

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

May 2015

In this issue...

In Search of My Forever Home - Willie	p. 2
Welcome to America...	p. 2
Dr. Elwood Pawsington	p. 3
Volunteer Spotlight	p. 4
Estate Planning	p. 5
Memorial	p. 5
How to Keep Your Pet Safe...	p. 6
How You Can Help	p. 7
AFH is Moving Forward	p. 7
Stay in Touch	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

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

AFH Summer Gala 2015

AFH is pleased to announce our next fundraising event – a black tie gala to raise money for our own forever home!



Please come join us at beautiful Raspberry Plain (<http://www.raspberryplain.com/>) in Leesburg, Virginia for a night of dining, dancing, entertainment, and fun! You will be served a delicious dinner, socialize with other dog lovers, dance to music provided by a fabulous DJ, have your picture taken in front of a step and repeat, and compete in a silent auction for some cool items! There will also be a 50/50 raffle, the chance to win a real two-carat diamond just for attending, and, for you cigar smokers, a professional cigar roller will be on site!

The date is Friday, July 10th, the time is 5:00pm – 11:00pm, the address is 16500 Agapé Lane, Leesburg VA 20176, and the dress code is black tie. Ticket prices are \$175 each or two for \$300.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.aforeverhome.org/summer-gala-2015.



WILLIE

is searching for
his forever home

Read about him on Page 2

In Search of My Forever Home: Willie

Male

Breed: Purebred Chihuahua

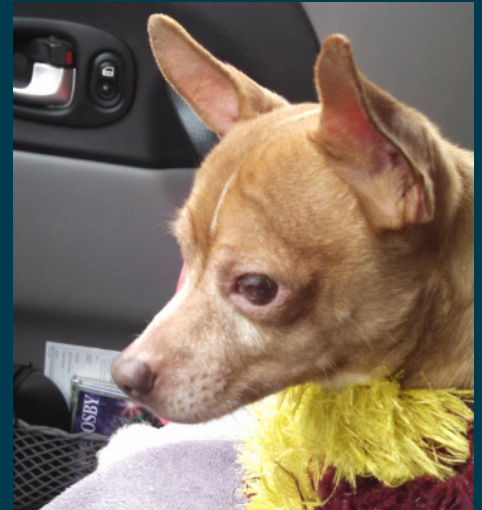
Age: 5 years

Hi – I'm Willie and I'm looking for my forever home. AFH rescued me from a hoarding situation in West Virginia and boy am I glad to be out of there! I am now happy and comfortable in a foster home.

I suffered with severe dry eye (which was very painful) for a long time and I have some loss of sight. AFH sent me to an ophthalmologist who will determine if I need surgery to fix it. If surgery is needed, it will be done before I go to my forever home.

I get along well with both dogs and cats, but I prefer a home without small children because of my vision impairment. My person has to be careful because I follow closely behind people and I don't want to get stepped on. I have learned to follow my nose, my foster mom's voice, and even my toes to feel my way around. I can go up and down a few stairs, but should be supervised when doing so.

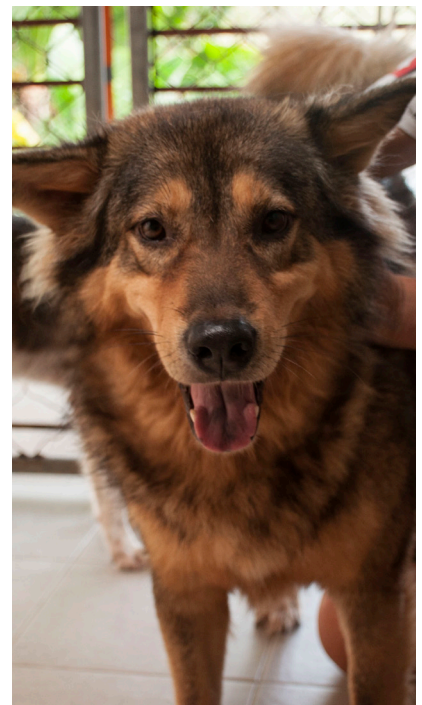
I love to snuggle under the covers with my foster mom, and I'm hoping my new family will let me snuggle with them too. Oh yes – I love to give kisses too – so how about if you stop by and meet me and let's see how long it takes for you to fall in love with me. You can email my assistant at info@aforeverhome.org to set that up.



Welcome to America, Mammoth and Americano!

On May 6th, after several months of planning and waiting, Mammoth and Americano arrived in America from Thailand. They are our two newest rescues from Thailand's illegal dog meat industry. They flew into JFK Airport in New York City and were met by Amy and Joy, who drove them to Virginia. They will spend some time with our trainer, Stacie Hornbaker, so they can learn what kind of behavior is expected from them in their new homes.

It is expensive to bring dogs from Thailand to America, but after learning how they are brutally tortured and killed, we had to offer our help. We have committed to helping a dog from Thailand any time a flight volunteer arrives in an airport that we can get to. Please help us continue our partnership and honor our commitment by making a donation at <http://bit.ly/1vtrWMB>.





Dear Dr. Elwood,

My dog Walter is a big fan of treats, and I love rewarding him with some tasty snacks, but it seems that pet treat recalls have no end in sight! Baking is a big hobby of mine and I thought - well, why not come up with some recipes for homemade doggie treats! Walter and I would like to share a couple of them with you. Can you please pass them along to your readers?

Sincerely,

Walter's Mom in Leesburg

Dr. Elwood Pawsington

Dear Walter's Mom,

Thank you for sharing these recipes – they look delicious – and easy enough for anyone to use! As dog treats (most notably those made in China) continue to be recalled, making your own treats is a cost effective way to provide a safe, tasty snack, and it's certainly nice to be able to recognize every single ingredient! When you make your own snacks, you know exactly what your pet is eating. For some additional recipes, including some savory treats, go to http://dogs.thefuntimesguide.com/2009/01/homemade_dog_treats.php. Bon Appétit!

Peanut Butter and Oatmeal Dog Biscuits:

Ingredients:

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 cup rolled oats
1/3 cup peanut butter
1 1/4 cups hot water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix dry ingredients together. Mix in the peanut butter and hot water. You may need to

add more water or flour depending on if the dough is too dry or too sticky. Roll it out fairly thick (about 1/3 inch). Cut into shapes and place on parchment paper on a cookie sheet. Bake for 30 minutes.

Chicken Broth Dog Biscuits:

Ingredients:

1 cup whole wheat flour
1/3 cup cornmeal
1 Tbsp canola oil
1/4 cup chicken broth
1 egg
1/8 cup milk
egg wash

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour and cornmeal. Add oil, broth, egg, and milk. Mix until combined. Roll it out (about 1/3 inch). Cut in shapes and place on parchment paper on a cookie sheet. Brush with egg wash and bake for 25 minutes.



Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Tere Ramserran

Tere has been with AFH as a foster parent since 2008 and is always willing to jump in and help wherever she is needed. We can always count on her! As a matter of fact, she just took over our spay/neuter follow-up process! We asked Tere about her experience with us and she provided the following response.

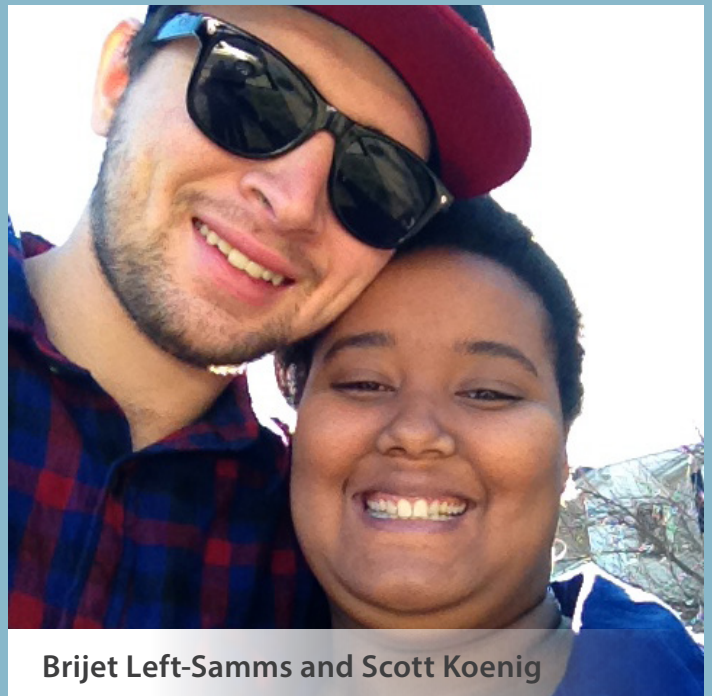
In 2008 I adopted Rex from A Forever Home, knowing that he was going to need a little extra attention. After just a few weeks in Puppy Obedience Training, he really started to catch on to what was expected of him, and we felt he could further improve if we added another dog to our home. We brought Laci home and she became our first foster failure!

From fostering, I've learned a lot about dogs and about myself. Specifically, I've learned that saving one dog's life makes all the difference in that dog's life and my own. That feeling of knowing that a living, breathing being that was once neglected or tossed aside is now in his or her "Forever Home" is the ultimate reward and satisfaction!

I hope my personal experiences lead others to consider fostering animals.

Brijet and Scott joined AFH last Fall after having rescued their own dog. They wanted to foster dogs for us, but realized that they didn't have the appropriate living environment.

They told us that "We did not have the proper living environment because at the time we were living in a small apartment. We decided to help with transports. We did the first trip to Kentucky and we absolutely loved doing it. It was great to know that we were saving the lives of so many dogs and enjoying beautiful scenery along the way! In total we have done about six Kentucky transports. We would love to continue to do the transports. We know that we cannot save every animal, but we want to be able to help out and help save as many as we can. AFH gives us the opportunity to do one of the many things we love, and that is helping to rescue pets and ensure they get to their forever homes.



Brijet Left-Samms and Scott Koenig

Estate Planning

We were recently contacted by a couple who adopted a dog from us asking about estate planning. They wanted to be sure that their beloved pets would be cared for in case both of them were incapacitated or they both passed away and there were no family members or friends who would care for their animals. They also asked about providing for their pet(s) financially.

While this is a sad subject, and no one wants to think about being in such a situation, making provisions for your pets is an act of love and a responsible thing to do.

It is a fairly simple matter to ensure that your pets are taken care of. All you need to do is include in your will or other instrument what your wishes are for your pets should you die or become incapacitated and unable to care for them yourself, along with any financial provisions you wish to make for their care.

The best ways to provide for your pets' care are listed below.

- Establish a Pet Trust (see https://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/pdf/20090917105457_large.pdf for more information)
- Specify AFH or someone else as the trustee who would be responsible for managing the trust
- If you choose to entrust AFH with your pet's care, specify AFH as the initial trustee and grant the authority to transfer the trustee role to an adopter

- You should specifically include a residuary clause to provide instructions about what should be done with any funds left over (residual) when your pets eventually die
- Information about pet trusts in Virginia (Maryland & DC are very similar):
 - <https://www.animallaw.info/statute/va-trusts-%C2%A7-642-726-trust-care-animal>
 - <http://www.dsdlaw.com/Articles/Pet-Trusts.pdf>
 - <http://www.pettrustlawblog.com/tags/virginia-pet-trust-statute/>

If you would like to designate AFH as the custodial guardian of your pet(s), and/or include an honorary donation to AFH on your pets' behalf, please use the following information.

A Forever Home Rescue Foundation
P. O. Box 222801
Chantilly, VA 20153-2801
Tax ID: 43-1977921

Should you have any more questions about providing for your pets, please consult with your attorney.

Be sure to notify us in writing that you have chosen us as your trustee.

AFH Announces a New Memorial Page

We know how hard it is to lose a beloved pet. We have all been through it. The loss is heartbreaking and painful.

AFH has created a memorial page where you can pay tribute to your pets. Visit www.aforeverhome.org, click on Our Pets, then click on the In Memory tab to view current tributes.

You can email a picture and a tribute to info@aforeverhome.org and we'll put it online so you can share your story with us. You can also click on www.aforeverhome.org/in-memory.



How to Keep Your Pet Safe and What to Do If Your Pet is Lost...

We have received many calls recently about lost dogs so we felt that it is important to run the article below again. It originally appeared in our June 2012 newsletter and provides good tips to avoid losing your dog, and what to do if he/she gets lost. This information comes from our friend Sam Connelly at Pure Gold Pet Trackers (www.puregoldpettrackers.net)

- Make a scent article by rubbing a cotton ball on your dog to capture his/her scent, and then store it in a sealed plastic bag. If your dog gets lost, a professional tracking dog can use the scent to track him/her.
- Pet proof your fence so your cat or dog will be safely confined. Be sure to check your fence regularly for new escape routes.
- Keep fence gates securely locked.
- Do not leave your pet outside unattended even in a fenced yard. Dogs are stolen every day from private property.
- Never allow your pets to roam free. Your dog should always be leashed or confined in a fenced area.
- Keep some recent, close-up, good quality photos of your pet on hand.
- Train your dog to associate a special whistle or call with pleasant things by repeating the pattern over and over and rewarding him/her with a treat each time they look at you when you whistle or call them. This will make it easier for them to recognize your special call for them from a distance if they are lost.
- Ensure that YOU can be located if your pet is found. Put a phone number on your posters that is ALWAYS answered.
- Always keep a collar or harness on your pet with a tag that has your current phone number on it
- Always have a current rabies tag and pet license tag attached to your pet's collar.
- Consider microchipping your dog and be sure to register the chip with the chip company.
- Spay or neuter your pets as this will help to keep them from wandering
- Walk the neighborhood, talk to everybody, and hand out flyers with a picture of your pet and your phone number. Call your pet while you walk around the neighborhood! If you have a special call or whistle use it often, then stop and listen for a response. Animals can hear you from great distances.
- Bring a powerful flashlight (even during daylight hours) for checking in dark spaces.
- Place strong-scented articles (your scent or the animal's, like your shirt or their bed) outside your home to attract your pet.
- Immediately call, email, or fax all local veterinarian offices with a description of your pet and your contact information.
- After 5 PM, contact emergency vet clinics and make sure you tell them that you will guarantee payment for treatment if your pet is brought in injured.
- VISIT your local Animal Control, humane societies, and animal shelters, including the ones in neighboring counties and cities. Don't rely on a shelter worker's interpretation of your description.
- Ask Animal Control, humane societies, and shelters about pet rescue organizations in your area and contact them to see if your pet was turned in to them.
- Place an ad in your local newspaper. Some will do this for free. Also put ads online at lost pet sites such as the following. Be careful of scammers claiming to have your pet who demand a reward. Insist on meeting them in a public place (like a police station) to reclaim your pet.

Steps to take if your pet does get lost:

- First, search your property thoroughly INSIDE as well as outside. Pets may get stuck in small places and not whine or cry.

www.craigslist.org

www.fidofinder.com

www.findthatpet.com

www.foundandlostpets.com

www.lostpaws.com

www.lostpetsos.org

www.petfinder.com

www.qualitydogs.com

www.lostfound.asp

www.returnmypet.com

www.thepetrescue.com

How you can help...

Make recurring monthly donations

Donate items from our Amazon Wishlist

Donate a portion of your Ebay sales

Become a foster home

Help at adoption events

Perform home visits

Include AFH in estate planning

Donate your used car

Begin your Amazon.com shopping

at www.aforeverhome.org
(scroll to the Amazon search box)

Perform internet searches at goodsearch.com

Do you have a car that you no longer want? Maybe it no longer suits your lifestyle or maybe you just don't want it any more. Perhaps it needs repairs but isn't worth the investment.

You can donate your used car to help AFH at no cost to you. It doesn't even have to be running!

Just email us at info@aforeverhome.org and ask about our car donation program – that's all it takes! It's a simple process to have your car picked up and towed away (for free), and once it's sold, AFH receives a donation and you will receive a receipt for your tax deductible donation!



AFH is Moving Forward!

As the rescue grows, so does the work associated with running it. We are really good at rescue but we haven't been so good at marketing ourselves. In order to help realize our dream of purchasing and developing a property to serve as our own forever home (which will include office space, an adoption center, a low cost veterinary clinic, and a sanctuary), we have hired a Marketing Consultant. Renee Dexter of Red Weather Media (who also happens to be an AFH volunteer) joined us in March. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with Renee as we move forward in our evolution.



Stay in Touch

Don't forget to like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/afh2002>); join our Facebook group, where you can share pictures and stories and ask for advice (www.facebook.com/groups/aforeverhome); and follow us on Twitter (@aforeverhome).



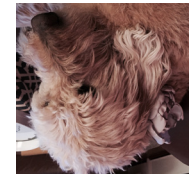
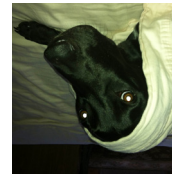
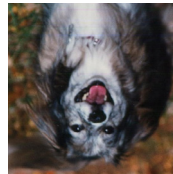
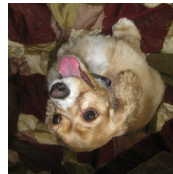
AFH is pleased to announce our new partnership with Doggone Natural! They have joined us as our new dog food provider. More information will follow in future newsletters.



P.O. Box 222801 | Chantilly, VA 20153

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 349
DULLES, VA

Remember that you can receive your AFH newsletter electronically if you prefer. Please email us at info@aforeverhome.org to switch to an e-newsletter.



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

May 2015



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

Forever Tails