



Forever Tails

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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.



If you missed our Casino Night and Silent Auction this year, you missed a great time. This was our first year at the Country Club of Fairfax and we will definitely be back. The food was great; the staff was professional and attentive; and there was plenty of space for our casino gaming, guest seating, silent auction area, and food stations. This year we even had a piano player in the lobby! As always, our friends at Chris Laich music services provided music throughout the event.

We want to thank our special guest Megan Kendal (International Ms. Virginia 2018) for attending. Her platform for this pageant is Inspiring Across Nations, where she highlights groups that do great work within their community. She adopted her dog Keeley from AFH back in 2010! Visit Instagram: Megankendal_internationalsva and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/internationalsms> to follow her.

We want to thank all of our friends and volunteers who came out to support us, and want to send a special thank you to our volunteers who donated their time to help with the event. Everything we do is volunteer-driven, and without them AFH wouldn't be the successful rescue that we are today. With almost 2,100 volunteers, we are a positive force for change in the lives of so many abused, neglected, and unwanted puppies and dogs.



SPOTLIGHT ON **NARNIA**



Female (Spayed)
Breed: Labrador Retriever Mix
Age: 2 years old

Narnia is one of our Hurricane Harvey rescues. She has adjusted very well to being in a loving home, never chews up the furniture, and rarely barks. This beauty is house trained and knows the commands sit and come. Narnia will keep you active; she loves to play fetch with her ball or go for a run (either on the leash or just in the yard). Afterward, Narnia likes nothing more than snuggling up and taking a nap. At 50 pounds, this sweetheart makes a great foot warmer for those cold winter nights! She currently lives with a cat and 2 kids (8 & 10) in her foster home and respects the baby gate that is used to create dog free areas (because as much as Narnia wanted to make friends, the resident cat wasn't interested in making friends with her – even though Narnia tried and is very well mannered toward her). Narnia is a happy girl who is loyal and eager to please.

Narnia loves people and greets them enthusiastically; however, she can be a bit picky about her doggie friends. For this reason, it is best that Narnia go to a forever home without other dogs. Also, since she is an exuberant and active girl, she may accidentally knock over small children. For this reason, we recommend that she go to a home without small children.



PAY TRIBUTE TO A LOST PET

On this page we honor all of the wonderful dogs who have shared their lives with us. Please email your tribute and photo to info@aforeverhome.org. Memories are posted on <http://to-afh.org/InMemory>

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When Melanie began fostering 10 years ago, it was in part because the house felt empty without canine companions. At the urging of a co-worker, she came to AFH and did what first-timers often do—she adopted the first two dogs that she fostered! Her dogs serve as mentors for all the fosters that have spent time at her home by showing them the household's routines, showing them how to walk on a leash, and teaching them how to give a sweet expression that gets a treat every time! Melanie holds a special place in her heart for the Littles as she calls the toy breeds, and she is particularly fond



**GILLIAN WEBER
AND MOM
MELANIE GINTER**

of Chihuahuas and Yorkies. "I enjoy being the first person the dog meets when they come to AFH. They are sometimes frightened and sometimes have health issues to be addressed. I love caring for them during their adjustment period and therefore am able to write about their unique personalities for the AFH website." It's hard not to become attached to her guests, but Melanie realizes that there are potential adopters

who love dogs as much as she does. The greatest reward is finding that perfect match for her Littles, knowing that they have found their true forever home.

Gillian has spent her whole life with dogs and considers them an important part of the family. Her parents tell the story of how when she came home from the hospital their tiny Yorkshire Terrier would always lay under her crib and keep a watchful eye on her. As an adult, she feels it is her duty to keep a watchful eye out for these sweet creatures and help them live the happy lives they deserve by fostering and volunteering with AFH.

Gillian began fostering for AFH in 2012 when she helped her mom Melanie with her foster dogs when she went out of town. In 2016, she started fostering dogs in her own home and started volunteering to work as a Receiving Coordinator for weekly dog transports. She has had the pleasure of fostering some "celebrity" AFH dogs. Her first foster was



GILLIAN WEBER

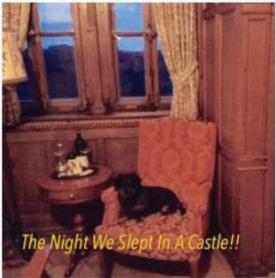
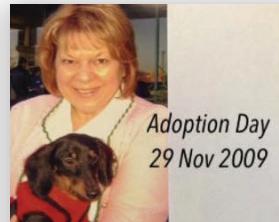
Abbie, an American Foxhound who escaped from her new owners the first night she was adopted and again months later before being caught, brought back into the rescue, and eventually adopted by Gillian's parents. She and her husband could not resist fostering Zero, the three-legged pup who went to an amazing family with four children who helped their middle-school-aged son overcome bullying (this heartwarming story won a Petco grant for AFH!).

For Gillian, seeing a dog transform from a rescue into a loyal pet, and finding a home where they can take the care and kindness they have been shown and bring such joy and love to their people is the greatest reward of all. It always leaves her asking the question, "who rescued who?"

Paula Verban
Davis wrote
to tell us
what her
AFH adoptee
Henry has
been up



We adopted our Henry back in November 2009 from A Forever Home. Henry was an anxiety-filled little angel, fearful of the slightest everyday noises. Patience and love work miracles! Today Henry is a marvel and such a brilliant companion! Since December of 2009 he has lived in New Hampshire; The Hague in the Netherlands; Stuttgart and Oberammergau Germany; Michigan; and now "our" forever family home in Arizona! He's traveled to Paris, Saint Malo, the Alsace, and Geneva, and was a true "local" in Cortona, Italy. Henry has traveled in cablecars to the top of the Alps, and ridden in trains, Venetian gondolas, streetcars, and countless trans-Atlantic flights between Europe and the USA! His little life changed from a rabbit cage in Lebanon, Missouri to having his own European Pet Passport! What is important is that Henry has changed the lives of so many people!! Thank you all for your kindness with these precious lovies!



A LETTER FROM TREVOR

Trevor (originally Baxter at AFH) wanted to say hi and let you know what he's been up to since his adoption at 6 months of age in October 2014. He had some significant behavioral issues at first but after patient training and socialization, his reactivity and insecurity has decreased. Now at 3 years of age, he is coming into his own. His mother is an assistant obedience instructor with a local training club and he now joins her in competitions. As of July 2017 he has an obedience title - "Companion Dog" - in the CDSP (Companion Dog Sport Program); is a Rally Champion Excellent (ARCHX) in WCRL Rally; is an AKC Trick Dog Novice; and a Canine Good Citizen! Most importantly, he has come such a long way from the beginning. He enjoys his walks at the parks, learning new things with his mom, socializing with his friends (human and canine), and romping with his "sister" Cayenne, a Golden retriever.

Keep up the good work at AFH so that every deserving dog can find their future home.

Yours,
Diana H and Trevor



RECURRING DONATIONS

AFH relies on your donations to provide quality care to all of the dogs in our foster homes. This is a huge monthly expense for us, averaging \$25,000 - \$30,000 every month. Will you commit to a recurring donation of \$10, \$20, or even more? Please go to <http://to-afh.org/JustGive>, select "Monthly" to commit to an automatic monthly donation, and enter your donation amount!!

It's just that easy and will help us tremendously!

Did you know that similar to grants for volunteering, many employers will match employees' donations to charities? If you are making a donation, please check with your employer to see if a match is available.



ROCCO'S RECOVERY

Jessica Newman and her family adopted Rocco 3 ½ years ago. She recently sent us an update.

It's been 3 ½ years since we adopted our beloved Rocco and I thought I'd share an update with you.

Rocco is doing very well and we are so grateful for it. Several months back, Rocco started throwing up bile in the middle of the night. We took him to his primary vet. They suggested giving him Prilosec and feeding him a little more at bedtime - thinking it was just acid reflux and/or hunger (he eats plenty!) In any case, many months later he was still throwing up bile - so I asked the primary vet to perform an ultrasound.

Luckily they did not find any blockage. However, as an incidental finding to the ultrasound, they discovered a growth on Rocco's spleen. We went to a specialist two weeks later for a second ultrasound. The mass had grown. They ran a series of tests including an x-ray of his lungs to see if anything had metastasized. Luckily, nothing was shown and they ran several panels of tests looking for infectious diseases.

They told us they "felt badly" for us and the recommendation was to remove the spleen and that the spleen was a vascular organ and a growth of any type was at great risk for rupture and hemorrhage. Sadly, they told us the 70% probability was that the growth was hemangiosarcoma - a rapidly growing and incurable cancer. They said his life expectancy with chemo would be 6-9 months if indeed the biopsy returned that result.

On November 21, 2017, Rocco had his spleen removed and 6 biopsies of his liver, intestines, stomach. Amazingly, and against all odds - his results came back that his growth was benign! The surgeon and the internal medicine specialist could not believe the results! The biopsies showed he had irritable bowel syndrome which is managed by lifelong low dose antibiotics, as the reason for the bile.

We are so grateful for him and for the news of his good health. He turned 4 years old on December 24, 2017. We celebrated with a big family party.

We continue to appreciate that AFH gave him a chance at life. He is a wonderful dog and has become the prototype for many family and friends who ask if they can take Rocco home with them.



Rocco (right) with his 10 year old brother (also a rescue) Charlie.

Two months later, we received another update...

Two months later from my last email and he has made a full recovery. He is back to running, jumping, playing fetch, and chasing his brother around.

I turned 40 on February 3rd. My husband kept asking me to have a big party and I said the only way I would was if Rocco was ok. I didn't want to celebrate 40 if Rocco wasn't making it past 4. Sure enough - I had 90 people at my house on February 3rd. Rocco wore his bow tie and was mingling with the guests the entire evening. My mom and others couldn't believe how well behaved he was! I told my guests "no gifts" but said if they insisted on bringing something I asked they bring dog toys that I would donate to the rescue.

BULLET SAVES LIVES

Kylee O'Loughlin recently wrote to tell us what Bullet has been up to after his adoption from AFH.

Dear AFH:

A year and a half ago I adopted a 4 month old Pitbull mix who at the time was named Mouse. After adopting him I renamed him Bullet. It seemed more fitting. Since then we have been inseparable. He is my best friend. He is now training to be my service dog and is a blood donor for Northern Virginia Animal Blood Bank (NVABB). He has saved my life as well as other dogs. He went from being a foster puppy to giving other dogs another chance at life. Bullet and I can't thank you enough.



SANDWICH MADNESS

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Rebecca Cooper is a restaurant writer at the Washington Business Journal and was asked by Chef Mike Isabella to participate in Sandwich Madness, which is a contest in which restaurant and food journalists come up with a sandwich that will sell at his U Street store for one month. The contest puts two media influencers against one another, with the final winner (the person whose sandwich sells the best) donating to a charity of their choice. Rebecca chose AFH because she and her husband adopted their dog, Princess Leia, from us five years ago.

Guess what happened next? Rebecca's Cubano sandwich won and she donated \$2,345 to AFH!

CASINO NIGHT 2018

