

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

February 2015

In this issue...

In Search of My Forever Home - Malt	p. 2
AFH Builds a Network of Partners	p. 2
Dr. Elwood Pawsington	p. 3
Volunteer Spotlight	p. 4
A Note from Mac	p. 5
Recycle for AFH	p. 5
Fourth Annual Casino Night	p. 6
How You Can Help	p. 7
AFH Announces a New Memorial Page	p. 7

Adoption Information

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.

Please see our website for our adoption schedule.

Contact Information

Phone	703.961.8690
Fax	866.863.6890
Address	P.O. Box 222801 Chantilly, VA 20153
Email	info@aforeverhome.org
Website	www.aforeverhome.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/afh2002
Twitter	@aforeverhome twitter.com/aforeverhome

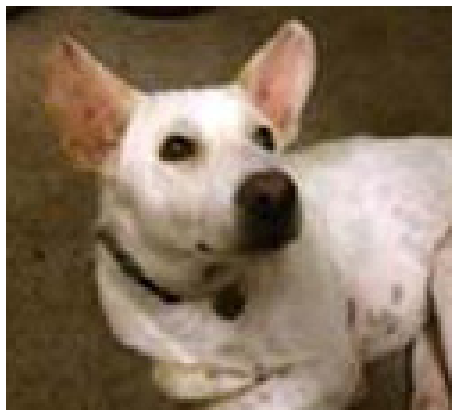
Happy New Year Everyone!

As A Forever Home begins 2015, which will be our 13th full year of existence, we are excited to begin a new chapter in our evolution. We are making a concerted effort to expand the rescue's reach and capabilities, with a goal of achieving significant growth over the next five years. To reach our goal, we will need your help! One of the most important aspects of a non-profit organization's support structure is their base of committed volunteers and donors.

Many of you receiving this newsletter are already volunteers, donors, or both – thank you! Please consider extending an invitation to friends in your social circles who share your love of dogs to join you in supporting AFH. You can do this in a wide variety of ways: share to your social media contacts; forward the email version of our newsletter to your friends and family; give your hardcopy newsletter to your vet and ask if they will leave it in their lobby; use your own imagination! However you spread the word, it will make a huge difference!

During 2015, part of our plan is to host a number of fundraising events. We want to meet you, our friends and supporters, and raise both awareness of our work and money for our rescue's growth.

Our first event of the year is our Fourth Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction, which you can read about later in this newsletter. We're also increasing our focus on attacking the root cause of pet homelessness, read more on page 2.



MALT

is searching for
his forever home

Read about him on Page 2

In Search of My Forever Home: Malt

Male

Breed: Lab Mix

Age: 2 years

Malt is one of the seven dogs we rescued from the dog meat trade in Thailand. He is acclimating well to American living. When Malt first arrived, he had no training or manners, but he's been living with our trainer and has transformed into a sweet, friendly, and well-behaved boy! He walks well on a leash, knows "sit" and "place", and gets along great with the other dogs at his foster's home. Malt's true personality is beginning to shine through! He wags his tail to greet his trainer and he plays with the other dogs in the exercise yard. He reminds us of an old man as he observes his surroundings with a stoic expression on his face. He has a rather unique appearance; it looks like he sports a goatee and a Mohawk. Malt is truly a one of a kind dog rescued from a horrible situation. If you have the patience and commitment to work with him and be his leader, you will be rewarded with an exceptional companion.



AFH Attacks the Problem at its Roots

The problem is that there are too many homeless pets. Unfortunately, there is no one solution where we can say "fix that and there will be no more homeless dogs." It is a much broader problem which is fed by many factors, some of which include indiscriminant breeding by puppy mills and backyard breeders; abandonment, neglect, and abuse; and the average citizen who either won't or can't afford to alter their pets.

A Forever Home has always worked to address the problem of pet homelessness; that's why we exist. We have recently begun expanding our reach and honing our focus in an effort to become more impactful. The rescue has established relationships with entities large and small: from the ASPCA to the smallest of rural county shelters, to the one person working independently to help her rural community. Wherever the need is greatest, you will find A Forever Home.

You are all aware of our high profile partnership with the Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand. We have already brought five dogs to the U.S. for adoption, and have committed to two more. We are also tackling the problem in our own backyard in rural communities in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Many of the

people who rescue animals in these areas have no local resources to turn to for help, and in some cases, not even a county shelter.

We mentioned above the woman working independently to help her community. She became aware of some families who had unaltered dogs who were having litter after litter. The situation had gotten so bad that they were having a difficult time feeding the dogs, and they were unable to afford the cost of spaying and neutering. This resourceful woman connected with AFH, and with the help of some of our wonderful volunteers who have been willing to make the trip to Kentucky, we have been accepting dogs and moving them into loving forever homes. And that's not all: AFH has covered the cost of spaying and neutering the remaining dogs to prevent additional unwanted litters.

Please connect with us on Facebook (facebook.com/afh2002) and Twitter (@aforeverhome) and let us know what you think. Are we doing the right things? Drop a note to info@aforeverhome.org and let us know how you would like to get involved. Together, we can work to reduce the problem of homeless pets. If we work long enough and hard enough, we may even succeed in solving the problem.



Dear Dr. Elwood,

My family and I are ready to add a puppy to our household. We have lots of space and are considering adopting two puppies together. They can keep each other company and have an instant best friend and playmate, but a friend of ours told us it is better to adopt just one. Wouldn't adopting two be the better choice?

Sincerely,
Double Trouble in Danville

Dear Double Trouble,

It's reasonable to think that adopting two puppies together would be a good idea. They have a constant companion and playmate, and never have to be alone. What could be better?

Take it from Dr. Pawsington (and a bunch of my friends, just search "littermate syndrome"), it's not all it's cracked up to be! In fact, it's such a bad idea that, based on their direct experience with the situation, my friends at AFH have established a policy against multiple puppy adoptions.

One obvious reason is the cost - vet bills, general care, food, and maybe you have a pet sitter or a dog walker. Double the

Dr. Elwood Pawsington

dogs equals double the cost – and double the work, which is something you may not be fully prepared for. Until they are fully housetrained (a process that can take months), puppies must be supervised constantly to prevent chewing and soiling inside the house. They must be taken outside every hour or two to potty and be praised for good results. Your puppies may not be on the same schedule; are you prepared to multiply this routine by two?

Another reason is that dogs are pack animals, and whether or not you adopt siblings or puppies from different litters, it is very possible that they will end up bonding with each other, and not you. When you raise two puppies together they often grow up to be inseparable best friends, often to the detriment of the dog-human relationship. Inevitably they spend far more time with each other than they do with you, with a likely result that they become very tightly bonded to each other and you are only secondary in their lives. It is important that you are the pack leader, and if they are not bonded with you, you cannot play that role.

There is also the very real risk that your puppies may have very different personalities, with one being dominant and the other being submissive, in which case the submissive puppy is always getting "picked on". The other potentially bad situation is when both puppies have dominant personalities. In this case, you can have issues with resource guarding and "bickering" that could escalate to fighting.

All puppies have to learn to be alone so as to avoid developing separation anxiety, but this cannot happen when they are in the constant presence of another pup. For the first year they should remain in

separate areas of the house with the exception of 30 minutes of daily playtime together. This means separate puppy-proofed rooms, separate crates, and separate sleeping areas for nighttime and when you are away. Is this possible where you live? Is it a commitment you are prepared to make?

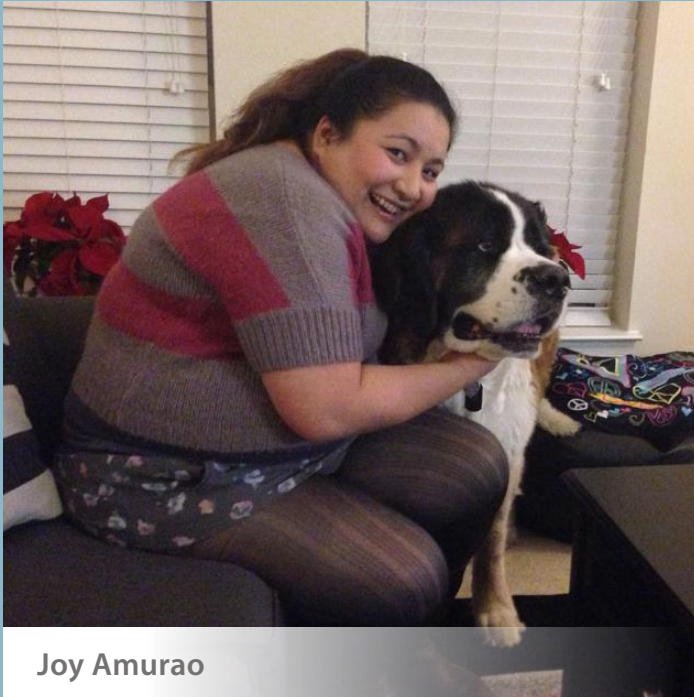
Each pup must be socialized separately so each can learn to cope with unfamiliar situations. If they are constantly together, they will only learn how to function as a team: the result could be two dogs who cannot handle unfamiliar situations without the other present.

You may also think that it will be great for the dogs to have each other to play with when you are at work or do not have time for them. At least they will have each other. In that case, you have to really think about why you want to add a dog or two to your family. If you think you will not have enough time to spend with your new family member(s), it is better to reconsider getting a dog or two in the first place.

If you envision your family with more than one dog, a better idea is to adopt one and settle in to your new family dynamic for at least several months. You can always adopt another dog at a later date if you have your heart and mind set on two, but there is really no good reason to adopt two dogs at the same time. Give yourself that one on one bonding time, as well as training time, before considering another addition. Adopting two at the same time is not advantageous for you or the dogs.

In this case, your friend had some wise advice!

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Joy Amurao

Joy Amurao has been volunteering with AFH for a little over a year. She is dedicated and hard-working and helps us with a variety of tasks from driving transports to fostering dogs to helping at events. Joy came to us when her dog passed away and she was looking for a new companion. We had just concluded our big Yorkie Claus rescue when she visited our adoption event at Petco. She was surprised by the large group of volunteers donating their time at the adoption event and decided to join us. She also adopted a Yorkie Claus dog.

When we asked Joy what makes her donate her free time to help homeless dogs, she told us that "Volunteering for AFH has been a great and fulfilling experience for me. Initially, I had thought that this would just be a way to kill time but it has been more than that to me. I've met great people and have had the unconditional love of dogs and puppies at home. Yes, it is hard work sometimes but the love and joy that dogs give us is immeasurable. I have a little more purpose in my life than just work and sleep. I have almost been a foster failure (which

means I just couldn't let my foster dog go so I adopted him/her), but I just remind myself that I am helping save more dogs by making sure my foster dogs find their forever homes. There is a definite sense of fulfillment when you see your foster dogs fall in love with an adopter and go to their forever homes."

Joanna has been with us for 10 years and says she stopped counting how many dogs she had fostered when she reached 250! She is primarily a foster care provider, but also someone who we can always count on in a pinch. She was looking for a rescue group to volunteer with, and after doing research on the many rescue groups in the area, she decided that AFH was the best place to be – and she was right!

When we asked Joanna why she volunteers her time, her response was "Volunteering for AFH is a very rewarding experience, but ultimately it is about the dogs. Knowing the desperate situations that many of them come from is sad and frustrating but what amazes me the most is the accomplishments my fosters achieve in the short time in my home. Watching them blossom from shy dogs huddled in the corner into confident happy dogs gives me great satisfaction and makes me proud of them. Watching them end up in the arms of a new family makes me extremely happy for them and proud to be part of the AFH team."



Joanna Kay

A Note from Mac

We received this note from Mac right before Christmas...



Dear AFH:

Wow! It's been just over a year since I came to live with Risa and Asher, the cats, and my two Maltese adopted siblings (Soofi and Jerry). We've had such a great year and hope you have too! We've gone on lots of adventures, including a road trip to Florida. But my favorite pastime is still just cuddling up with Mom!

Thanks for all the great work that you do finding warm, loving, homes for dogs like me!

Happy Holidays to you all! And special wet kisses to my foster mom Maureen who took such good care of me before I came here.

Recycle for AFH

For those of you who donated your old computer equipment and technology for recycling last Fall, you know that it was an opportunity to safely get rid of your old junk while helping homeless dogs. We had such a successful recycling drive that we decided to do it again.

This year's recycling day is Sunday, April 12th. The location is the same as last year – the Chantilly Petco parking lot. Our recycling partner, ALC Computer & Electronic Recycling LLC, will bring a large box truck. They will be in the parking lot from noon – 4:00 pm. Donation receipts will be available on site.

There is a long list of items that they can accept. You can view our Recycling Flyer at <http://www.aforeverhome.org/recycle-for-afh/>.

In case you are not aware, it is not a good idea to simply throw away your old

technology. Most technology devices are full of things that are really bad for the environment: arsenic, heavy metals, and all sorts of exotic toxins that will leech into the ground if disposed of in the landfill. By recycling to benefit AFH, you will be working with a knowledgeable company who will ensure that items get disposed of properly.

If you bring anything with a hard drive, you can erase it first, or the recycling company can wipe it back at their facility. They can also remove it for you while you wait, and you can dispose of it yourself.

This is a great opportunity to get rid of that old VCR, 8-track player, 10 year old computer, old cell phones, etc. The items don't have to be working either!

Some items are broken down for parts and sold, and others are recycled.

Regardless of how they are used, AFH gets a donation!

Start gathering your old junk now – and please share this with friends, family, and co-workers. If you happen to work at a company with an IT department that has a lot of old technology they want to get rid of, please let them know as well.

We hope to see you on April 12th!



Fourth Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction

Yes! We are doing it again. We will be in the same great venue as last year (with additional space this time!). The date is March 21st, the time is 7:00pm to 11:00pm, and it's the place to be!

This is a fun evening of casino gambling, food, drinks, and socializing with good friends. We also have a silent auction with lots of fun prizes that you can bid on, ranging from dog-related items to jewelry to electronics. There will also be raffle items and a 50/50 raffle you can enter.

You can see our casino night flyer, a list of donors, and a list of sponsors by going to www.aforeverhome.org, clicking on events, and clicking on Casino Night 2015.

We encourage you to patronize the businesses that support AFH through sponsorships and the donation of silent auction and raffle items. Let them know that you appreciate their generosity and that you are shopping with them because of their commitment to homeless animals, and to AFH in particular.

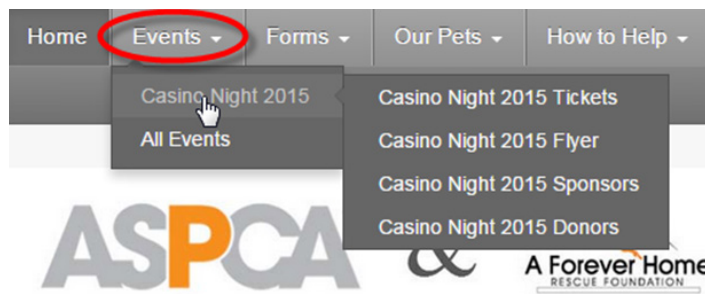
Sponsorships are critical to the success of our event, so if you or someone you know would like to explore sponsorship opportunities, please email casinonight@aforeverhome.org and request a copy of our Sponsorship Package.

There is still room for a few more raffle and silent auction items. Do you have an item or service that you would like to donate? Please email casinonight@aforeverhome.org if you would like to help us.

Casino Night tickets are on sale now, but they will sell out. Last year's event was such a success that we had to expand into additional space at the venue this year. We have also added more gaming tables. For those of you who don't play cards, we have you covered. We are bringing in slot machines again this year, and of course, your fellow dog-loving friends will be there to socialize with! Get your tickets now by going to www.aforeverhome.org, clicking on events, then Casino Night 2015, then 2015 Casino Night Tickets (<http://www.aforeverhome.org/event/casino-night-2015>) and scroll down to find the tickets.



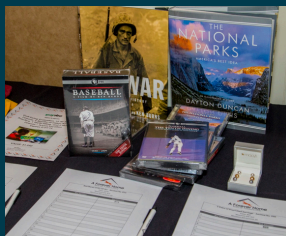
The flyer is divided into two main sections. The left section has a dark blue background with a gold starburst graphic at the top. It features the text 'WELCOME TO A Forever Home CASINO NIGHT 2015' in a gold and red font. Below this, it says 'A Forever Home Rescue Foundation is hosting its Fourth Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction' in white. The date and time 'Saturday, March 21, 2015 7:00 to 11:00 pm' are in blue. The venue 'Piedmont Club - Haymarket' and address '14675 Piedmont Vista Drive Haymarket, Virginia 20169' are in white. Ticket prices are listed at the bottom. The right section has an orange background with the 'A Forever Home RESCUE FOUNDATION' logo at the top. Below the logo are icons and labels for 'Silent Auction', 'Raffles', 'Casino Games', 'Drinks', and 'Hors d'oeuvres'. A QR code is at the bottom right.



You can purchase tickets there too. As you review the list of donors, you can visit their websites by clicking on their logos.

You don't want to miss this event so get your tickets now before they're gone!

Here are some
photos from
last year's
Casino Night



How you can help...

Make recurring monthly donations

Donate items from our Amazon Wishlist

Donate a portion of your Ebay sales

Become a foster home

Help at adoption events

Perform home visits

Include AFH in estate planning

Donate your used car

Please visit <http://www.aforeverhome.org/about/how-to-help/> for a list of ways you can help us raise money. There are many ways to help at no cost to you.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to shop at Amazon.com and there are two ways we can benefit. First, sign up for the Amazon Smiles program. You can sign up for free, and we get a donation every time you shop after you have designated A Forever Home Rescue Foundation as your charity. Just go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about/> to sign up. Then, when you are ready to shop, go to www.aforeverhome.org, scroll down to the Amazon box, and enter the item you are searching for. Since we are an Amazon affiliate, we get a donation just because you started shopping at our website! We recently got a check for \$900 from Amazon, with the potential for a lot more.

You can also help us at no cost to you every time you walk your dog.

You have a dog, right? Of course you do. You walk your dog, right? Of course you do. You have a smart phone, right? Most likely you do, and if not, maybe it's time to upgrade.

animals every time you walk your dog. Simply go to <http://www.wooftrax.com/>, download the app, select A Forever Home Rescue Foundation as your charity of choice, and start the app every time you walk your dog.

Dog walkers - you spend your entire day walking so why not donate (at no cost to you) to A Forever Home Rescue Foundation every time you walk a client's dog!

Nothing could be easier so go to <http://www.wooftrax.com/> and get started now!



AFH Announces a New Memorial Page

AFH receives emails and letters from our adopters letting us know that their beloved pets have passed on. They often include pictures, stories, and memorial donations. Since we have limited space in our newsletter to honor pets who have passed, we have created a new In Memory page on our website. Please go to www.aforeverhome.org, click on Our Pets, and then click the In Memory tab to view tributes to our furry friends.

You can include your beloved pet on our memorial page by sending your pictures and stories to info@aforeverhome.org.

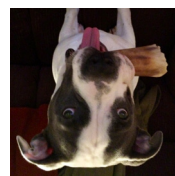
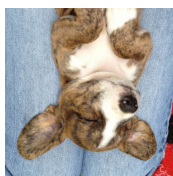
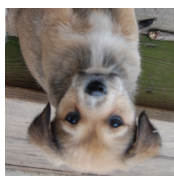




P.O. Box 222801 | Chantilly, VA 20153

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 349
DULLES, VA

Remember that you can receive your AFH newsletter electronically if you prefer. Please email us at info@aforeverhome.org to switch to an e-newsletter.



Editor: Patti Stinson
Designer: Cheryl Sims
Elwood's Assistant: Tanya Rapp

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

February 2015