



Forever Tails

NOVEMBER 2018

In this issue...

| | |
|---|------|
| Spotlight On George and Izzy | p. 2 |
| Renly | p. 2 |
| Fore! | p. 3 |
| Volunteer Spotlight | p. 4 |
| Volunteer Spotlight (continued) | p. 5 |
| Captain Dave and Laura to the Rescue | p. 6 |
| Adoption Stories | p. 7 |
| How You Can Help | p. 8 |

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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.

Time just flies by, doesn't it? AFH started back in 2002 with a handful of fosters and a couple of dogs. Fast forward to today and we have placed over 13,000 dogs into forever homes; assisted in rescuing thousands more; grown to almost 2,100 volunteers (900 of which are foster homes); and rescued or aided in the rescue of horses, cows, pigs, cats, birds, goats, donkeys, and small mammals. We go into nursing homes to take puppies to visit senior citizens and take puppies into colleges and universities to help students de-stress.

We've driven thousands of miles and spent several million dollars over the years on vet care, dog training, and other supportive services for our dogs. We've cultivated relationships with hundreds of rescues, shelters, and private individuals – all of whom have the same goal that we have – to save lives.

We've responded to natural disasters, puppy mill busts, and hoarding cases.

We've rescued dogs who were so neglected that their fur was fused together so badly that they couldn't walk.

We've provided lifesaving surgeries to dozens of dogs.

We've cried a lot and smiled a lot.

Throughout all of it, you have been there for us. You adopt our dogs; you donate to their care; you promote our work to your friends, family, and coworkers; you offer words of encouragement; and the best part is that you send us stories and pictures about your AFH dogs. Nothing is better after a hard day of dealing with tragedy after tragedy than opening an email and seeing a picture of a beautiful and slightly spoiled (only slightly, of course!) dog. It makes all the heartache and hard work worth it – and rescue is definitely hard work.

Of course we couldn't do any of this without our amazing foster parents and volunteers. They do whatever is necessary to care for dogs who would not make it out of a shelter alive without them.

In honor of all of you, we are highlighting four of our wonderful volunteers in this issue instead of the usual two, and we are highlighting just four of the thousands of adoption successes that we have enjoyed thanks to you!

continued on page 3

SPOTLIGHT ON **GEORGE and IZZY**



GEORGE
Male (Neutered)
Breed: Miniature Poodle
Age: 8 years old

IZZY
Female (Spayed)
Miniature Schnauzer
8 years old

George and Izzy have been with us for over a year. We rescued them from a shelter last year during Hurricane Irma.

Both dogs came from a puppy mill and ended up in a shelter together. George (the Poodle) is mostly blind; however, he has a great sense of smell, which helps him maneuver. Because of his vision, we recommend that he go to a home without small children who might startle him. George gets along with other dogs and cats.

Izzy is the shy one but is happy around other dogs and also gets along with cats. Like George, he is a sweet little guy who enjoys nothing more than snuggling on your lap while you're watching TV.

While we would love to have this pair find a forever home together, they can be separated. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they each get a forever home for Christmas? Even better, if some wonderful family wanted both of them, that would be a bonus!

Please email info@aforeverhome.org if you have room in your heart and home for one or both of these little sweethearts.



RENY

Amy Fisher sent us some pictures of her AFH dog Renly, who she adopted in December 2016. Renly goes to daycare, and as you can see, he lives a life of leisure! He spends his days swimming (when it's warm of course) and playing with his buddies. The staff call him a "zoomie" because he loves to run and play and they say that he is fantastic and one happy pup!

Amy tells us that "Renly is such a good boy. He is very social and has yet to meet a dog or person he doesn't like. He has been a great addition to our family."



continued from page 1

As much success as we have had, there is still a very long way to go. Dogs are still suffering and still being euthanized in shelters. We can do more but we need your help. Will you help us by making a donation? Will you consider a monthly donation? It's easy to donate – just go to www.aforeverhome.org and click on the donate button. You can select your donation amount and can choose to make it a monthly donation – no hunting for your checkbook, an envelope, and a stamp. Just \$20 per month will make a huge difference to animals in need.

If just 25% of the more than 13,000 people receiving this email can commit to donating \$20.00 per month, that will add almost \$800,000 to our operating budget over the course of a year. We dream of the dogs that we could save with that kind of funding. It would allow us to take more of the hard luck cases that most rescues can't even consider due to cost. Sadly, many dogs are euthanized simply because there is no money available to care for them.

Please think about it. A donation in honor of the pet lover(s) in your life makes a wonderful holiday or birthday gift – and best of all – it will save lives. Maybe someone in your life is an AFH volunteer. You could honor their work by donating in their name. If you are unable to donate, please see "How You Can Help" later in this newsletter. There are lots of ways that you can help homeless puppies and dogs.

This holiday season, all of us at AFH wish you happiness and peace, and extend our sincere gratitude for everything you've done for so many wonderful puppies and dogs. We know that we can count on you to help us save even more in 2019 and we look forward to doing so!

FORE!

AFH was contacted a number of months ago by PJ Moore from Donofrio & Associates, a home inspection company in Ashburn, VA. She told us that they are huge dog lovers and that they wanted to hold a golf tournament to benefit AFH. Of course we jumped at the chance.

It was a beautiful summer day on August 27, 2018 and even though it was their first event, it was a huge success and the golfers had a great time at Lansdowne. Thanks to the efforts and vision of PJ Moore, Marketing Specialist with Donofrio & Associates, over \$2,000 was raised for A Forever Home!! Several AFH volunteers took turns manning our table and got to meet all of the wonderful people who made this event happen.

The staff at Donofrio & Associates was hands on the entire day! Thanks to Erin Thomas and Katie

Storch for all the help checking guests in and selling raffle tickets, mulligans, and gimee strings, as well as helping to keep everything running smoothly.

Many thanks to Ruthann Rebich and Donna Seeker for taking photos, helping the golfers, and making Margaret and Cheech (one of our foster dogs) from A Forever Home feel welcome.



Of course we want to send a huge thanks to Ed Donofrio, Joey Donofrio, John Flamish, and Bryan Brosnan for being there to play golf and mingle with guests. Finally, thank you to Lenny Pinnix who showed up, added laughs, mingled with guests, and helped with clean up.

We are grateful to our new friends at Donofrio & Associates for their generosity. It was obvious talking to them that they are definitely huge dogs lovers, and generous dog loves to boot!

Thank you Donofrio & Associates!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering for AFH is my happy place. It gives me a sense of purpose to help these sweet pups find their forever homes. I love watching a stressed, neglected dog come into my home and within a few days feel at home and comfortable. You can see them blossom and start to love life, plus it gives my sweet Sunnie an opportunity to fill her strong social drive. She loves making new friends and helps these dogs adapt to our home. People always think that letting foster dogs go would be too emotional and that prevents them from fostering. It's really not though, especially when you know that the family they are going to



MARGARET BELL

is going to give them a great home and you now have room to save another life. The reason I love doing this for AFH is because they make it so easy. They set you up for success and never have you do things you don't want to do. If all you want to do is open your home and love dogs then that is all you have to do. If you prefer to go out and meet people and do home visits, then you can do that. If you want to do both that's fine. You just give what you want when you want and it's all good. It's such a

rewarding aspect of my life. Thank you AFH for letting me be part of the team.

After my best friend passed, life was quite lonely and boring. Rather than sit and let this feeling continue I reached out to rescue groups about volunteer opportunities and AFH responded almost immediately; I was quite impressed with that. I told AFH that I wanted to help in some way and when I spoke to AFH volunteer Julie Kearns she mentioned that I might want to consider fostering. I wasn't sure if I was ready because I still missed Sam, but I went through the process just in case. After my first AFH adoption event I felt I could do more. I loved walking the dogs and playing with puppies but when I went home it was still lonely so I decided to try fostering. I really felt that I was



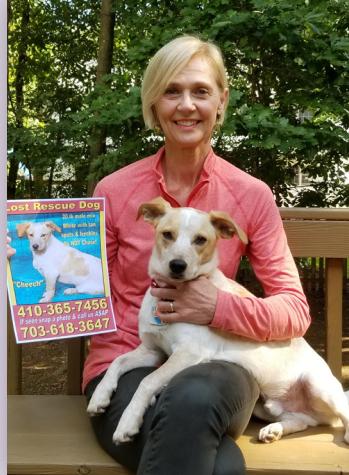
TONI GREENLEAF

doing something good for both me and the pup that I fostered. It was eye opening and a learning experience. The rest as they say is history. I have been fostering for several years now and I have fostered puppies and dogs of different sizes from many different backgrounds. It is sometimes very hard to give them up but I feel good knowing that they were safe and cared for while they were waiting for their forever homes.

My current dog Angel was a foster fail because I quickly realized that I needed her and she needed me. I will continue to help dogs find their forever homes. I have met some wonderful people along the way, including other AFH volunteers and amazing adopters.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I began volunteering with AFH after our beloved dog Toby passed away. Volunteering with the rescue seemed like a perfect way to ease my sadness. Soon my life was overflowing with canine love and I was learning so much through the resourceful folks that run AFH, the professional trainers that assist AFH, and the many seasoned volunteers. The most fulfilling experience I have had while volunteering is learning how to recover a lost dog. Fortunately, I haven't lost any of the rescues in my care but I have participated in a number of searches. It is a frightening time when a rescue dog is loose and having a good strategy is essential. Through AFH and the tracking service they use I have learned how to use social media



MARGARET HYER

sites like Pawboost, Facebook lost dog groups, and Nextdoor to spread awareness. The use of a tracking dog that follows the lost dog's scent is not only fascinating but generates an area to put up posters. 'Sam the Tracker' showed us how to effectively put up posters to maximize visibility and draw sightings. When credible sightings come in, the tracker can zero in on a location to set up a humane trap. The evening I received a call telling me that a lost dog was in the trap (after

10 days on the loose) was the best feeling in the world. I held his little shaking body in my arms and felt very grateful to be part of an organization that cares so much and is so dedicated to each and every rescue.

Michael has been a volunteer with A Forever Home for 4 years. He's transported fosters to their new homes and has had a few stints as a short-term foster. Michael is the big dog lover in his family, but his mom Patti has worked with him to design and sew quilts with



**MICHAEL AND
PATTI PRATUCH**

adorable dog themes. AFH has raffled off these beautiful quilts to raise money to help support our puppies and dogs. Michael and Patti are currently considering a new collaboration to recycle packing materials into doggy beds!

CAPTAIN DAVE AND LAURA TO THE RESCUE!

We are happy to announce that we have a new partnership with Laura and Dave (Captain Dave) Roberts. They are based in North Carolina.

Rescue is a pretty tight-knit community and we've known Laura via email for a number of years, but we just got the chance to start working with her.

Dave and Laura (who is camera shy) moved from New York to Connecticut and then to North Carolina. Laura landed in rescue just like many of us did – by fostering a dog! When that dog found a home up north, Dave said “no more” but of course there were more – many more to come. Laura told us that rescue is like the mafia – once in, there is no leaving!



Laura and Dave continued to foster for a while but Laura decided that she could start a rescue herself and find homes locally for dogs. Dave loves dogs too so of course he was on board. He spent a lot of times caring for dogs while they waited for forever homes. One on occasion alone, they cleared out a shelter and brought home 22 dogs – and they still have one of those dogs who they kept because he was “unadoptable”. Laura and Dave sectioned off a part of their home that became the dog area – a safe and comfortable place for dogs to live while Laura found them forever homes or rescues to go to. By this time she had enough contacts that she was able to send dogs to trusted rescues in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and eventually Virginia. Sending dogs to Virginia means that Captain Dave could fly them here! Not only did this triple their rescue rate, but it helps rescues like us who would normally have to send a van to pick up dogs. It's a

short flight from North Carolina to here, and the dogs are comfortable in the plane for the short ride.

Laura told us a story about a breeder in North Carolina who was dumping all of her dogs. A friend asked Laura to help. She recruited an army of people, drove to pick up some of the most terrified dogs that she had ever seen who were frozen in fear (including a blind Shih Tzu with another Shih Tzu who cared for her, Poodles going cage crazy from living in cages for their entire lives, and two Chocolate Labs who had spent their entire lives tied to a tree). She said that she will never forget that horrible sight. They fed and watered the dogs and then filled up cars, vans, and SUVs with dogs – a total of 65 – and brought them home to care for them and find rescue and forever homes.

Once the dogs were evaluated, most were sent to reputable rescues (via Captain Dave's plane), while Laura and Dave kept 16 of them. One dog who was originally thought to be blind wasn't blind – her eyes were stuck together because there was so much discharge. Backyard breeders don't care about any of this – they just care about making money from puppies.

On another occasion Laura got an email with a picture of a German Shepherd. He was dumped off a truck, emaciated, skin over bones, and his ears were covered in bites and scabs. This beautiful boy, Griffin, had endured so much that it brought Laura to tears. She was told that he wouldn't survive but Laura was not going to accept that. After an emergency vet visit and a week of IVs and good care, Captain Dave flew to pick him up. They were shocked when they saw Griffin in person. He needed two leg surgeries and heartworm treatment and needed to gain 40 pounds.

The important thing to remember is that even though these stories are brutal and very sad, they all ended happily because of a few dedicated people.

Laura is as happy to be working with us as we are to work with her. She says that they are able to save even more dogs because of AFH – and that means you, our supporters, and our volunteers get the credit!

Captain Dave doesn't always fly alone. Sometimes their neighbor Ron goes along for the ride to keep Dave company. Ron loves dogs too and he's ready to fly at a moment's notice. By the way, Dave is a retired United Airlines captain so he's always ready for a flight! Saving animals lets him enjoy his hobby and save lives and Laura handles the logistics – they are a perfect team!

We look forward to saving many more dogs with Laura and Captain Dave!

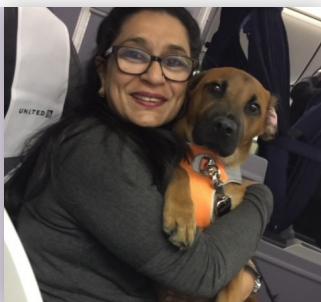
LEO

Mala Sehgal and her family moved to Switzerland. Since their AFH adoptee Leo is part of the family, of course he went too!

Mala shared with following with us:

We are no longer residing in Maryland. In 2017 June we moved back to Switzerland. Leo is much loved and doing well!

She also included some pictures of Leo and said that he was incredibly well behaved on the flight and the flight attendants all loved him!



CAESAR

Jessica Miltenberger just wrote to us about losing her dog Caesar. Although it is sad, he had a wonderful life and we wanted to share this.

It's another hard night for me, not having my Caesar by my side. I know I've shared our family photos in the past, and let me tell you...I am SO grateful that I have these precious, precious moments captured forever to look back on.



As you may know, we adopted Caesar August 2013, and were overwhelmed with how much joy he brought to our lives. He lived up to his St Bernard namesake of being a gentle giant. He was just so loving. He was a bit of a celebrity in our neighborhood; everyone we met instantly fell in love with him.

It's shaken me so hard—he died unexpectedly and just so quickly. On August 11, 2018, he died from bloat just a few hours after his morning walk. I guess his presence was needed up in doggy heaven more than here with me.

A few days before Caesar passed away, we had taken family photos again. I've just gotten them back. I'd love to share one last time just how much Caesar meant to me...to my family.

I hope these pictures make you smile the way I did when I saw them.

PEYTON

Whitney Zatzkin sent us pictures of Peyton, their AFH dog.

She writes:

Together with our daughters, we renamed him Thalēs (Thay-Lees - for the philosopher that invented static electricity by rubbing together cotton and amber. So nerdy!). He still loves power squeaking any toy we can find and chomping ice cubes!

On his birthday he managed to sneak in the pantry and tap into our s'mores basket. I came up from the office and found his mouth SHOVED full of marshmallows, but he must have thought they were too weird to chew so he had mistakenly let them sit in his mouth...getting wet and sticky... and eventually — stuck! Though scary, it was pretty hilarious seeing him so confused and sticky.

He's been swimming (a tiny bit) in our pool, he loves birding in the yard, and always thinks he can take on the squirrels. We kept the tennis ball fun alive as he grew and did a lot of training to keep him playing catch! He jumps and jumps!

Thank you so much for all you did for him. He is an incredible addition to our home. He adores training time and our trainer even had to add things to his curriculum because he was learning SO fast!



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. 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 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@aforeverhome.org for information.
- Donate your used car. Email info@aforeverhome.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 home checks; or with driving transports. Please email volunteer@aforeverhome.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.aforeverhome.org, scroll down to Ways to Support AFH (on the right), and under Shop Related Products, enter what you are shopping for in the search box and press Go. 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 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
 - Hale Pet Doors: to-afh.org/Hale
 - Bissell: to-afh.org/Bissell
- Shop through to-afh.org/GivingAssistant and donate all or part of your cash back to AFH.
- Purchase pet insurance from Toto Cares at <https://www.totopetinsurance.com/AForeverHome>
- If you or someone you know is looking to buy or sell a home, you can refer them to us by emailing Homes@aforeverhome.net. For every home referral successfully closed through this program, A Forever Home will receive a \$500.00 donation in your name.