



Forever Tails

NOVEMBER 2020

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LOOKING TO ADOPT?

Are you looking for a new furry family member?

Go to www.aforeverhome.org to see our available pets. 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.



As we reach the end of a very challenging year, we are grateful. We are grateful for you, our volunteers, our shelter and rescue partners, our transport partners, our donors, and our adopters. The pandemic has been hard on everyone, but together we have persevered. As of October 31, we have saved over 700 lives! This is no small feat given the fact that some shelters were on lockdown for a while and some transport routes were shut down.

We have struggled a bit financially this year because of the pandemic, but we have managed to provide top notch medical care for all of our dogs. Some of them came to AFH with serious medical issues and they all required basic vetting.

As always, we are successful in saving so many lives because of our volunteers. They give their time and their love to care for our pups while they wait for their perfect forever homes. We are highlighting five of these amazing volunteers in this newsletter. After reading their stories, if you would like to become an AFH volunteer, please email info@aforeverhome.org.

Another crucial factor in our ability to save so many lives is your financial support. Did you know that you can set up recurring donations through JustGiving (<http://to-afh.org/Donate>) or through Paypal (<https://PayPal.me/aforeverhome>)? Even \$10 a month makes a huge difference to a homeless, abandoned, or abused puppy or dog.

As a token of our appreciation, while supplies last, we will send you one of our AFH t-shirts if you sign up for recurring donations!

All of us at AFH wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and it is our hope that you are all happy and healthy in 2021!

SPOTLIGHT ON

Z E K E



ZEKE IS LOOKING FOR HIS FOREVER HOME

Male (Neutered)
Breed: Boxer Mix
Age: 2 years

Zeke is just one of many dogs who came to AFH as a stray. He wandered up to someone's house in rural Mississippi. He was emaciated and heartworm positive. One of our rescue partners took him in, got some weight on him, and treated his heartworm. He gets along with everyone – adults, kids, dogs, and even the cats when he stayed with a foster parent in Mississippi. This sweet guy is house trained, crate trained, and leash trained.

LILLY'S TRANSFORMATION

Lilly came to AFH in July 2020. She was four months old. She had sarcoptic mange, terribly infected skin, a salivary gland cyst, and she couldn't walk because of tick paralysis. Lilly was also underweight – weighing in at just 20 pounds. She was lucky enough to show up at someone's house in Mississippi who helped her get into rescue. There are thousands of dogs, like Lilly, who are neglected, and often abused. Your donations helped Lilly and will help thousands of additional dogs who need your financial support.



IN MEMORY



Nile and Kris Radcliffe adopted Clancy from AFH in September of 2006. They lost him on August 19, 2020.

Our hearts are broken. Clancy came into our lives as a very small puppy 14 years ago - it was love at first sight. As a young dog he had daily runs with my Nile and bubbled with enthusiasm about everything except car rides. As an Australian Shepherd mix he needed a job and

he chose to take care of our upstairs while we were at work. We never figured out what that was all about but he wouldn't come downstairs until we went up, looked around, and told him what a good job he had done! He has been by our sides constantly. He was great with children, especially our grandchildren as they grew up. He always insisted on greeting guests, often walking with them up to our door. Our friends all say that he was one of the sweetest dogs they had ever known. Clancy loved us unconditionally, comforted us when we needed it, and has been our loyal companion. Our lives will never be the same and we are so blessed that he chose us to be his family.

AFH is happy to announce a partnership with Eight Moons Naturals. As always, we suggest that you speak to your veterinarian before using any new product on your dog.

The information below comes from Brian Nern, dog lover, and one of the founders of the company.



EIGHT MOONS

Eight Moons Naturals is a brand my friend Steve and I started selling just over a year ago. Our CBD products are made 100% from seed to end product here in the USA. The CBD oil was grown and processed in Colorado. The CBD oil in all our products is extracted from hemp - NOT marijuana. All of our CBD products are 100% THC-Free (THC being the ingredient in marijuana that actually gets you high). It is totally legal in every state in the US.

Unlike THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, CBD is completely non psychoactive and safe to be used on pets. CBD also has no known toxicity level and is incapable of causing an overdose. The worst that would happen if given too many treats is the dog would be very sleepy.

The most common CBD benefits for dogs are as a painkiller, anti-inflammatory, or anticonvulsant, and to deal with stress/anxiety.

CBD can be used for multiple things from pain relief to anxiety relief. Here are a few examples of how I've used it/seen it used...

- In my dog Emma's case I started her on it because of her knee that bothers her sometimes. I think, when used sparingly, it helps with her pain and I've noticed an

improvement in her movement and desire to play more/be more active.

When New Year's or July 4th comes around and people in the neighborhood are setting off fireworks (or if I know a thunderstorm is coming through) she normally goes into hide and shake mode. I've noticed when I give her a more typical dose of a few treats she's much more calm and can relax a bit..

- CBD can definitely make them sleepy. I've known folks who have used it on longer car trips or just to take the edge off with a super excited dog.
- With Lola (the first dog we adopted) she started to have separation anxiety whenever Lisa would go to work. She'd pee in the house or tear things up (things she hadn't done since we very first got her as a puppy). Since starting on the Eight Moons CBD Dog Treats Lola seems to be much more calm than before.
- Another friend's dog had bad separation anxiety when he was away. Using a camera at home he saw she would literally howl and cry all day in her crate, also trying to break out until he returned. When he started giving her the dog treats she was much more calm

and would just relax until he got home from work.

Eight Moons is proud to support AFH and the amazing work they do in helping find forever homes for dogs in need. We are very pleased to donate 30% of your entire order of Eight Moons products to further AFH's mission.

At Eight Moons, you will always get free shipping on every order. All you have to do is enter the following coupon code at checkout: AFH30

Treat your beloved family friend with all of the benefits of CBD with our veterinarian formulated dog treats and pet oil tinctures. We use the very same pure CBD oil, grown and processed in the USA, that we use in all of our products so that you can feel safe and secure knowing that your pet will get the same reliable and superior results that come with all Eight Moons' products. All of our products are independently tested to be pure and THC-Free and our lab results are available online at www.shopeightmoons.com.

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VOLUNTEER



THE GLASS FAMILY

Our family has been fostering with AFH for four years. When we started volunteering I had no intention of fostering. I loved that AFH allowed children to volunteer at the adoption events - how great that our children could get their puppy fix and help at the same time. It didn't take too many weeks before we became a foster family!

We've fostered 35 dogs - some big, some small, some easy puppy litters and some more challenging - can you say climbers? Each holds a special place in our hearts and the photo album we keep to remember them by. It's sometimes hard to say goodbye but when you see the smiles on the faces of their new families, it makes it all worth it.

When I asked my son, my biggest helper and advocate for fostering, why he liked to foster, a huge smile spread across his face and he answered "I love to cuddle the puppies" but then he added "I also like to know that I'm helping them find families. There was a time I didn't have a family and families are important."

I love this picture of my children holding our most recent litter of 9 puppies. It embodies our spirit. Fostering has become part of the fabric of our family, and doing it with AFH has been a great experience.



NICOLE AMADO

Nicole Amado has been an AFH volunteer since July 2014, conducting home checks and fostering dogs. Along with her 13 year old son and 11 year old daughter, Nicole and her family have enjoyed taking care of puppies as young as 15 weeks.

When asked why she volunteers for AFH, Nicole said "I volunteer because it brings me a sense of satisfaction knowing that I play a part in helping homeless dogs find a family that will love and take care of them. Although it's bittersweet, it makes me truly happy to send my foster dogs home with their forever families."

SPOTLIGHT



ANITA BEESON

I have volunteered for dog and cat rescue groups in various states for over 15 years. The comradery with fellow volunteers, the sense of community, and of course a love of animals is why I volunteer.

When my daughter and I conversed with the awesome volunteers of AFH one afternoon while shopping for cat food for our three foster fails, we knew this gang was our tribe! We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an organization that places the health and well-being of pets first and ensures that prospective adopters are prepared to give these fur babies a "forever home."

I have been with AFH for two years and I volunteer as an interviewer. You may have met me when you adopted your dog!



PEGGY MACKEY

In August of 2003, I made an impulsive move to adopt a puppy from AFH, and it was then that the adventure began! Since adopting our precious Trixie Belle, we have adopted five more amazing pups (including two foster failures) but have had some incredible experiences with many other pups as well. After signing on as a volunteer over 15

years ago, I have been thrilled to play a small role in finding forever homes for the most precious, well-deserving dogs imaginable. Whether it was fostering pups that were rescued from Hurricane Katrina, puppy mills, or overwhelmed shelters, doing home checks, or just donating newspapers, I can easily say that I have been fulfilled in more ways than I can say. Unbelievably, I've fostered approximately 65 dogs, but I happily admit that many of them were moms and their babies! It's so rewarding to shower love and attention on a poor momma dog who has had a rough time and watch her newborn puppies grow into future furry family members! People always ask me how I can say goodbye to them, but knowing how much happiness they will bring to so many lives makes it all worthwhile. As someone once said "There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." Thanks to all of my foster dogs, I've received a lot of free therapy!

URSULA'S STORY - A SPECIAL PUP AND THE SPECIAL FOSTER WHO SAVED HER

Johanna Boyers is an AFH foster mom. We want to share the story of how Johanna went over and above to save a newborn puppy who was born with a cleft palate. Most puppies with a cleft palate don't survive.

A cleft palate is a malformation or disconnection of the tissues that form the roof of the mouth. A hole may be in the palate because the tissues never fully connected to each other while the fetus was developing. Severe palate defects result in holes from the palate that connect directly to the nasal passages.

The big problem with a cleft lip or palate is that it is difficult, if not impossible, for the affected puppy to latch on properly to a nipple and therefore they cannot eat properly. Depending on the severity of the cleft, the pup may not be able to get sufficient nourishment at an age where lack of nutrition can completely compromise the pup's ability to grow.

My family and I have been fostering dogs for 2 ½ years but this was the first time we considered taking in a pregnant dog. Something about Mindi's picture just got to me and I wanted to help save her and give her a safe place to have her puppies. We read everything we could about what to expect and sought the advice of more experienced fosters, and fortunately Mindi's labor and delivery was textbook smooth.



Ursula, the smallest puppy, next to Joey, the biggest puppy, the day they were born

We watched as each of the puppies was born, marveling at Mindi's tender but efficient way with them. Within the first hour of them being born, I said to my family that I was worried about #6 (her birth order - they didn't have names yet). She was smaller and didn't seem to be trying to nurse the same way

the others did. Even when we tried to help her, she wouldn't stay latched on. I consulted a friend who had done this before, and she said I could try feeding her with a dropper and she gave me some to use.



Trying to learn to eat from a syringe at 1 day old



Even though she couldn't nurse, she wanted to be close to her mama

I also reached out to Carmen from AFH and she told me the name of the formula to use. I immediately went to the pet store and got some, knowing that the first few hours and days were crucial to this little pup's survival. She didn't seem to want the dropper syringe at first, so we literally just dripped the formula into her mouth, knowing that at her tiny weight of 8.5 ounces, every drop we could get into her mattered. Over the next day or two her weight actually dropped back to 8 ounces and we were worried but determined.

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We decided that as long as she seemed to want to fight to live, and she definitely did, we would fight with her. Fortunately, I saw a show on TV not too long ago about a puppy with a cleft palate. Ursula was displaying many of the same symptoms. We started to learn more about how best to feed her, including adding a baby animal bottle nipple to the end of the syringe. She started taking the syringe differently, deeper into her throat, which we later realized allowed her to get it in past the cleft, so less came back up into her sinuses.

Some days were better than others in terms of getting her to eat; she would fight the syringe and us, and it would take 30-40 minutes just to get a couple of milliliters in her. We fed her every three to four hours, one of us taking the 3:00am feeding, while another would do the 6:00am. We were exhausted, but again - she was still fighting and we had vowed to fight with her.

Slowly but steadily, she began to gain weight. While her littermates gained about 2 ounces a day, Ursula gained about a quarter to a half (if we were lucky) of an ounce per day. She started to get better at taking the syringes and we were steadily increasing the amount of formula she ate, but we knew that she couldn't be on formula forever, and no matter how careful we were, she still got some in her sinuses.



Still so tiny and struggling to gain weight at 5 days old

We learned how important it was to get her to eat kibble. At first, she ate just a piece or two, with lots of coaxing and helping, but over the next few days she started to eat more and we were thrilled! Her weight began to increase rapidly (for her), but then she got

a sinus infection. We started antibiotics, which made her feel better, but she flat out refused the dry food. All she wanted was formula and lots of it.



Getting so much stronger and better at eating at 4 weeks old

The professionals we spoke with said to give it time, and sure enough, about a week later things just seemed to click and she was eating dry kibble right along with her siblings. She even learned to drink water out of a bowl by lapping the water and then tilting her head back to keep the water from coming out of her nose. Now, except for the fact that she's still quite a bit smaller than her littermates, she seems like a normal dog. She is completely worth every minute of the process!



At a photo shoot with Leesburg Lifestyle magazine at 4 weeks old

COUSINS SOPHIA AND ZOE JOIN FORCES TO HELP PUPPIES

When Sophia (age 7) asked her dad David Rulf about a lemonade stand, he said "that's a great idea, but before making money for yourself, let's do something to help others. Besides, it will be a good trial run." Sophia chose AFH as her charity and her cousin Zoe jumped on board to help.

When asked how much work it took to get ready, Sophia said "Wow! It took me, Zoe, and my dad two days to make everything. We made lemonade, brownies, cookies, and lemon bars, and Dad made cotton candy all day."

When the budget looked upwards of \$300 for supplies, the idea of sponsorships seemed like a great idea. Sophia and her dad reached out to several local businesses. Celebrities Salon and Spa and Kids R Kids

daycare generously covered the grocery bills, while Megabytes Eatery donated supplies and even helped during the event. Even mom helped out by making special shirts for the whole family.

"We were so thankful for the event sponsors, and the many people who donated much more than their treats cost" David shared. "This ended up being much bigger than we anticipated, but we had great help and the girls did a fantastic job."

In the end, the girls' charity event raised \$464 after expenses and sponsorships, all of which went to A Forever Home. The Rulf family confirms they are planning on another event in 2021.



IN MEMORY

Jeannie Francis wrote to tell us that she lost her Precious Polly on September 2, 2020.

I adopted Polly in 2017. She has been an absolute joy to have as part of my family. She had a horrible life before AFH rescued her but that amazing dog didn't have one mean bone in her body. She loved all my dogs and was so wonderful with any foster that came through my house. It is with a broken heart that I have to tell you that I had to let her go to the Bridge today. Several months ago, I found a mass under her arm. We biopsied it and it turned out to be metastasized breast cancer. It had also gotten into her lymph nodes. I was hoping to have so much more time with her, but this morning I noticed her abdomen was enlarged and she was pale. Also, for the first time, she didn't want breakfast. She LOVED her food so that was a big thing for her. I took her to my vet and the reality was she was going to get worse pretty quickly. Polly had suffered in the beginning of her life and I had promised her when I got her that she would never suffer again, so I had to let her go.

