

Forever Tails



Finding Forever Homes
For Dogs In Need

November 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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We at AFH are excited to embark on a new rescue mission. We were recently contacted by a rescue group in Puerto Rico. They were desperate for help with a huge dog overpopulation problem and were looking for an ethical, responsible, rescue group to partner with. After hearing their story, we had to say yes.

The founder of the rescue group is from Ohio but moved to Puerto Rico in 2012 for her husband's job. As she drove around the island she noticed the many dogs (known as Satos) wandering the streets. Sato is a Puerto Rican slang term referring to a mixed breed dog.

She quickly learned that Puerto Rico has a terrible stray dog problem. There are hundreds of thousands of satos on this tiny island that measures just 35 miles x 100 miles; estimates range from 100,000 to 500,000. These dogs are in sad conditions - starving and ill. Those that do not get claimed by an illness or hunger are in high danger of being hit by a car, only to die on the side of the road, alone and suffering. Still others are injured or killed by people.

All of these dogs have their own story and their own set of circumstances that led to their life on the street. Some were born to a stray mom and some were callously tossed onto the street by their families. Unfortunately, abandoning dogs on the street (normally under the cover of darkness) is very common. Once a family no longer wants a dog, they are taken to a location, booted out of the car, and left to fend for themselves. Some people will abandon them in an area where they know that someone stops to leave dog food and water, and some are abandoned in an area where there is no hope for survival.



Snowball

is searching for
his forever home

Read about him on Page 2

In Search of My Forever Home: Snowball

Male (Neutered)

Breed: Border Chihuahua Mix

Age: 2 years

Snow Ball was rescued from abusive home where he lived for almost 2 years.

He is a white male Chihuahua (neutered). He is totally house trained.

He is presently staying at a home with 6 dogs and a cat and gets along with them. He is nervous and shy at first but then turns into a bundle of joy once he gets used to you. He is very loyal and follows you around and believes he is your protector. He looks for guidance and seeks your permission to do things. He would be a cuddle bug once he knows you. He loves to go for walks. He is a pure joy to be around. Do you have room in your home and heart for this little fella?



continued from Front Page

Many are dumped at Dead Dog Beach in Yabucoa, a town in southeastern Puerto Rico. Dead Dog Beach is a dumping ground and dogs are dumped there every day. The actual name of Dead Dog Beach is Playa Lucia and it was once a popular vacation spot for beachgoers, having both a pool and cabanas. The pool is now filled in and the building lies in disrepair; it's covered in graffiti and surrounded by trash. No one visits any more and hundreds of dogs roam the beach in packs. It's not uncommon for a car to pull over, dump a dog, and speed off.

Most of the dogs are in poor shape, some are pregnant, and some are gravely ill. Some are very frightened or completely feral. Others have lived in homes and follow people around the beach, wagging their tails, and looking for their owners, food, or the touch of a human hand. Some dogs are in a state of shock and others have organized themselves into packs in their battle for survival.

None are spayed or neutered. It's a constant battle for food, and fights are common. The stronger ones survive, while older dogs, sick dogs, and puppies often don't survive – and that's where we come in.

Our partner in Puerto Rico takes in as many dogs and puppies as space allows. They are nursed back to health, spayed and neutered, and socialized, if necessary. Many of the dogs are friendly since they once had homes – homes that dumped them to fend for themselves.

As you can imagine, there are a lot of pregnant dogs and a lot of puppies being born. Unfortunately, there is nothing for them in Puerto Rico so their only chance to escape the suffering and danger is to be sent someplace where they will be loved.



Pay tribute to a lost pet at our memorial page
<http://to-afh.org/InMemory>



Dear Dr. Pawsington,
We will be going to visit family during the holidays and have not traveled before with our dog. We're starting to look into the available options – do you have any pointers?

Sincerely,
Home for the Holidays

Dear Home,

There are many options for traveling with your dog – it really depends on your budget and your comfort level, so let's get started.

Planes:

Traveling by plane is probably the quickest way to get your dog from point A to point B, but it also involves the most planning and research, not to mention money. There is no standard set of rules and regulations across the board, so be sure to check with your specific airline before purchasing your own tickets. Often times, small dogs are able to ride in the cabin with you, as long as they have their own ticket. Other times, your dog will have to ride in the cargo section of the aircraft. Bring Fido has a very helpful list of tips when bringing your dog with you on the plane, as well as a breakdown, by airline, of the different rules and requirements.

Dr. Elwood Pawsington

You can find that at http://www.bringfido.com/travel/top_10_tips/

Trains:

Guess what! As of this year, certain small pets are allowed to travel with you by train. Of course, service animals have always been allowed, but now Amtrak is allowing small pets onboard, but only in certain locations. The transportation line is hoping to increase sales by allowing small cats and dogs to travel with their person. They will need to remain under the passenger's seat and will need to be generally well behaved – that means they need to be quiet, act in a safe manner, and need to be housebroken. For information on which specific routes allow pets, and what the exact rules are, please visit the Amtrak site at: <http://www.amtrak.com/carry-on-pet-pilot>.

And of course - Automobiles:

During the holiday season, this is the most widely used mode of transportation. It is usually the most cost effective method and allows the most flexibility. Having your furry friend on the road with you can be a wonderful adventure, but there are many things to keep in mind to make it the best possible experience. Some general pointers:

- For their safety, your dog(s) should always be restrained in the car. I know it's fun to hold them in your lap while you're driving, but this is not safe. What happens if you get into a little fender bender? Offering your dog a crate or a travel harness during the ride is ideal.
- Make frequent stops – schedule in some time to get out and stretch and allow your dog to relieve him/herself every few hours. But remember to also keep meal times a little lighter and more spread out. It can be uncomfortable

for your dog to travel on a full stomach – particularly if they are prone to car sickness. If this is the case, you may want to ask your vet if it's a good idea to have some anti-nausea meds on hand in the event of a queasy pup. (This is also why traveling with a crate makes good sense)

- Speaking of stops – make sure to secure your dog before opening the door when you do stop. Even if they are calm and low energy at home, being on the road can be a new experience for them and you never know when they may decide it's a good time to go exploring. Losing your beloved friend while on the road would be devastating. Don't take chances – make sure they have their leash and collar on or are secure in a crate any time the car door is open.
- Long drives may involve an overnight stay in a hotel. Many lodging companies these days allow dogs – just be sure to check the fine print. Is there an extra fee? A deposit? Is your dog allowed to roam the room freely or are they expected to be crated while in the room? These are the things you will want to find out before booking a room. Although the list is constantly being updated, again – Bring Fido is a great resource for finding a hotel during your road trip.
- Remember to plan ahead and bring any toys, blankets, and treats with you. It will make them feel more at home. Also remember to pack more pet food than you think you will need, just in case of delays or bad weather.

Safe travels and Happy Holidays!

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Beth Sammons

I started volunteering with AFH after my husband and I adopted our adorable Wrigley more than 8 years ago. I manage our social media team, coordinate adoption events, and conduct interviews and home checks. I also foster when I can since that is so important to how many dogs we can help. My favorite part is seeing the families take their adopted dog home since they're always so excited and thankful. While it is hard to say goodbye to your foster dog, I love that AFH does everything we can to make sure they are going to the right home.

Besides everything Beth does to help, she recently won a 50/50 raffle at one of our events and donated her winnings back to us!

My family loves dogs – our kids were raised with them. When our beautiful shepherd girl died at 13 we were broken hearted. Not long afterwards I kept thinking that we needed a dog in our lives. We weren't quite ready for a permanent commitment so we decided to foster because we needed to love a dog. I looked around at different rescues and found A Forever Home. I loved the people that I met and we jumped in. We found joy! Puppies are so cute! As an owner your puppy grows up and you experience it once. As a foster you get to do it over and over again. We found excitement – going to the transport to pick up our latest foster and wondering who we were going to get and what they would be like is exciting every time. Initial sadness about where the pups came from turns to joy because you know that you are the first step on their way to a happy life. We hadn't stayed up all night with sick kids for a long time but we tapped back into those skills pretty quickly. At first it was really hard to say goodbye to our foster dogs as they got adopted because we loved them so much but the reality is that there are so many dogs to save. They just keep coming so we kiss them goodbye and wish them wonderful lives in their new homes because that's what it's all about.



Debbie Melia

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

Now You Can Donate to AFH Without Leaving Social Media

AFH just partnered with GoodWorld! What does that mean? It means that, once you register with GoodWorld, you can donate to AFH without leaving Twitter or Facebook by simply using the hashtag #donate. Your donations are 100% tax deductible, and you will always receive a tax receipt by email. Also, you can view your donations anytime by logging into your GoodWorld account. Signing up takes less than a minute! Learn more - <http://bit.ly/1LrnnK8>

Amazon

We understand that there has been some confusion on how to help AFH when you shop with Amazon so we want to clarify. The first step is to go to www.aforeverhome.org. Next, scroll down to the Amazon box, type what you are looking for into the search box (below the word Keywords), then hit Go. That's it! You have now earned a donation for us simply because we are an Amazon affiliate and you searched from our web page! There is also a second way to help. After you hit Go, you are taken to Amazon's website. Simply go to the navigation bar at the top of the page, delete the text that is there, and type in smile.amazon.com.

If you have already signed up for Amazon Smile, just shop and we get a second donation! If you are not already enrolled in Amazon Smile, you can sign up! It's that easy!

Recycling

As you all know, we have had three recycling fundraisers. The first two went great – we filled up an entire truck both times! The third event wasn't quite as successful – likely because all of you have already donated your junk.

We have an opportunity to make a significant amount of money from recycling but we need your help. Please reach out to your IT and/or Purchasing Departments at your job. If they are currently paying to have their outdated/broken computer equipment and peripherals recycled, they can get it done for free and AFH will get a donation. This saves your company money and could result in significant donations for AFH. Please ask anyone at your company who might be interested to email info@aforeverhome.org.

Goodbye to Lisa Underwood

AFH is very sad to announce that one of our wonderful volunteers just passed away. Lisa Underwood was a dedicated and valued volunteer for many years. She loved dogs and performed home visits (many of you know her) and drove transports for us.

We want to extend our condolences to Lisa's family. We appreciate everything she did to help our furry friends and she will be missed.

We are honored to be a recipient of donations in Lisa's memory.



Daisy is now a Canine Good Citizen!

This just arrived from Kathy Tedrick and her daughter Grace. Way to go Daisy!

Daisy is a great example of A Forever Home Rescue success story. We rescued our puppy at 8 weeks old in May 2015. Her mom was rescued by A Forever Home from a hoarding situation. Itty Bitty was the runt of 8 puppies that were thankfully born in foster care. She was very shy and she was very smart. We found Puppy 101 Training at Petco when Daisy (aka Itty Bitty) was four months old. Our trainer saw that Daisy trained well and very quickly. She passed this class with flying colors. At six months of age, Grace took Daisy to the AKC Canine Good Citizen training. At seven months old Daisy passed her test! This program rewards dogs who have good manners at home and in the community and stresses responsible pet ownership. Grace is a proud owner of a smart, beautiful, and loyal rescue from A Forever Home!



Chloe's Story

AFH was recently invited to ask our adopters to submit their adoption stories to Petco. Petco will select some winning stories, and when the winners are drawn, the adoption agency where the dog came from will be invited to apply for up to \$100,000 in grant money! We know that some of you submitted your stories (thank you!) and Chad and Michele Tursi shared theirs with us. We want to share it with you and we want them to thank them for their kind words and for adopting Chloe.

As Chloe's "Dad", I have to admit the first time I saw her on the A Forever Home Rescue Foundation's website, my first reaction was that I didn't want a girly dog. However, the instant I met her, I told my wife that Chloe was going to be our dog! She was so personable and had such a pleasant disposition; we knew she would be a great addition to our lives. Chloe has turned out to be the "perfect dog" if there is one, blending right into our lifestyle. She has given us unconditional love and people often remark on how sweet she is, both with adults and kids - even with other dogs.

She's taught us a few lessons too. First, how to be a fighter - as a cocker spaniel, she's had her share of itchy skin, ear infections leading to one total ear ablation, and has lost sight in one eye as she is now 15 - but through it all her tail continues to wiggle and she is always happy. Second, she reminds us to eat healthy - her favorite treats include apples and pumpkin but she REALLY loves carrots!

We couldn't have asked for a better 10 years than what we've had to date with Chloe and hope for more - as we love her as our own child. We have to thank AFH for bringing Chloe to us.

AFH has a great reputation in Northern VA, and Chloe is just one example of why AFH deserves this grant. They work tirelessly to rescue and get dogs adopted to good qualified homes, including inspecting homes and interviewing potential parents. AFH volunteers will drive hours, including to other states, to help animals in need and bring them to Northern VA to get adopted. They run many fundraisers to offset the costs of aiding animals, which we all know are expensive when you add in living and medical expenses. This garners them much respect by the community and other organizations in the area.

AFH also demonstrates its commitment to the animals by taking them back if the adoptive parents cannot take care of the animal or no longer want them. They welcome the animals back and will keep them until another qualified home is found. If an animal is returned to a shelter or rescue, they are tagged, linking them to AFH, and the rescue will go pick them up. That tell us that AFH is truly an animal rescue organization that cares about the animals they adopt out.

Happy 10th Birthday Spaulding

Shannon Pachas wrote to tell us about Spaulding's 10th birthday and shared some pictures with us. She adopted him back in 2006 when he was 6 months old. On his birthday (10/22/15) he is her happy, healthy, sweet, birthday boy.



Thank you to Madeleine Woods

Our new friend Madeline Woods recently celebrated her eleventh birthday. Madeleine decided that homeless puppies needed help more than she needed birthday presents, and she requested that all of her friends bring a donation for AFH to her birthday party in lieu of gifts for her! Thanks to Madeleine's big heart, she raised \$130 to help our puppies and dogs! We want to thank Madeleine for her generosity and caring. Her donation will help us to save more puppies, and her actions should serve as a reminder to all of us that it is better to give than receive. Way to go Madeleine!

Chloe's Story (continued)

Earlier, I mentioned the AFH website where we first saw Chloe. The site is well organized and professional. Each step of the process after that was just as well organized, which made it easy for us to go through the adoption process but they never pressured us into taking Chloe. Their visit to our home was thorough but respectful - it was all about ensuring a positive environment for the dog and ensuring a good fit between the type of dog we were getting relative to our lifestyle.

We are proud supporters of AFH in all that they do for the animals that need help. We are especially thankful they led us to Chloe and we also recommend AFH to prospective adopting parents!

Please take into consideration A Forever Home Rescue Foundation as a recipient for this worthy grant for their dedication, loyalty and love for these animals in need. Sincerely, Chad and Michele Tursi

PS: Chad and Michele included Chloe's photo from her 15th birthday party!



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For Dogs In Need

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

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

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