

As we look back at 2020, we are grateful that even given the global pandemic, AFH was able to place over 1,100 puppies and dogs into loving forever homes. We were also able to solidify rescue relationships with some new rescue and shelter partners in rural areas of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas where there are few resources, few adopters, and a huge overpopulation problem. Thanks to these partnerships, some lucky pups have bright futures with you - our adopters.

A new year brings some changes for AFH, starting with a brand new design for this newsletter! We wanted to start the new year with a fresh new look because we want to move forward. As we do so, we want to thank Cheryl Sims, who has been our graphic artist for the past eight years. Cheryl designed our newsletter, flyers, brochures, signs, etc. It was a pleasure working with her and we will miss her talent and creativity.



Tina Hicks is our new graphic designer. Her passions are dogs, art, and photography. She's been freelancing for over 25 years and donating her services to a few dog rescues for over 10 years.

Tina has witnessed firsthand how with patience, love, and attention, a damaged rescue dog can become a glowing example of "awesomeness!" Dancing Nathan, her adopted hairless Chinese Crested, has become quite an internet sensation. We want to welcome Tina to the AFH team! We look forward to working with her.

The one thing that remains constant is that we need your financial support to continue our lifesaving work. Without you, thousands of puppies and dogs would not have made it out of shelters. Without you, we would have not been able to cover the cost of lifesaving surgeries. Without you, thousands of puppies and dogs wouldn't be enjoying their lives in loving forever homes.

Can you help us by making a donation?

Checks can be mailed to:

AFH | PO Box 222801 | Chantilly, VA 20155

or donations can be made online at:

<https://to-afh.org/Donate>

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Here's to kicking 2020 to the curb and enjoying 2021!

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Graphic Designer: Tina Hicks



Looking to **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.

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



Trevor was adopted by Diana Hong in 2014 when he was 7 months old. Diana recently sent us an update

TREVOR IS MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF

In 2014, I lost my first dog, Dino. I was looking for a dog to keep my surviving schnauzer, Baxter, company. When I saw Trevor's photo on AFH's website, he reminded me so much of my beloved Dino...and his rescue name was Baxter! What a coincidence. I was able to meet Trevor's foster mom and arrange for the dogs to meet. They did well and Trevor greeted me - a big deal because I learned he was an anxious fellow who was shy with strangers.

NunnBetter Photo

He was 7 months old when he came home with me. He had a rocky start - separation anxiety, reactivity, and difficulty with new situations. Fast forward six years and he is now calmer, happier, and more secure with his world. He is the steady dog in our house and an experienced competitor in various sports including obedience, rally, Fast CAT, Trick Dog, CGC, and Parkour. We love this boy so much and are so proud of all his accomplishments - in the ring and in life overall.

Now almost 7 years old, Trevor earned several titles from the International Dog Parkour Association during the Covid shutdown including Novice Parkour Dog, Intermediate Parkour Dog, Level 3 Quarantine specialist, Level 3 Four Foot On specialist, and Level 3 Under Specialist. We are resuming our WCRL Rally trials as they become available.

On September 13, 2020, he finished his AKC Fast CAT title - the "FCAT2" with a nice 7.87 seconds x 100 yds, 25.99 mph, and third place in the medium height class. Here is a pic of us both in our title photo and one of him running full tilt down the course. You can tell he loves this a lot! All the best and thank you letting us adopt him!



Lorelei

IN SEARCH OF MY FOREVER HOME

Breed: Hound Mix
Age: 15 months
Gender: Female (Spayed)

Lorelei came to AFH from Mississippi with her three puppies, who have all found their forever homes. She was an amazing mom and now it is her turn to find a family.

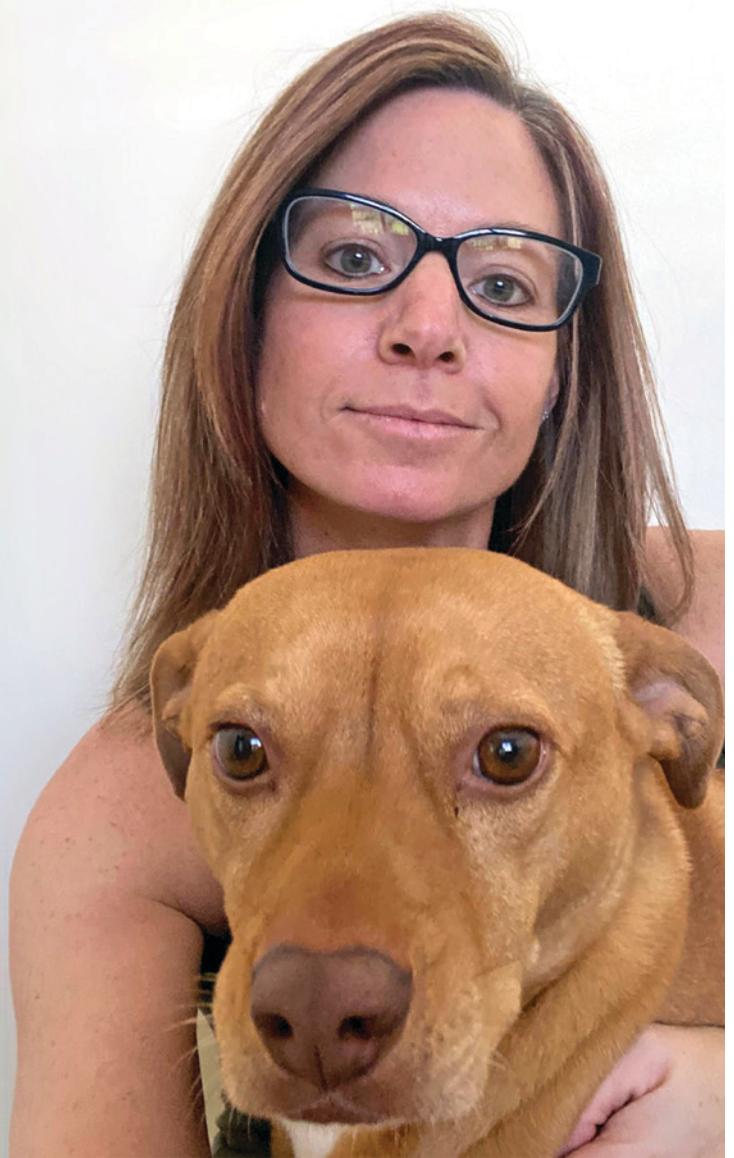
Lorelei was extremely shy when she arrived, but her foster has been exposing her to new people, sights, and sounds and she is getting over her shyness a little bit more every day. She is an avid runner, so if running is your thing, Lorelei is your girl.

She is a super sweet dog and loves cuddles and being petted. She is fully grown at about 40lbs, but she is still young and has a lot of puppy energy. She also loves playing with other dogs.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Laura Aulisio

In 2003 and 2004 I adopted my first dogs from A Forever Home Rescue Foundation. In 2015 I wanted to adopt again as both dogs had passed over the rainbow bridge. I now live in West Virginia and while adopting my third dog from AFH I was asked if I was interested in volunteering so we could expand our reach to people in West Virginia. I of course jumped at the opportunity to work with such a wonderful organization and the added benefit to me was that I was now able to give back through volunteering for them by doing home checks in West Virginia. Volunteering for me is the ability to make sure that I am making a difference in all of the lives of the animals in need and working with an organization that has given me so much through my own fur babies. That's Maggie in the picture with me - an AFH dog of course!



IN MEMORY

ELVIS by Cara Mason

I just wanted to thank the team at A Forever Home. I adopted my pup Elvis from you in January of 2006. He passed recently. I will be forever grateful for the last 15 years with the best boy in the world. Elvis traveled from the halls of Congress all over the country and then back to DC for his golden years. He was dubbed the "People's Dog" long ago because he made friends everywhere he went. There is a big hole in my family's heart that I think we are all trying to fill but we would whole heartedly jump in again for another 15.

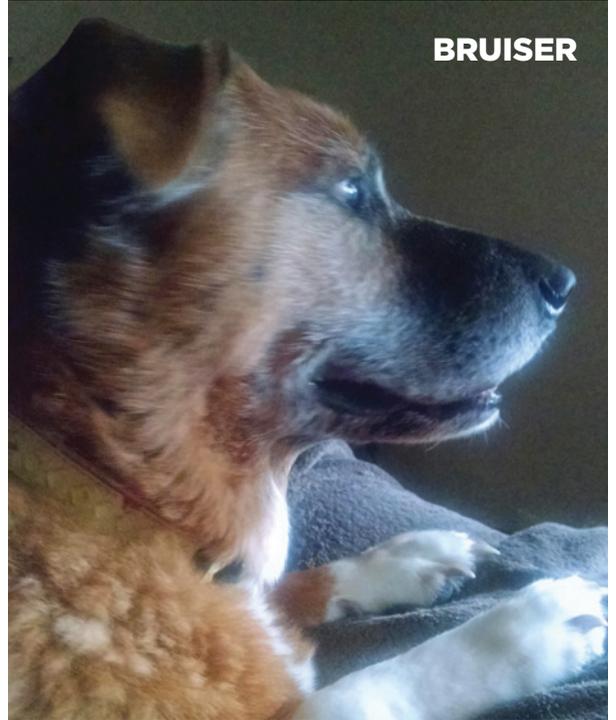


IN MEMORY

TAZ



BRUISER



TAZ AND BRUISER *by the Spangler Family*

This is probably the hardest email I have ever sent. We were fortunate enough to have adopted two very special friends from A Forever Home - Taz and Bruiser.

TAZ: Who would have thought that in a trip to Southern States for horse feed we would find such a treasure? There he was and when he was picked up he wrapped his paws around my husband's neck and that was it. He was such a joy and we were so lucky to have such a wonderful and devoted friend. We lost him to bone cancer. He is deeply missed every day.

BRUISER: It was love at first site! We saw him online and knew he belonged in our family. No matter how bad of a day you had, when you drove into the driveway and saw this beautiful face waiting for you, it all went away. He was always full of love. Bruiser passed in October and is greatly missed. Our hearts are broken - he is no longer by our side but forever in our hearts



STEVIE *by Amy Staaf*

Our Golden Retriever Stevie passed away in July 2020. We adopted him from AFH in 2015. He was the most loving, sweet, quiet, even tempered dog - a true gentle giant! Every person that met him fell in love and he loved all people, especially kids. He was truly the best dog in the world - ask any person that met him - they would agree! He was a senior when we adopted him and we were lucky to get five years with this wonderful creature. We miss him every day!

IN MEMORY

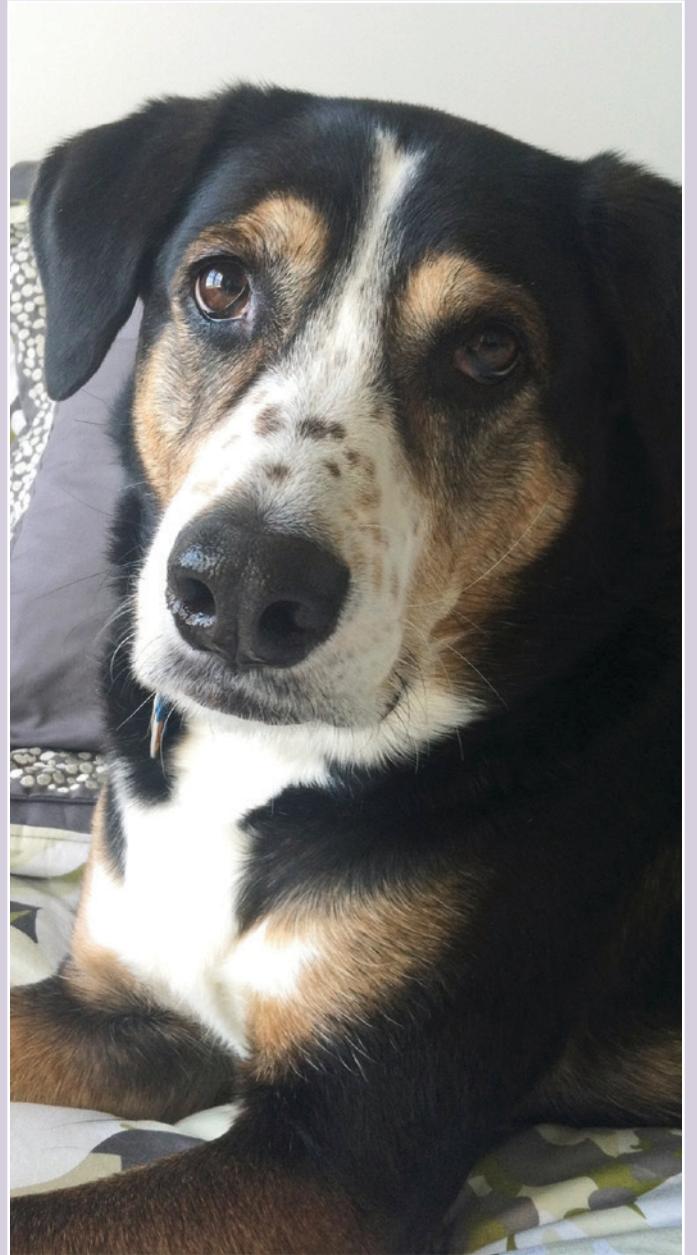


PUNKY by Deb Breining

Punky (AKA Billie) passed away from complications of diabetes on 1/25/2021. She had just turned 7 years old. It was sudden and very unexpected. She was a delightful, frisky girl who loved to romp and play. Officially she was Princess Punky Petunia - Punky Pie for short. From the beginning she slept with a stuffed bear and her own blanket. She was a vocal girl - she would growl/purr when petted, but rarely barked. There was nothing malicious about it; she just let us know she was happy.

She was a well-seasoned traveler and went all over the country with us until we retired and moved to Ohio and had a house on a small lake. She loved to chase the ducks and geese (how dare they invade her yard!) and she loved to ride in the boat.

As many who rescue know, these little fluffy balls of fur make a giant imprint on your heart. We will sorely miss our sweet girl, Punky Pie. We loved her so very, very much. We are heartbroken.



MURPHY by Lauren O'Brien

We said our final goodbyes to our beloved pup, Murphy, last week. We adopted Murphy (previously Digbey of the Fireworks litter) in July 2006 and we were so lucky to have had 14+ years with our boy. He was a loyal companion who loved his family and his treats. Murphy was as smart as he was handsome; he was a perfect example of why rescue dogs are the best. He left us with so many wonderful memories, including serving as the MOH (mutt of honor) in our wedding. We miss him terribly but find comfort in knowing he's finally at peace.



Why do I volunteer with AFH? For the oxytocin of course (the feel-good hormone). Puppy kisses are the best. It turns out that doing good makes you feel good, who knew? Jokes aside, my family has been volunteering and fostering for over eight years. It is heartwarming to go through the adoption process with adopters and to become a part of the story of a dog finding their family. I know that fostering increases an animal's chance of getting adopted as we are usually the first to find out about the pet's personality. We enjoy teaching our fur babies basic house manners, which makes them more appealing to potential adopters. Animals in foster care tend to be less stressed, better socialized, and have a lower chance of getting sick than animals in shelters. My family and I feel a great sense of accomplishment seeing their personalities bloom. A foster dog is a perfect source of companionship for us and our dog Kat, who has someone to play with through the day. She is a great mentor dog to our foster dogs. We definitely follow all the rules in terms of crating, introducing the dogs appropriately, and so on. Seeing the shenanigans Kat and the puppies get up to is wonderful for belly laughs. So if belly laughs and warm hearts sounds appealing, volunteering with A Forever Home is the perfect recipe for that.

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THE DAY ZOE PICKED US

by 9 year old Amelia

We saw the L Pups in a dog pen. There were seven of them. They were cute and fluffy. Each puppy had a different colored collar. We snuggled the girls in the litter because I wanted a baby sister. One of them had a yellow collar and started following us around the dog pen. My daddy took a video of that. She was the most snuggly one and she was very soft. It seemed like she knew that we were her forever family. My mommy gave paperwork to the people at the rescue place and asked if we could get the puppy with the yellow collar.

We then had to wait like two weeks or a million years. Someone from the rescue place came over to our house to see if we were ready to have a dog and we were ready!! My family voted on names and we all finally agreed on Zoe.

The day we had to pick up Zoe, I had my last basketball game of the season. I couldn't go with my mom to pick up my puppy because I had a basketball party. When I got home, I heard little scratches on the floor. I ran over to see a fluffy, cute puppy jumping around. And that's the day Zoe came home to our family.

Now she is one year old and her favorite things are going on walks, laying in the sun, ripping up her toys, and being a part of everything. Zoe is my little sister forever.



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Amazon Wish List – There are many things that the rescue needs – and you can help out by purchasing them for us. Donate an item through our Amazon wish list. Go to to-afh.org/WishList and select and pay for any item. It will automatically be shipped to us!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SADIE

by Diane Dobson Payne

I adopted a Shar Pei/Lab mix from you back in March 2007. She was born January 20, 2007 and was eight weeks old when I adopted her. Her name is Sadie. She was one of the Presidential pups - Mamie Eisenhower. A year after I adopted her, my only child was killed in a car accident. The devotion and love of that sweet loyal pup made each day less of a struggle and a challenge. Thirteen years later, she's more loving, devoted, and loyal than ever before. Though she is extremely dedicated, she is very laid back, easy going, and extremely sweet and gentle. I love this dog beyond words. Not only is she not just a dog, she's the reason I can get up and start every day!

Today (1/20/21) marks Sadie's 14th birthday and although I should have submitted this a long time ago, I wanted you to know how thankful and grateful I am to your organization and in awe of all the magnificent work you do for the animals, especially the dogs.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you. I just wish you knew what you have done and how deeply appreciative I am that you approved my application for her adoption.

I'm beyond words how blessed I am that she rescued me!



Wooftrax

You have a dog, right? You walk your dog, right?

You can now raise money for homeless 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.