



Forever Tails

All we can say is WOW, What A Year!

Almost 1,000 dogs saved, including 3 puppy mill rescues and 2 hoarding cases

Over 800 dogs adopted

17 goats and 2 donkeys rescued

7 horses rescued

Assisted with several pig rescues

A brand new (and highly successful) social media team created

Over 100 new volunteers

Many new shelter partners

AND we are making progress toward getting our own forever home!

2013 was an amazing year for AFH and we look forward to an even more successful year in 2014.

We made some fantastic progress in 2013, including laying the foundation for growth in 2014. We have met with some fundraising professionals who have provided invaluable advice on how to expand our organization. We have some fun events in mind to raise money this year, and one of our goals is to apply for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in 2015.

As always, our success is due to our supporters and volunteers. We look forward to sharing many more success stories with you in 2014 and know that we can count on your ongoing support!

Adoption Information

Are you looking for a new furry family member? Visit www.aforeverhome.org or stop by an adoption fair 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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Fax	866.863.6890
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Email	info@aforeverhome.org
Website	www.aforeverhome.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/afh2002
Twitter	@aforeverhome twitter.com/aforeverhome



Shelby

is looking for her forever home

Read about her on Page 2



"We've begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet - so we adopted a dog. Well, it's cheaper, and you get more feet."

— Rita Rudner

In Search of My Forever Home

Shelby (Female)

Breed: Schnoodle

Age: 6 years

Hi – I'm Shelby and I will steal your heart! After coming from a puppy mill (The Valentine Maltese Rescue), I have blossomed from a scared little girl into knowing that people love me. I am a 16 pound, toothless, darling of a girl who loves sitting on someone's lap and being petted. I get along very well with my foster brothers and sisters (both dogs and cats) with a little patience, I warm up to new people pretty quickly. I have an excellent temperament and get along with small children too.

I'm a low energy girl so I won't be your running partner, but I walk fairly well on a leash. I like to sleep with my foster mom and if I have to go out in the middle of the night, I scratch on the bed to let her know.

When my foster family comes home, I run as fast as I can to greet them, my nubby little tail wagging the whole time. I've made remarkable progress since being rescued last Valentine's Day from a puppy mill and I'm ready for my forever home. Maybe it's you?

Please email my assistant at info@aforeverhome.org if you would like to meet me.

Love, Shelby



If you haven't purchased your tickets for our 3rd Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction, you're almost out of time! Visit www.aforeverhome.org for details and to purchase tickets.



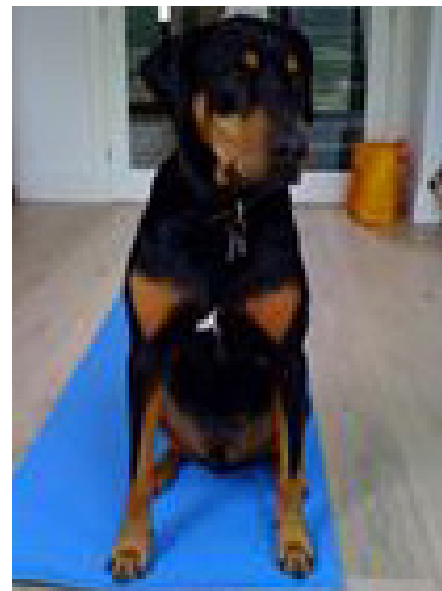
Goodbye Biggles

Biggles (formerly known as Mr. V) was adopted by Sue in February of 2003 when he was just 9 weeks old. He had a wonderful life but lost his battle with bone cancer right before his 11th birthday.

When Biggles was 6 years old, Sue and her family moved back to the UK. Of course, they wouldn't dream of leaving him behind. They were so worried about transporting him in the cargo hold of a plane that they cruised over the Atlantic with him on the Queen Mary! The expense was secondary compared to ensuring the safety of their beloved dog.

Sue tells us that he was a wonderful dog and will be missed forever. She also sent us his photo (on her yoga mat) a year before she lost him. He was a stunning dog and a gentle giant until the very end.

RIP Biggles.



A Foster Parent Speaks

Thank you for bringing this foster dog into my life. Had I not made a decision to participate in rescue, I would never have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said, "I already have four dogs and I know that I couldn't take in another - even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster . . . but who gave me TIME in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given TIME? To fill my own needs? Or was there another reason ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog, that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me.

He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me ... and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generalized poor health had blown away and the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul.

He holds no ill will towards man. He forgives us all.

I thought to myself as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, what a very fine creature you have created.

Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of Needful Things to Remember. Lord, he's a dog - but he's a better human being than I am.

He has forgiven quickly. Would I do the same? He passionately enjoys the simple things in life. And I have often overlooked them. He accepts change and gets on with his life. I fuss and worry about change. He lives today and loves today.

And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future. He loves no matter what. I am not that free.

This very loving dog has gone to his new home today and already I miss him. Thank you for bringing this dog into my life.

And thank you for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.

-- Author unknown.

"It's tough to stay married. My wife kisses the dog on the lips, yet she won't drink from my glass."

— Rodney Dangerfield

Volunteer Spotlight

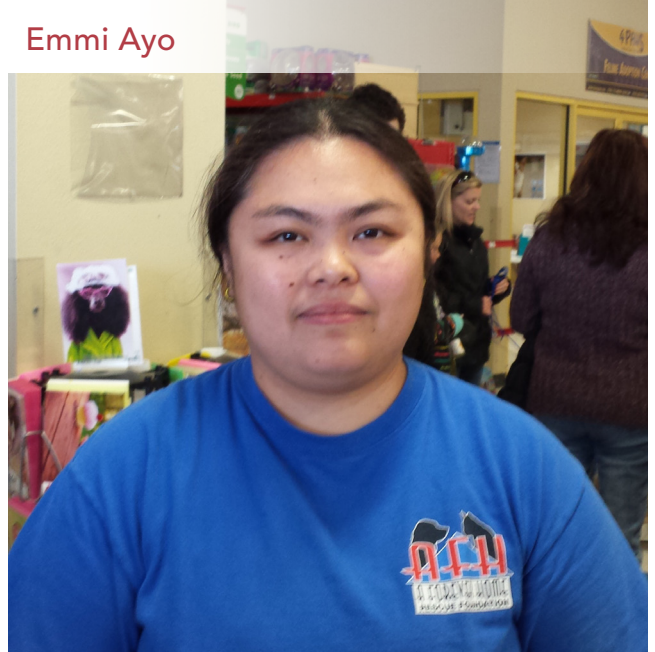
Emmi is probably one of our most dedicated volunteers. She is very friendly and outgoing, and always has a smile on her face. She really is a goodwill ambassador for our rescue and greets everyone she meets.

She is willing to do whatever needs to be done, whether it's making a lunch run, picking up items we've run short of during events, or selling raffle tickets at our Christmas party. We can always count on Emmi!

Our sales table has been one of our most difficult jobs to fill. Emmi is the only person who has committed to keeping it running. We couldn't do it without her!

Emmi attended NOVA Community college and she also volunteers at the Fairfax County Library. We're very happy that she chose to volunteer to help us too. You rock Emmi!

Emmi Ayo



Marianne Bowen and Thomas Horton



Thomas and Marianne have been with AFH for almost five years. After adopting a dog, they decided that they wanted to volunteer with a rescue. They started by fostering and eventually fostered a litter of parvo puppies, taking great satisfaction in helping to save their lives. With quality care, and AFH always willing to foot the (very expensive) bill, all of the pups were nursed back to health and adopted into forever homes.

After their first parvo litter, since they couldn't foster puppies for a while, they decided to foster an adult dog. They promised each other that they would not keep a foster dog, no matter how cute, because they wanted to continue to foster. They fostered Carlo (the ugliest dog Marianne had ever seen), and you guessed it - Carlo was their first foster failure, and the only adult dog they ever fostered. They stick with puppies now! They also help AFH in other areas.

When asked about their experiences with helping AFH, they tell us that "Fostering is the most satisfying part of our lives. We know when a puppy goes home to their new family that we have saved a life, and we have made room in our home to save another one. There is one puppy in each litter we fall in love with, and we cry each time a puppy goes home, but knowing they have wonderful lives ahead of them makes up for it. We are in contact with many adopters via Facebook and get lots of updates on our puppies."

Adopter's Corner: Ray's New Life with Melanie and Andrew

Ashley (now known as Ray Charles) was one of the dogs AFH rescued from a puppy mill last Valentine's Day (the Valentine Maltese Rescue). He was completely blind and had to have all of his remaining teeth pulled. We are happy to share yet another happy ending for one of these lucky dogs!

Ray's new family tells us that Ray has settled into his new home very well. It's a quiet home and he found a couple of spots in the house that he really liked. He quickly discovered a fake fur throw on the couch and loves to burrow into it. He also walked right into his crate! He met his new vet and did very well.

He also likes baths and even being blow dried!

Ray has a good appetite and is a "super easy guy." He loves getting attention from everyone in his building (and sometimes receives gifts from the staff) and he found a playmate who whined until they were put together to touch and smell. His name is Jack and he's really grouchy. He bites people but he loves Ray.

Ray travels with his foster mom in a black cross-body bag that he fits in well. He also has a pair of goggles since he likes to dive into bushes.

He loves to lay on the rug in the kitchen in front of the refrigerator and often sits between Melanie's legs when she cooks. His usual hangout is on the loveseat in the living room where he crashes out for several hours every morning and afternoon curled up in the aforementioned fur throw.



In Memoriam

We want to acknowledge some recent donations in memory of beloved friends.

Tammy S., Charisse T., Becki J., Jan M., Kim H., Diane W., Anna S., Kelee H., Margaret S., in memory of *Fatboy Stinson*

Robert D. in memory of *Mocha Dodd Nguyen*

Janet H. in memory of her foster dog *Hugo*

Reva S. in memory of *Josephine*

Audra B. in memory of *Samute, Ginger, and Ziba*

Debbie B. in memory of *Charlie Brown*

Danielle O. in memory of *Philip Weeks*

Gail V. in memory of *Pugzu Chloe*

Mary Beth M. in memory of *Boomer*

Eileen B. in memory of *Lucky*

Cheryl and Michael G. in memory of *Jwow*

Carol and John N. in memory of *Kiefer*

Nancy R. in memory of *Wallace*

Teresa E. in memory of *Percy*

Cathy M. and John H. in memory of *Max and Pacha*



We also want to thank those of you who have donated items from our Amazon Wish List (<http://amzn.to/12FohPq>). Due to privacy concerns, Amazon does not share purchaser/donor info with us. They have assured us that they are working on the issue so we know who our donors are. Please contact us at info@aforeverhome.org if you donated through Amazon and need a tax receipt.

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person."

— Andy Rooney

How Does Rescue Work (Part 1 of a series)

Many of us here at AFH have many years in rescue, starting with working in the field and moving up to managing / directing rescue activities. Many of us consider rescue our second job – although we are not paid. So why do we do it and what is involved? We thought that you would be interested to know just what is involved in animal rescue – a peek behind the scenes. To you, the behind the scenes work should be invisible. If we are doing our jobs right, we make it look easy. It is definitely not easy. It is often heartbreaking work, but there are many happy endings as well.

First and foremost – we are a professional business and we act like one. We may be in the business of helping cute little animals, but we are a legitimate, legal business. Like any other business, we are registered with the State Corporation Commission, have a Tax ID number, have a Board of Directors that oversees our operations, and are required to complete tax returns (even though we are a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity). Unlike other businesses, we have the added responsibility of reporting certain statistics to the State Veterinarian on a yearly basis. Even charities can't escape the paperwork!

We all have jobs to do and deadlines to meet. We will discuss specifics in future articles, but we need what every other business needs – people to process paperwork; perform accounting tasks; pick up and deliver items; interact with the public via email, phone, fax, and in person; perform marketing and fundraising tasks, and so on. In addition, we need foster homes for anywhere from 100-300 dogs/puppies at any given time! It is a full time job that requires skill, dedication, organization, and the drive to succeed.

In future articles we will discuss how a dog gets from a shelter to your home (it's not as easy as you might think), what is involved in fostering a dog, how the adoption process works, why we do home visits, and other rescue-related items. If you have any specific questions, please email them to info@foreverhome.org and we will address them in an upcoming newsletter.

A Second Chance for Lieutenant Morgaine Barkingsdale



Hi - my name is Lieutenant Morgaine Barkingsdale and I'm A Forever Home Doggie!

I was adopted in November by a wonderful family that loves me to pieces

and gives me treats every day. I have lots of toys to play with too.

My humans are very good to me and I'm so glad they found me. It almost didn't happen because my Mommy was a cat person until she met me. Boy did I turn her into a dog person too. We go for long walks, play fetch, and take naps together.

My humans love to travel and I've been to three different states so far because they always take me with them.

I was adopted once before but that family didn't want me. I was surrendered because those people thought I was aggressive towards children, but what I really wanted to do was play! They just didn't understand me at all.

I now have a seven year old little girl who comes over to walk me and bounce a ball with me, I love her a lot and show it by sharing lots of kisses.

I just turned seven months old, and for my birthday I was given a yummy treat and I got to play in the snow!!

I'm so glad that my humans adopted me because I can tell that they needed someone to love and I've been giving them all the love they can handle. They don't seem to mind at all. I have to go take a nap now, but I just wanted to thank A Forever Home for finding me my human parents. I love them lots!

Bark! Bark!
Lt. M. B.

How you can help...

AMAZON: If you shop at Amazon.com, you can help us at no cost to you. Just visit <http://amzn.to/12FohPq>, select an item on our wish list, pay for it, and it will be shipped directly to us! Please email us if you send us a wish list item, because Amazon doesn't share your contact information with us due to their privacy policy.

RECURRING DONATIONS: We have set a course to our end goal of having a forever home of our own. No one likes asking for money, but if we are to expand our operations to grow our business, we have to ask for your financial support. If you are reading this newsletter, you have already shown that you care about animals and have faith in our ability to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome them. Won't you please consider making a recurring monthly donation to help us? Having a set amount of donation revenue coming in every month will help us tremendously. It will allow us to say yes to more dogs and it will allow us to budget more effectively. Your donation of \$10, \$20, or even \$30 a month will allow us to save more lives.

Please consider going to <http://tinyurl.com/JustGive-AFH> and signing up for recurring donations. Your donations will be processed automatically, saving you the time and trouble of

DONATE

DONATE ITEMS ON OUR AMAZON WISHLIST

DONATE A PORTION OF YOUR EBAY SALES

SEARCH & SHOP WITH GOODSEARCH.COM

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ESTATE PLANNING

DONATE CLEAN USED TOWELS

VOLUNTEER – FOSTER

VOLUNTEER – ADOPTION FAIR HELPERS

VOLUNTEER – ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

VOLUNTEER – DO HOME VISITS

VOLUNTEER – FUNDRAISING

DONATE YOUR USED CAR

writing and mailing a check, digging out your credit card, or making a one-time donation on multiple occasions.

Remember that 100% of donations goes directly to the animals, and donations are tax deductible.

A Forever Home Begins with a Foster Home *by Tanya Rapp*

For a homeless dog, being able to live in a foster home is extremely beneficial. It's certainly less stressful than staying in a shelter. As a foster parent, you have the ability to get to know the dog's behavior and temperament. When an interested party needs more information about the dog, you will be able to provide it. How does he/she walk on a leash? Is he/she good with kids and other pets? Is he/she housebroken? These are things that the foster family will know and be able to pass on to potential adopters. Housing dogs in foster homes increases the number of successful adoptions as it gives families more information about the dog or puppy they are interested in and allows us to match a family with the best dog for their lifestyle.

Often times, making the decision to become a foster is really just a small commitment of time and space. A Forever Home provides required veterinary care, as well as any necessary supplies such as food dishes, crates, and leashes. You provide the love and a safe place to stay. Fosters have the option to open up their homes as little or as much as they wish. Whether you foster one dog per

year, or a whole litter on a continual basis, the help you offer is always appreciated. The more foster homes we have, the more lives we can save. As a foster home, their lives are in your hands.

The reasons for becoming a foster vary, but the foundation is always due to a sense of caring for the welfare of animals. There is no doubt that the connection is direct. Offering an animal a foster home saves lives. Not surprisingly, many fosters become what is known as a "foster failure", that is, they end up adopting the animal they have fostered. That leads to the question many people have: How are you able to say goodbye to your foster pet when he leaves for his new home? It's not always easy, and attachments are certainly formed, but knowing that you've helped that pet find a forever home is rewarding for all parties involved.

The first step in becoming a foster for A Forever Home is to complete an application. If you would like to help, send an email to volunteer@aforeverhome.org to find out the next steps.



A Forever Home P.O. Box 222801 | Chantilly, VA 20153
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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.



*Happy Valentine's Day
to all of our friends!*

Editor: Patti Stinson
Designer: Cheryl Sims

Forever Tails

February 2014

