

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

August 2016

In this issue...

In Search of My Forever Home	p. 2
Letters From Home	p. 2
AFH and Cortina Productions	p. 3
Volunteer Spotlight	p. 4
Dr. Elwood Pawsington	p. 5
Dogs as Blood Donors? You Bet!	p. 6
150 Days Challenge	p. 6
A Bond Thicker Than Blood	p. 7

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

Email	info@aforeverhome.org
Website	www.aforeverhome.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/afh2002
Twitter	@aforeverhome twitter.com/aforeverhome
Address	P.O. Box 222801 Chantilly, VA 20153
Fax	866.863.6890
Phone	703.961.8690

Every dollar donated, every mile driven, every foster minute spent, and every hug given makes a difference to a homeless dog.

We all know about the pet population problem, and we all know that the problem is too big for one person or group to solve; however, working together our efforts are maximized and we CAN make a huge difference.

We understand that not everyone can make large financial donations and you may think that what you consider a small donation isn't enough to have an impact. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, while we are lucky enough to have some supporters who can and do make large financial contributions, a large portion of our funding comes from all of those \$10, \$20, and \$50 donations. There really is strength in numbers.

We have had an extraordinarily busy (and expensive) few months. We have paid for a heart surgery, repairs to broken limbs, heartworm treatments, visits to specialists such as cardiologists and ophthalmologists, and have spent thousands of dollars in rehabilitation training, all in addition to our standard \$25,000 - \$30,000 monthly vet bills. To help cover these costs, we are holding a 60/40 raffle. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at <http://to-afh.org/6040Raffle>.

Over 11,000 people receive this newsletter. We have over 1,800 volunteers and thousands of friends on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If only 10% of those people participate, that results in \$30,000 coming in – 40% (\$12,000) of which goes to the winner. If 50% participate, a whopping \$150,000 comes in to AFH – with \$60,000 going to the winner. We know what we would do with the money. Imagine what it would mean to you!

The raffle starts on Saturday, August 13th and the winner will be chosen on Sunday, October 16th. You do not have to be present to win. Visit <http://to-afh.org/6040Raffle> to enter.



Jenny

is searching for
her forever home

Read about her on Page 2

In Search of My Forever Home: Jenny

Female (Spayed)

Breed: Treeing Walker Coonhound

Age: 3 years old

Jenny is a 3 year old Treeing Walker Coonhound. She is spayed, up to date on all vaccinations, AND has been professionally trained!

Jenny is such a sweetheart! This girl is EXTREMELY food motivated and will do just about anything for a piece of kibble. She knows sit and down and is working on place. She loves the clicker, doing nose touches, and free shaping. She rocks on the treadmill!!

Jenny is crate trained and house trained. She walks well on a leash, but still needs to be reminded that walking on a leash is not time to go hunting (she is definitely a hound!).

If hounds are what you love, you can't go wrong with our girl Jenny. However, due to her past lack of socialization, we don't recommend that she go to a home with young children, or children who are not willing to respect Jenny's personal space.

Please email info@aforeverhome.org if you would like to meet Jenny.



Letters From Home



Melanie Hamilton-Smith submitted the following to AFH:

I just wanted to send a photo of me and Ray on vacation in the OBX now that he's been with us for five years or so. He's getting old, 13 we think, but is in excellent shape - even with his blind, no teeth state at adoption!! He's pretty spoiled and gets carried around most of the time or he is on my lap. He still hates storms, but if we put him in the bed between us and almost smother him with our stomachs, he settles down. We have moved to rural Illinois and he seems to be flourishing with the big flat yard to run around in.

One of our elderly neighbors asked us "Why did you get that defective dog?" in a sharp, querulous voice. "Because we could when no else would" was my answer.

We agree with you Melanie. All dogs are beautiful and deserve loving forever homes.



Pay tribute to a lost pet at our memorial page

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

AFH and Cortina Productions

Evan and Alison Marshall are huge dogs lovers, AFH adopters, and AFH volunteers. They are always willing to jump in and lend a hand. Evan is part of a team at Cortina Productions, which is a full-service creative media design and production company. He reached out to us a few months ago asking if he and his team could help us in any way. As a part of their community outreach, Cortina Productions has worked with a number of volunteer organizations, helping causes that are important to them. Their office has a lot of dog lovers so when the opportunity arose to help A Forever Home, they all jumped at the opportunity to lend their video talents for a good cause and boy did we need their help! We jumped at the chance to have a group of professionals produce

some videos for us – and we knew immediately what we needed.

We all know that training and discipline are crucial to raising well adjusted and well behaved dogs. We all also know that sometimes it's difficult to reinforce training as time goes on, so we reached out to Stacie and Allison at Hornbaker Dog Training and asked if they would participate in creating some short training videos for us. They immediately said yes and everyone got to work. Anyone can read about how to provide basic training for your dog, but seeing how a professional trainer does it makes it so much clearer. It is important that serious behavior issues are handled by a professional trainer, but basic sit-stay type training can be done at home.

Our friends at Cortina Productions, along with Stacie and Allison, got together with some of us from AFH and spent an entire day filming the videos. They then took them back to their office for production, and the result was quality videos that address some basic training issues.

These videos will be available on our website soon. We encourage you to view them, use them, and share them.

We want to extend a huge thank you to Evan, Alison, everyone at Cortina Productions, and Stacie and Allison for giving up so much of their time to provide us with quality videos that will help all of us to help our dogs.



From Left to Right: Luke Jones, Patrick Mittereder, Becky Varni, Evan Marshall, Rebecca Radford, Albert Gea, Alisa Katz, and Rico Santos

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Lisa Alberti

Millions of dog and puppies are abandoned each year resulting in a world filled with stray dogs of all breeds and sizes. Many of these strays come to a bad end but because of rescue groups, many are also saved. I am so lucky and blessed to have gotten involved with AFH.

I was at the Super Pet Expo and AFH had a booth. I filled out a raffle ticket to win a gift basket (I did not win – thanks a lot guys!) but I was added to their email list and boy did they start coming in! I wondered “Who is this Patti, Maribel, and Carmen?” so I went to the next scheduled adoption event at Petco. The first person I ran into had a nametag on that said Maribel and after talking to her for two minutes and hearing how I can volunteer, I was hooked.

If there is a fundraising event I do my best to be there. My first volunteer transport was from Hagerstown, Maryland followed by another and then another and then another. Kentucky was a full weekend as was Myrtle Beach. Pulaski, Tennessee was

the longest transport but was as rewarding as the others. I also helped at a winery event and have done several Puppy Days at the American University Law School.

I will do anything for AFH because they have given me so much. Rescuing takes time and there is a risk of revealing something about yourself – your vulnerability – that is not always fashionable. That is what people do not understand. You do it because it is difficult. You do it because you are not sure of things. You do it because you can. Dogs have always changed my life for the better.

Thinking back to how it all began.....Our daughters needed community service hours when they were in middle school. “Let’s do something fun!” The girls decided they wanted to do something with animal rescue. After some searching, we discovered A Forever Home Rescue Foundation. Our involvement with AFH started slowly with helping out at the pet adoptions, then we were temporary fosters, and then we quickly moved on to becoming permanent fosters. The years have passed, our daughters have graduated from college, and we continue to foster. When we realized that we had fostered over 100 pups, we were very surprised.

It can be a lot of work with occasional sleepless nights and sadness seeing the condition of some of the dogs that we rescue. However, it is quickly surpassed by the joy of the first tail wag or kiss from a dog that has no reason to trust anyone, watching a frightened dog come out from hiding behind your legs to romp in the grass, or having a pup snuggle in your arms knowing that he is finally safe. Yes, an occasional tear is shed when we say goodbye to our foster pups because they do become a part of our family, but it is also very rewarding to know they are going to wonderful forever homes. As you walk into our home, there is a plaque with one of our favorite sayings, “Saving one dog will not change the world but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever” That is why we foster.



Jean and Joe Welch



Dear Dr. Pawsington,
We have recently decided that we are ready to add to our growing family. We have a five year old and a two year old and we would love to introduce them to the joy of growing up with a furry sibling in the household. The children have minimal experience with dogs. They are so excited to welcome a new family member – we just want to make sure we do all that we can to ensure they know how to behave when interacting with their new “brother” or “sister”.

Sincerely,
Preparing in Purcellville

Dear Preparing,

Thank you so very much for your question – this is such an important topic! Making sure that your children are ready for a pet is a huge positive step in making sure that things go smoothly once you bring your new furry friend home. When you first bring home your new family member, understand that that while your kids will likely be very excited – your new pet may be feeling a bit shy and overwhelmed. This is where it’s important for the family to

Dr. Elwood Pawsington

be patient and take cues from your new dog or puppy.

There is nothing quite like a loyal companion for the family, but household rules must be established and children need to know that these rules are not just for their own household, but need to be followed anytime and anywhere they encounter a dog. Remind your children to allow a dog to approach them - do not let the children rush up to any dog. It’s hard sometimes – kids (and dogs!) get so excited, but safety always comes first.

With very young children, one of the most important things to remember is that you should not leave them alone with a dog – even for a few minutes. Teach the children that they must always be gentle with a dog. Do not allow pulling on any part of the dog, picking up a dog alone, riding or sitting on the dog, or even hugging the dog around the neck. Perhaps most important – NEVER let a child put his/her face into a dog’s

face. Some people swear that their dog loves to receive big hugs, but in general, it’s a no no. If things are not going well at first with following the rules, a brief separation and reminder is helpful for both sides.

Children love to be included in daily chores involving your pet. Allow them to help you set up the water and food bowls. They can bring you the leash when it’s time for walks and keep you company while you take a stroll. This helps teach them about the care that is involved and you can increase the level of responsibility as they grow older. Remember to involve the kids in training; most instructors will be greatly in favor of involving the entire family.

Finally, remember to have fun! Kids usually love to help throw a ball for the dog to fetch, or to hand out treats for good behavior. Keeping them involved helps nurture what will turn out to be one of the best relationships in a child’s life.



Dogs as Blood Donors? You Bet!

By Sarah Rouk and her dog Cubacca (blood donor)

Canine blood is needed for dogs that suffer from anemia, injury, or disease. This blood comes from healthy canine donors. A single donation can be used to save up to four lives because the blood can be separated into two components, red blood cells and plasma. Unfortunately, canine blood only has a shelf life of around 30 days, so supplies must be replenished on a continuous basis.

Vets aren't always able to keep blood on hand and instead rely on regional and national blood banks. There are three main national veterinary blood banks in the country. Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank (BRVBB), which is in our area, is one of the largest and uses only canine volunteer donors.

Dogs can donate blood as often as every three weeks. BRVBB asks donor dogs to come in once every five to six weeks. Blood donation takes 10 to 20 minutes and is almost painless. The dog is not sedated and only a small percentage of blood is taken. During donation, the dog is held in place by a dog snuggler and is fed treats or peanut butter. If the dog doesn't feel comfortable donating, they aren't forced to donate.

To donate, a dog must be between 9 months and 7 years old, weigh more than 40 pounds, have no history of serious diseases, be up to date on vaccines and heartworm preventive, and commit to donating 8 times over the course of a year at a donation site in our area. Donor dogs receive benefits including blood typing, extensive blood testing, and discounted blood.

For more information about canine blood donation or if you are interested in your dog becoming a donor, visit BRVBB at <http://www.brvbblifesavers.com/> or email dogsdonateblood@gmail.com



150 Days Challenge

Once again, the ASPCA is helping rescues to raise money, and once again we are participating with them. If you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone and just a few minutes, you can help us win \$150,000!

In honor of their 150th anniversary, they have kicked off 150 Days of Rescue, a campaign seeking to inspire the nation in reaching 150,000 actions for animals in just 150 days! Simply donate at least 15 minutes of your time between April 10 and September 7, 2016, to helping animals in need, and log it for the chance to nominate your favorite rescue (AFH) to receive a \$150,000 grant prize! Your 15 minutes can include anything from volunteering with AFH to making a donation.

Just go to <http://www.asPCA.org/150days> and fill in your name, address, and email address and then click on Submit My Actions.

On the next page, enter A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, Chantilly VA as your rescue of choice and at the bottom of the screen, provide 200-400 words about what makes AFH a great rescue.

You could mention how much you enjoy volunteering, how many dogs we rescue (approximately 1,000 every year), how we rescue from puppy mills and hoarders, how we provide humane education to children, how we spare no expense to care for our dogs, how adopting has changed your life - just write what you feel.

Please share this information widely and ask everyone you know to participate. It could mean \$150,000 for our puppies and dogs!

A Bond Thicker Than Blood

By Adrienne Kammer, AFH Adopter

Three weeks before Thanksgiving 2013 my husband and I adopted the sweetest little puppy. At five months old our little girl had already had two foster homes and a home that hadn't worked out, but for us she was absolutely perfect, smart, loving, and ready to give kisses. We named her Lieutenant Barkingsdale. A year went by very quickly and we soon realized that Lt needed to be engaged more than just romping around with Mommy and Daddy, running around at the dog park, or taking long walks.

After much consideration we decided to adopt another rescue dog, but it couldn't be just any dog. We needed a dog that would be the missing part of our family. Once again we started looking at the AFH website. We had a vague idea of what we were looking for - a dog the same size and temperament as Lt, one with their own personality, and most of all the new dog would have to get along with Lt, so the search began – and then we found her. Her name was Lucy and as fortune would have it she was being fostered by the same couple who had fostered Lt and we made arrangements for the girls to meet.

It was the end of January, but warm enough to let the girls outside in the back yard to get to know each other. After the initial meet and greet Lt seemed rather shy, but then the play bow happened, Lt's eyes lit up, and the two were off running, taking turns chasing each other, tagging one another, and wrestling. Eventually Lt brought her new friend over to meet Mommy.

Lucy was whipcord thin, every rib showing, long legs that went up into her spine, and two mismatched eyes - one of ice blue and the other a deep warm brown. I only had a few moments to try to pet her before they were off running, jumping, and playing until they were exhausted. As we said our goodbyes I still hadn't figured out how I felt about Lucy, but it was obvious from the sleeping dog in the back seat that a connection had been made.

On the way home we traded names back and forth, and for the rest of the day we discussed whether or not adding a second dog to the family would be a good decision. My husband filled out the adoption papers and waited for me to make up my mind. Finally I looked at Lt happily sleeping on her mat near my feet and said yes. Lucy became ours the day after Valentine's Day and we decided to rename her Artemis Dax since a new start deserves a new name.

Over the next few months we watched this sweetheart of a dog blossom and open up to us petal by petal. The first level of trust was to her new sister. Lt and Artemis quickly became inseparable.



Artemis would follow Lt's lead, taking a submissive role in everything except at the dog park. At the dog park she became alive, running around chasing, and playing with and barking at other dogs. At the vet's office Artemis would protect Lt as if to say "I've got this. I've been to the vet a lot and I won't let them hurt you" and she was right - our new baby had been through quite a lot in her first two years. By our count she had 'lived' in seven different places since being rescued from the streets as a puppy. Every time I had to drop her off at the vet it tore my heart, but seeing her mismatched eyes light up when Lt and I would come to pick her up was very rewarding.

As the months passed she opened up to us more and more, and then there was her sister - for sisters they had become. Everyone asks if they are siblings or the same breed because they look so much alike. They play and protect each other and even check in with one another when in a new situation, but they aren't related - not by blood - but they are related by a bond that is even stronger - one of love.





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If you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to email info@aforeverhome.org

Editor: Patti Stinson
Designer: Cheryl Sims
Elwood's Assistant: Tanya Rapp

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