** to-afh.org/Bissell
- 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, **AFH** will receive a \$500 donation in your name.

