



## Embrace Wisdom and Warmth: Why You Should Consider Fostering or Adopting Older Dogs

When it comes to welcoming a furry friend into your home, the allure of puppies often steals the spotlight. However, there's a special magic in fostering or adopting an older dog that shouldn't be overlooked. Older dogs, often overlooked in shelters, offer a unique and deeply rewarding companionship that can enrich your life in ways you might not expect.

One of the most compelling reasons to consider an older dog is their temperament. Unlike puppies, older dogs typically have a settled temperament and may already be trained. This means less time spent on potty training and basic commands, allowing you to focus more on building trust and obedience skills.

Older dogs also bring a sense of calm and gratitude into your home. Many have experienced life's ups and downs, and when given a second chance, they show incredible resilience and capacity for love. Their gratitude for a warm bed and a caring touch is palpable, creating a deeply meaningful connection that can brighten even the toughest days.

Moreover, older dogs often require less exercise and attention compared to their younger counterparts. This makes them an ideal choice for individuals or families with busy schedules or those who prefer a more relaxed pace of life. It's a win-win situation: you provide a loving home, and they provide unwavering companionship and loyalty.

Finally, by fostering or adopting an older dog, you're not just gaining a pet; you're giving a deserving soul a chance to live out their golden years in comfort and security. You're making a tangible difference in their life story, offering them the love and care they need and deserve.

Next time you consider fostering or adding a four-legged member to your family, think beyond the puppy stage. Consider the wisdom and warmth an older dog can bring into your life. ●

Available Dog Spotlight *Gabby* page 2



### Looking to Foster or Adopt?

Are you looking for a new furry family member? 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.

Visit <https://www.aforeverhome.org> or email [volunteer@aforeverhome.org](mailto:volunteer@aforeverhome.org) to request information on fostering and to see our available dogs.



## 50/50 RAFFLE WINNER!



### GABBI AND MADDIE ARE SO EXCITED FOR THEIR "MOM" Victoria M.

We are happy to announce that Victoria M. is the winner of our 2024 Fourth of July raffle! We raised \$32,600 so she gets half – \$16,300! Victoria told us that she never wins anything so she was "totally shocked". She also said that she is going to help out a friend and give back to AFH!

We are grateful to every single one of you who purchased raffle tickets. The money raised will go to our medical fund, which will help a lot of animals. Thank you all for participating. We will do it again next year. ●

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Editor: Susan Warner

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### THANK YOU, PATTI!

After almost 14 years writing AFH's newsletter, Patti Stinson is handing over the reins to a new editor – Susan Warner. Patti has written, managed, and directed all the content, images, layout, product, and delivery of the newsletter and created a wonderful way for us to connect with our supporters.

Thank you Patti for your dedication, hard work, and support in creating the newsletter for all these years!



### Available DOG SPOTLIGHT

Gabby came to AFH after her owner tragically died in a car accident. She lived in rural Mississippi with several other dogs. She went through a lot and was very shy when she arrived at AFH. With the help of her foster and other AFH volunteers, this sweet girl has come out of her shell and is gaining confidence every day. With Gabby, you get all the benefits of a snuggly dog and much more. She is house trained and crate-trained. She has great house manners and sleeps through the night. Gabby loves other dogs and would enjoy a home where she can sit next to you and show you how much she loves you.

Please take some time to visit this special girl at the next adoption or contact us at [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org). ●

# Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

The **AFH** family is composed of a wonderful, varied group of volunteers dedicated to helping us save lives. Whether it's an hour a month or the majority of your day, we greatly appreciate the support of all our volunteers.



## ELAINE BAUGHMAN

*Fostering is What You Want it to Be.*

I've always loved dogs. Some friends may secretly label me as obsessed, but I prefer to think of myself as passionate. Some years ago, after the death of our beloved Valentine, I started fostering dogs to ease the pain of loss. I chose **A Forever Home (AFH)** because the adoption events fit into my work schedule and they don't make tremendous demands of fosters. **AFH** fosters are only asked to provide basic care, discipline, and love. The rescue provides all the necessities. Through the years I've marveled at the rescue's commitment to restore dogs who have expensive health challenges to good health. Knowing that these dogs go on to live full lives and bringing love to their "forever families" is the greatest reward.

All of the dogs I've fostered have been wonderful, each in their own way. Because many of them have had a hard life and been treated poorly, if not outright traumatized, I choose to go beyond the basic tasks and build trust so they will do well in their new homes where they will be accepted and loved. All of my dogs have had unique personalities and each has been a very special blessing to us and to their handpicked forever families.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of **AFH** has been the occasional opportunity to whelp a litter of puppies; the miracle of life always leaves me in awe of nature and the power of motherly instincts. The puppies are an absolute joy for the first six weeks when mama does all the work of feeding and cleaning up! After that, they continue to be cute and precious.

As an introvert, the added bonus for me of fostering has been getting to know the multi-talented, generous, and wonderful people behind the organization. **AFH** has given me a connection with people who all have a shared passion for dogs. ●

## JENNIFER KEANE

*Volunteering that Fits – Freedom Rides and Care Team Help*

I have really enjoyed volunteering for **A Forever Home**.

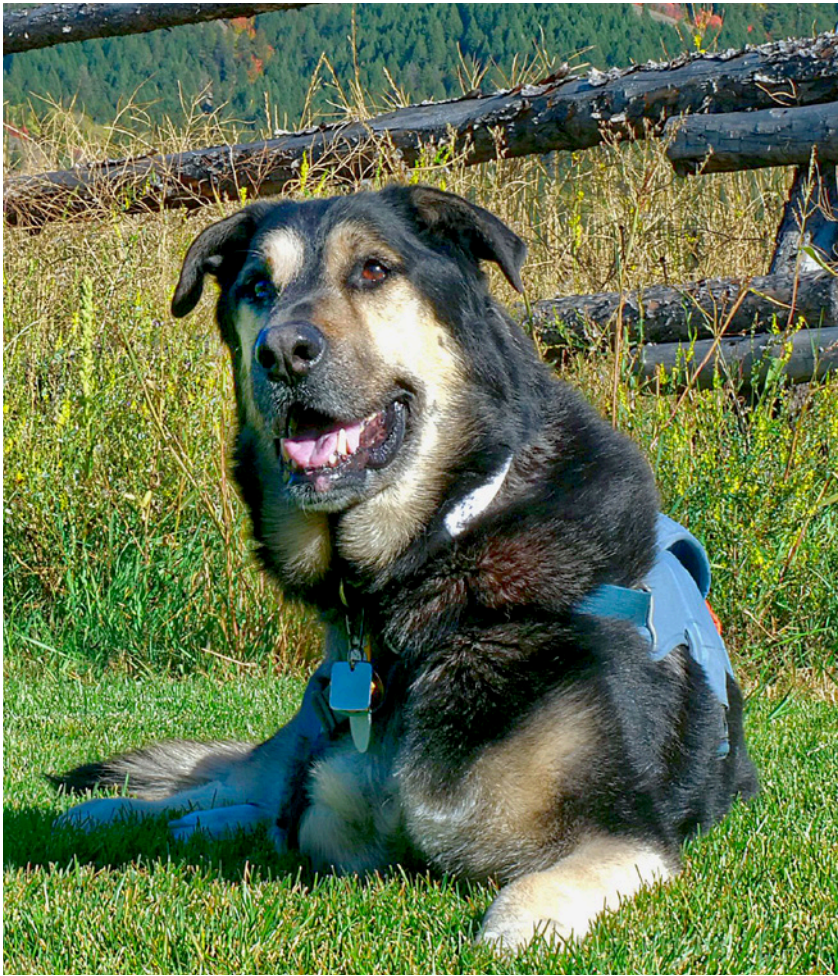
There are so many ways to help out. One of my favorites is giving dogs their Freedom Rides and transporting them to their fosters. It is a peaceful ride up and a rewarding ride home. The satisfaction of helping to provide these dogs with a chance at life is amazing. Sometimes the trip back is loud and sometimes the sweet pup is sleeping. It is my way of helping out.

I also enjoy being on the Care Team. When local fosters are in need, the Care Team steps in. We can visit with the foster dog to let them out and/or play with them. It's a great way to support the dogs and fosters. All in all, there are many rewarding ways to volunteer your time with **A Forever Home**. I have found the ones that I enjoy and work best for me. ●



Read more about **AFH** Care Team on page 6

## IN MEMORIAM



### STEVE (BUBBIES)

We adopted Butch (his foster name) in 2014. We named him Steve but called him Bubbies. He left a mark on everyone's heart who met him.

Steve crossed the rainbow bridge on January 10th, 2024. He fought Osteosarcoma gallantly and he seemed to be winning that battle when another cancer got him. He was the best dog and will be greatly missed.

Here is a photo of Steve taken September 25, 2023. ●

Timothy Huseby



Gemma



### LAINIEY

We came to AFH looking for a dog for my husband in 2009. When we met, Lainey went right to my husband as if to say "You have finally come for me." Once she weaned her pups, we picked her up on my birthday and she became OUR dog. She was so wonderful and never got into (too much) mischief. She remained her lovable, friendly self until November 16th when she became seriously ill and died in my husband's arms at the vet.

We had our Lainey cremated so she will always have a forever home with us in a beautiful box. We will miss her forever. ●

Maureen and Jay Donn

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FOSTER?

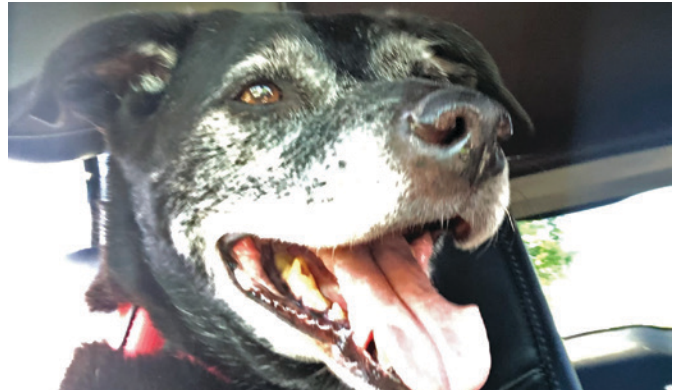
*It's easy!* You take care of our dogs like they're your own. You feed them, walk them, love them, and teach them basic commands like sit and stay. You bring them to adoption events once a week (3 hours) or work with our Care Team for support. We pay for everything – vet bills, food, and supplies (crates, leashes, collars, bowls, etc.). When you foster, you not only save your foster dog – you also open up a spot in a shelter for another homeless dog. It's a win-win.



## STEVIE

From the day I adopted him, Stevie was my companion, my clown, and my sidekick. Stevie was a pleasure to have and was well-known in the neighborhood for his adventurous ways. One such adventure resulted in a young man coming to my door. He said, "That's him" (pointing to Stevie beside me). "He stole my sandwich!" He had been working in his yard and turned away for just a moment. When he turned back, he saw Stevie trotting off with his sub hanging out of both sides of his mouth. I just wanted to thank AFH for all the effort you put into saving lives, day in and day out. I have certainly benefited from your generosity. ●

Sincerely, Lois



## DOC AND ABBY

We felt our current dogs were slowing down and wanted to add some life to the house. We fostered with AFH for the first time and intended to "fail" once we found the right fit for our pack. We took in a litter of 8 puppies and kept the last boy, our Doc. We continued to foster and eventually took in Abby. Shortly after, my mother became ill and I was gone for weeks. When I returned, my family informed me that Abby was now our dog. Our first two foster fails had a wonderful 15+ years together. They passed within months of each other, much like long-married couples will do. We miss them every day but the love and memories compel us to continue to foster – and sometimes happily fail. ●

The Warner Family

## A Forever Home Rescue Foundation

Private group · 3.7K members



## HAVE YOU JOINED OUR FACEBOOK GROUP?

Do you know AFH has a Facebook group for our volunteers, adopters, and friends? There's no spam, no politics, no debates – just pictures and stories about our dogs! We love seeing our dogs in your homes, with you on vacation, and living their best lives.

[www.facebook.com/groups/aforeverhome](http://www.facebook.com/groups/aforeverhome)

## LETTERS FROM HOME



### AFH Champion Rescue <https://extremeversatilitydog.com/>

Trevor (aka Baxter, adopted 2014) turned 10 years old in March 2024, and he won his first agility title in November 2023. We've had a great run with titles in obedience, rally, Fast CAT, parkour, and trick dog. Last year, we decided to try agility and he was easily the oldest dog in his class. He took to it eagerly and loves it. Trevor is the first mixed breed dog ever to earn the Extreme Versatility Dog Program's XVE (Excellent level) title, acknowledging his achievement in a wide variety of sports. He is the first mixed breed in the U.S. to earn the XV50 title – that's 50 verified titles overall. He is my best buddy and we are so proud of him. ●

*All the best to AFH and all our friends,*

**Diana Hong & Trevor**



### Still Going Strong

After 10 years, we are still loving on our AFH girl Scrapy (adopted under the name Smoky Girl). She still loves to chew socks, clothes, couches (we've been through a few thanks to her), blankets (which doesn't prevent us from letting her sleep in our (her) bed every night), etc. All 20 lbs of her jumps up on our kitchen table and kitchen counters when we're not looking. She is a little troublemaker though we still tell ourselves that she will grow out of the puppy phase at SOME point (even though she is 11 years old). She is the best "worst dog" ever! ●

**Rachel Emmel Oberc**

### Join the AFH Care Team

The Care Team consists of volunteers who are available to help fosters – usually by caring for a foster's dog or puppies for a day if the foster is gone (in the foster's home), giving a dog a ride, walking a dog, etc.

The Care Team is not set up for temp fostering and members do not have to be approved fosters. The care and support provided are meant to meet only short-term needs – from a one-time occurrence to recurring weekly support for a limited time. ●

To join the Care Team, simply email: [volunteer@aforeverhome.org](mailto:volunteer@aforeverhome.org) and join the team email list.



# Rescued - A Happy Tale



*Damon, a Great Dane mix, came to AFH 20 pounds underweight and left happily with a loving forever family.*

Damon arrived from transport covered with pressure sores on his back, ears, and legs. His bones were sticking out and he had chewed his tail so badly, it was raw and bleeding to the extent that we feared he might lose it.

The vet had a difficult time estimating his age because he was so small due to a lack of nutrition. He estimated Damon was around 2-3 years old. He weighed only 47.5 pounds.

Damon was scared when he first arrived. He was hesitant to go outside because he had been left out there for too long. Incredibly, the neglect he suffered was not reflected in his demeanor. When he arrived at **AFH**, he was affectionate and gave everyone kisses. He was bubbly and sweet and acted like an excited puppy. With the help of his foster – and his foster brother Cooper – Damon began to heal. Within days, he was playing tug-of-war with Cooper. He gained weight, his health improved, and he kept his tail!

Damon was adopted into his forever family just four months after arriving at **AFH**. His rescue and rehabilitation required a significant amount of financial resources, time, and loving care. Without the help and support of our volunteers and donors, Damon wouldn't have had this chance for a new, happy tale in his forever home. ●



*In a world full of chances to make a difference, few things compare to rescuing a helpless animal. At A Forever Home, this isn't just about being kind; it's about giving dogs the care, love, and second chances they desperately need.*

A Forever Home (AFH) is a 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization located in Northern Virginia. Our goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused, abandoned, neglected, and unwanted puppies and dogs.

*There are many ways that you can help a homeless puppy or dog:*

## MONETARY

- **Donate once or set up recurring donations through JustGiving** (<http://to-afh.org/Donate>) or through **Paypal** ([Paypal@foreverhome.org](mailto:Paypal@foreverhome.org)) Recurring donations help us budget more efficiently and even \$10 a month makes a huge difference to a homeless, abandoned, or abused puppy or dog.
- **Corporate Giving Programs**  
Does your company have a giving program? Many companies offer volunteer and donation matching programs that can significantly enhance your impact when supporting causes like **A Forever Home**. Speak with your company's benefits or human resources representatives to find out.
- **WoofTrax:** Donate just by walking your dog—visit [to-afh.org/WoofTrax](http://to-afh.org/WoofTrax) to download the app.
- **Karmakarma:** Offers you the chance to make an impact through micro-donations. Go to [www.karmakarma.com](http://www.karmakarma.com) and register. Log in, click on *Get Karmapoints* to see how to get points and/or click on *Make an Impact* and then *Animals* to navigate to **AFH's** page to make a donation.
- **Estate Planning:** Leave a lasting legacy. Email [info@foreverhome.org](mailto:info@foreverhome.org)
- **Donate Your Used Car:** Email [info@foreverhome.org](mailto:info@foreverhome.org)

## HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER HELP

Email [volunteer@foreverhome.org](mailto:volunteer@foreverhome.org) if you can help with any of the activities below.

- **Fosters:** Without fosters, the rescue ceases operation. Fostering can be long- or short-term. **AFH** provides all supplies and pays for all approved veterinary care. You can choose what dog(s) you want to foster too!
- **Transporters:** Drive a dog or dogs from our rescue/shelter partners to their **AFH** foster parents.
- **Home Checkers:** Home checks are done virtually.
- **Care Team Members:** Help fosters on a short-term, temporary basis.
- **Do you have a special talent or skill?** We would love to talk to you about using it to help us help homeless puppies and dogs.

## SHOPPING

- **eBay Sales:** You can select **AFH** to be the beneficiary of a percentage of your **eBay** sales! Just select **A Forever Home Rescue Foundation** when you are creating your listing and indicate what percentage of the sale gets donated to **AFH**.

*Shop with any of our partners:*

- **Jeanne Taylor Pet Portraits** ..... [to-afh.org/JTPetPics](http://to-afh.org/JTPetPics)
- **Hale Pet Doors** ..... [to-afh.org/Hale](http://to-afh.org/Hale)
- **Bissell** ..... [to-afh.org/Bissell](http://to-afh.org/Bissell)
- If you or someone you know is looking to buy or sell a home, you can refer them to us by emailing [Homes@foreverhome.net](mailto:Homes@foreverhome.net). For every home referral successfully closed through this program, **AFH** will receive a \$500 donation in your name.

