

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

August 2015

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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

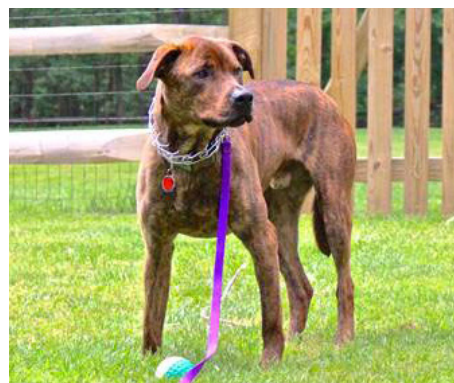
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2015 Summer Gala

For those of you who missed our 2015 Summer Gala, you missed a great night of dining, dancing, and socializing with other dog lovers. We want to thank everyone who attended, and we have to extend a huge thank you to a number of volunteers who worked hard to make the evening a success. Arlene Cline-Mains, Sherry Long, Maribel Taylor-Mattox, Kim Showalter, Diana Mains, Joy Amurao, Emmi Arroyo, and Victoria Cline handled all of the details - from soliciting sponsorships to greeting and checking in our guests, right down to the color of the napkins. These ladies did a great job in a very short period of time and made it look easy. All of our guests had a wonderful time, and most importantly, we raised money for Imagine.

Imagine will be the name of our own forever home. The first step is land acquisition. Once we have a property, we can begin building our offices, an adoption center, a boarding facility that will help to support our rescue work, and the other facilities that will comprise Imagine. We also plan on building a boarding facility that will help to support our rescue work.

Imagine it – our own forever home! We want you to be a part of it, so keep following our progress. We will keep you up to date on our progress through this newsletter, email, events, and social media.



Winston

is searching for
his forever home

Read about him on Page 2

In Search of My Forever Home: Winston

Male (Neutered)

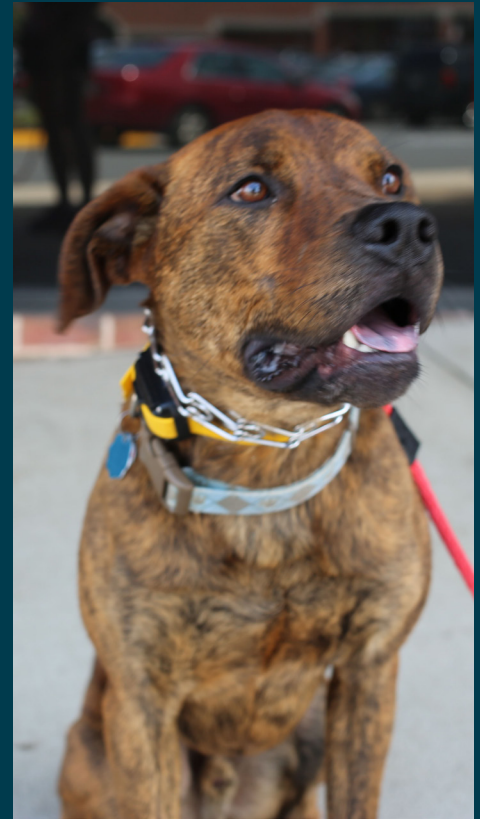
Breed: Retriever / Boxer Mix

Age: 3 years

Winston is a great dog – even though he is an example of exactly what NOT to do with your dog. His family never provided any structure, training, socialization, or boundaries. When a baby came into the home, Winston became overly protective and still no one took time to work with him.

Winston has been with our trainer for several months and he is now well trained. However, he needs a structured, calm home where his training will be reinforced. He must have rules and boundaries to remain in a balanced state of mind. If you are able to provide this type of home for him, you will be rewarded with the most wonderful dog you can imagine.

Winston gets along well with other dogs. He is, by nature, very shy, and looks to his people for assurance that all is right in the world.. Winston is truly a remarkable guy. If you have an interest in dog training, are active, and don't have young children, please consider giving him the home he deserves. Email info@foreverhome.org for more information or to arrange to meet Winston.



2015 Summer Gala (continued)

We also want to thank our generous sponsors and donors. Without them, there would not have been a summer gala. Please visit <http://to-afh.org/GalaSponsors> to view the people and organizations who supported us.

For those of you who couldn't make it, we hope to see you at our next event!





Dear Dr. Elwood,

We have just adopted a wonderful Golden Retriever mix. At her recent checkup, the vet mentioned that, at eight years old, Frankie has reached "senior" status. She is healthy and moderately active – is there anything special we need to do in her care due to her age?

Sincerely,

Frankie's mom in Fredericksburg

Dr. Elwood Pawsington

Dear Frankie's Mom,

Since Frankie is in good overall health, the focus here is maintenance and prevention. All dogs, regardless of age, need daily exercise. At the very least, take her on a nice walk several times a day. You can engage Frankie in a gentle game of fetch, but be sure to watch for any signs of arthritis. Be sure to notice if she seems to tire more easily or develops a stiff gait.

Frankie will need to exercise her mind, as well as her body. Consider giving her a "job" to do. This could be anything from reviewing basic commands every day to providing her with a fun game of "finding" a prize – you can hide some treats around the house, or have her bring you your slippers and morning paper!

Another thing that is really important for all dogs, but especially as they begin to age, is dental health. Be sure to brush her teeth every day and provide her with some nice sturdy chew toys. Dental

disease can cause mouth pain and loss of teeth, which can lessen her overall quality of life. Unhealthy teeth may also make it uncomfortable, or even painful, for her to eat.

Speaking of which - now is the time to make sure that your dog has a high quality food. Obesity in dogs is becoming more and more prevalent. Carrying extra pounds can cause discomfort and a general decrease in health. Make sure you know what the appropriate weight range is for Frankie, and keep her within that range. Her knees and hips will especially thank you.

Finally, just enjoy your time with her each day. It's a sad fact that dogs' lives are just too short, so of course we want to keep them as happy and healthy as possible so their time with us is maximized.

WHY DO DOGS LEAVE EARTH FIRST? *A Child Answers...*

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found that he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything more for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. The young boy, Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a long while after Belker's Death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try to live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?"

The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

— aplacetolovedogs.com

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Lauren and David Gillies

David and Lauren are a father/daughter team. David joined our social media team two years ago, and shortly after that he enlisted Lauren's help with our monthly podcast, which you can listen to on our website – <http://to-afh.org/Podcasts>. Lauren and David have a great time creating the AFH podcasts, which update listeners on upcoming events, provide advice on a variety of dog-related topics, and talk about some of our wonderful dogs who are awaiting forever homes. Please check out the podcast each month and send them your suggestions for a topic by emailing info@aforeverhome.org.

The Gillies family adopted two dogs, including Cody, an AFH dog. They found it to be such an incredibly rewarding experience that they wanted to get more involved in our work. Lauren's favorite part of volunteering is going to our weekly adoption event to see all the dogs!

Tanya has been a volunteer with AFH since 2011 - Mother's Day to be exact. That was the day she picked up her first foster dog, Shadow. He was a puppy mill rescue and was the sweetest little guy. He ended up finding his forever home through a friend of hers – proof that sharing his profile on social media really worked!

Tanya and her family fostered several dogs after that and also volunteered to drive transports – they had 15 8-week old puppies in the car during one of them - definitely an adventure! Tanya tells us that it so impressive to see the entire process from coordination to transport to adoption.

Tanya can't always foster but says that what is so great about being a volunteer is that there is always SOMETHING you can do. She assisted with organizing a fundraiser and she currently contributes to the AFH newsletter – she is Dr. Elwood's assistant! From passing out flyers to sharing on Facebook – there is truly something for everyone who would like to help.

When we asked Tanya how people can help AFH, she said "One of the easiest, yet most important ways to help is just to share information about AFH. Many people are unaware about rescue. But once you are aware, you can never again be unaware."



Tanya Rapp

Girl Scouts to the Rescue!



Girl Scout Troop 1153 really wanted to help dogs, and the Bronze Award project is for Junior Girl Scouts to help others and do community service for 20 hours. Nicole Shortle, Emily Choi, Grace Barnhart, Rachael Gardiner, Janelle Roy, Karina Conrad, and Katrina Jeweler decided to dedicate their community service hours to help AFH.

The girls started by meeting with AFH volunteer Marybeth Henry, who works with our young volunteers. Marybeth told the girls about our work and talked to them about how they could best help us.

The girls immediately got to work making dog toys and baking homemade treats! They also sold hand-squeezed lemonade to raise money for our dogs. On top of that, they created flyers announcing a supply drive and posted them in their neighborhoods. They visited their neighbors to collect donated supplies and told them all about their project to help homeless dogs. The final step was to drop off a huge pile of donations to us. This gave us the opportunity to take some pictures of the girls, their donations, and some of our adoptable dogs.

The girls told us how much they loved helping our dogs and how proud they were to be part of the mission to save dogs. Not only are we proud of them too, but we admire their dedication and hard work.

Troop 1153 isn't done yet! They are going to be holding a bake sale soon to raise even more money for homeless dogs.

Way to go girls – you rock! From all of us here at AFH, thank you for everything!



Boy Scouts to the Rescue!

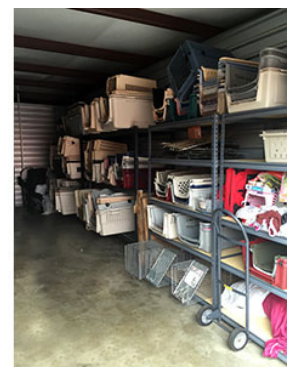


For years, our storage unit has been, quite frankly, a disaster. We had way too much stuff and it was an unorganized mess. Then Jake Gercken stepped up! Jake and his family have been AFH volunteers for years, and as foster parents, they have visited our storage unit a lot.

Jake was looking for a project to help him attain the rank of Eagle Scout, and he immediately thought of us! On April 18th, 23 scouts from Troop 695, led by Jake, descended upon our storage unit with a plan to build additional shelves and storage racks and to get rid of the junk. They took five truckloads of broken crates and miscellaneous junk to the dump!

After sorting everything that remained, the final step was to organize our supplies, and over the next four weeks they completed the construction process, resulting in a new, organized, user-friendly storage unit – complete with new shelves and racks!

Many thanks to Jake and his fellow Scouts for all of their hard work in rescuing our storage unit!



Mark Your Calendar!

Please come out and join us for one (or all!) of the events listed below...

WINE FOR CANINES

AFH is holding a Wine for Canines Fundraiser at Barrel Oak Winery in Delaplane, Virginia. The date is Sunday, September 27th, and the time is 12:00pm – 4:00pm. Please visit <http://www.barreloak.com/> for directions.

The best part of this event is that Barrel Oak is pet friendly! That's right – you can bring your well-behaved leashed dog with you! We hope that you and your furry friend will join us for a beautiful Fall day in the country. You can sip some wine, have a nice lunch, socialize with other dog lovers, and help AFH.

The cost of the event is \$15 per person, payable at the venue. We will also have raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Please come out and join us! If you have any questions, please email info@aforeverhome.org.



DC UNITED SOCCER

Soccer fans, get your friends, family, or company together for a great night out with the DC United! Purchase tickets for the Friday, October 2 match against New York City FC and a portion of the proceeds will go to AFH! Show your support for DC soccer and for AFH -

<http://to-afh.org/DCUnited>. Use promo code AFHDCU.



PINTS FOR PAWS AT DOGFISH HEAD ALEHOUSE

Last year's event was so much fun that we're doing it again! Our friends at Dogfish Head Alehouse have invited us back for a fundraising day. The concept is simple – you come out and have a nice meal (or even lunch and dinner) and AFH gets a donation!

WHAT: Pints for Paws

WHEN: Tuesday, October 20, 2015

WHERE: Dogfish Head Alehouse

13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway

Fairfax, VA 22033 (In the Greenbriar shopping center)

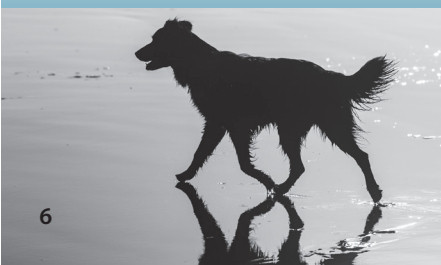
HOURS: 11:30am to 11pm

This year we will have a live band starting at 8:00 pm and, just like last year, there will be raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Please come out and join us again this year. You have to eat anyway, so why not help homeless dogs at the same time?



If you have any questions, please email us at info@aforeverhome.org



Pay tribute to a lost pet at our memorial page

<http://to-afh.org/InMemory>

Urgent Needs

Sweet little Lucy was born with PDA, a congenital heart defect. This made her useless to her breeder, who dumped her at the local shelter, where she would have been killed if not for AFH. We stepped in and saved her, but it required \$5,000 worth of surgery and after care to bring her to full health. She's happy to be alive and has fully recovered ... take a look at her face! If you would like to help cover the cost of Lucy's surgery, please visit <http://to-afh.org/HelpLucy>.



Our little beagle Dixie had to be rushed to the emergency clinic last week. She was lethargic and obviously not feeling well, as evidenced by the fact that she wouldn't eat. She was in pain. Examination and x-rays showed a lot of gas, but no definitive blockage. The vet thought she might have eaten something that was causing a blockage. They did an ultrasound and bloodwork, and because she had peritonitis (an inflammation of the peritoneum, the tissue that lines the inner wall of the abdomen and covers and supports most of the abdominal organs), determined that her stomach or intestines had been perforated. They called in an emergency surgical team who discovered that the cause of the infection was a sponge that had been left in her body after her spay a month earlier. After an \$1,800 discount, the diagnostics, care, and surgery cost us \$5,000. Please consider a donation to help us recoup some of these costs in order to rescue the next dog in need. You can visit <http://to-afh.org/JustGive> to donate now.



Wilbur came to AFH from a hoarder and tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) shortly after arriving. This ligament connects the back of the femur (the bone above the knee) with the front of the tibia (the bone below the knee). It is responsible for stabilizing the knee joint. Obviously, we were responsible for making sure that Wilbur

was made whole and pain free before adoption, so we arranged for his surgery. The surgery was expensive - \$4,000 – but we are just as committed to Wilbur as we are to every other dog that enters our rescue. We hope that you can help us with the cost of his surgery. Please visit www.aforeverhome.org to donate. Visit <http://to-afh.org/WilbursACL>.

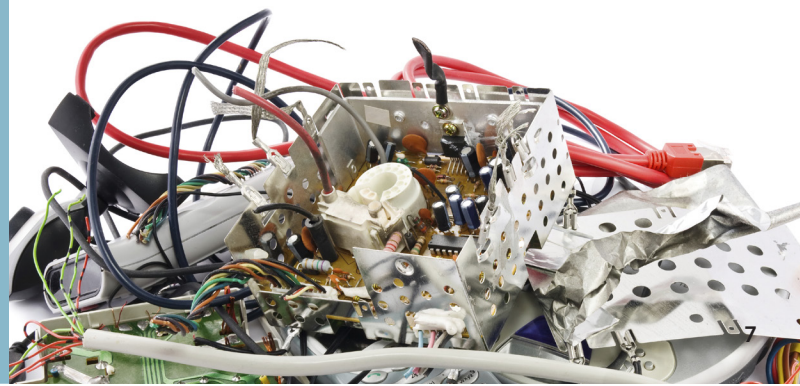
Recycle for AFH

Our recycling events have been so successful that we are doing it again! The next recycling day is Sunday, October 25th from noon-4:00pm. The location is the Petco parking lot in the Greenbrier shopping center.

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.

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.

You can view our Recycling Flyer at <http://to-afh/Recycle>.

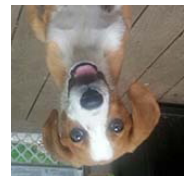
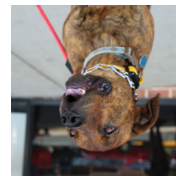
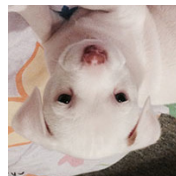
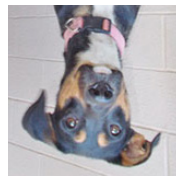




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