

FOREVER*tails*

JUNE 2025

www.aforeverhome.org

[facebook.com/afh2002](https://www.facebook.com/afh2002)

[@aforeverhome.org](https://www.instagram.com/aforeverhome)

[@aforeverhome](https://www.tiktok.com/@aforeverhome)



AFH NEARS 16,000 ADOPTIONS

It's a remarkable achievement to see so many deserving dogs find their forever homes. Since 2002, **A Forever Home (AFH)** has partnered with shelters and rescue organizations to care for and rehome stray and unwanted pets. Now, **AFH** is rapidly approaching the milestone of 16,000 successful adoptions—an average of 695 dogs per year.

While adoption numbers surged in 2020 and 2021, recent years have seen a steep decline. The return to office work

significantly reduced the number of adoptions, and now, rising economic pressures and growing uncertainty are prompting record numbers of pet surrenders. Combined with low rates of spaying and neutering, we are nearing a critical point in the animal population crisis.

You can support AFH by adopting, fostering, volunteering, or donating to help us save more deserving dogs. Learn more at aforeverhome.org.

In this issue...

Remo's Rescue.....	3
In Memoriam.....	3
Volunteer Highlight.....	4
Adoptable Ginger.....	5
A Big Success: Mike.....	5
To Hound or Not Hound?.....	6
Fourth of July 50/50 Raffle.....	7
How You Can Help.....	8

Editor: Susan Warner

Graphic Designer: Tina Hicks



AFH RESCUE PARTNER PROFILE

AFH regularly works with rural shelters and rescues that are over capacity or have limited resources to help dogs find their forever homes. With the support of our fosters, volunteers, sponsors, and donors, we're able to take in their dogs, reimburse them for medical expenses, and provide food and supplies. Through our combined efforts, AFH helps under-resourced organizations continue their vital work.

Please consider fostering or donating. Your support helps us continue to assist these extraordinary organizations. Donate today at <https://givebutter.com/aforeverhome>.



Meela is now with AFH and waiting for her forever home.



REMO'S RESCUE

Running a rural rescue organization is no easy task. "We currently have 150 dogs spread across five foster homes," said Kari McGee, co-founder of Remo's Rescue in Carthage, Mississippi. "I have 28 myself—on top of being a mother and working full-time."

Carthage, a small town an hour outside Jackson, Mississippi, has a population of around 5,000 and an escalating stray animal problem. That makes attracting and retaining new fosters especially difficult. "Most fosters want dogs to be adopted quickly—and that's usually not the case," Kari shared.

In addition to a rising animal population, the area sees frequent cases of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. "Remo's Rescue takes in dogs that often need significant medical care and rehabilitation. By the time they reach other fosters or organizations, they're completely different dogs."

Kari's journey into rescue work began while working as a dog groomer with the area vet where animal control would bring in dogs to be euthanized. "They didn't have anywhere else to take them. We don't have a local shelter, so if a dog was hurt, sick, or old, they were brought to the vet to be put down."

"I Want to Save Them All"

Kari founded Remo's Rescue with Dawn Keeney in 2017 and began taking in dogs from animal control—many hit by cars, suffering from mange, starvation, gunshot wounds, or severe neglect. "For about eight years, we were able to save them all. But in the past year or so, it's become too difficult," Kari said. In just the last 18 months, support, fosters, and adoptions have all drastically declined. "It's heartbreaking. Some of our dogs have been in foster care for years. Bully breeds, in particular, rarely get adopted."

"The Best Part About Rescue is Letting Them Leave"

Despite the challenges, Kari finds joy in seeing the dogs begin new lives. Remo's Rescue partners with several organizations in the Northeast—including **A Forever Home (AFH)**. "Our dogs go through such an incredible transformation—mange, open sores... and then healing. Watching them change physically and emotionally, and knowing they get to leave that behind, is the most rewarding part. When they get on a transport headed north, I know they're on their way to a better life."

IN MEMORIAM

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose; all that we love deeply becomes a part of us"

Helen Keller



PIPER

"For almost 15 years Piper was my Velcro, my shadow, my ball-obsessed, puzzle-solving, up-for-anything dog. Thank you, **AFH**, for the privilege of adopting Piper and to Stacy for fostering her and her littermates. Fly free, sweet girl."



ALVIN

"We adopted Alvin in early 2011, and he became the celebrity of the neighborhood and a friend to all. He helped me recover from back problems by walking me every day. If I make it to heaven, I know I'll see him there. I hope he puts in a good word for me."



MAX

"Max was the sweetest companion. He was 17 years and 3 months when we lost him. He lives on in our hearts. And we thank **AFH** for bringing him into our lives."



KO-KO LAMAR

"Ko-Ko Lamar was born in WV in August of 2008 and was one of Stella's Pups. He lived a great and adventurous life and was so loved. Thank you for giving me the best gift my family has ever received."



ALMOND

"I'm so lucky to have spent 15 years with Almond. My shadow, the definition of a loyal companion, she followed me everywhere I went, even on her final day when she was so deeply tired. Thank you, **A Forever Home**, for allowing us 15 great years with this one-of-a-kind best friend. There is a dog-shaped hole in our hearts, but we will always love and remember her."

Volunteer HIGHLIGHT

AFH has so many wonderful volunteers, but we are especially thankful for our young volunteers. Read on for a Q&A with our awesome youth volunteer, Choezom Tenzin.

Q: Why did you want to volunteer with AFH?

A: I wanted to foster because it made me happy that I could save a dog's life and it gives me a lot of insight on how to care for these beautiful dogs. Fostering is such a nurturing and rewarding experience because you save a life, and you also learn so much! I've learned a lot since being a foster in addition to a volunteer. I felt like I was needed when I first saw dogs needing somewhere safe to stay away from shelters because otherwise they'd be euthanized. I saved my first four foster pups from euthanization. They have all found their forever homes!

Q: What's the most challenging part of volunteering?

A: I find training to be the most challenging when fostering. I've fostered and interacted with dogs of all various breeds, sizes, ages etc. Training can be difficult especially since every dog and your experience will be different. But when you do get to the light at the end of the tunnel, it's incredibly rewarding, and I feel so happy.

Q: What's the most rewarding part about volunteering and fostering?

A: The best and my favorite thing about fostering is getting an email from the staff saying one of my dogs got an application! I feel so happy that someone picked one of my foster dogs to have as their forever companion. I really love talking to potential adopters. I try to give my best insight on each dog. It honestly feels like a touchdown, LOL!

Q: What would you say to someone wanting to volunteer and foster with A Forever Home.

A: I love volunteering with **A Forever Home** because it's really nice. Like genuinely. The community is really tight and everyone seems to know each other one way or another. When I needed help with my original four pups, one of the other fosters immediately stepped in and helped. That made me feel so seen and cared for. **A Forever Home** is a volunteer-based organization, so everyone helping one another is an amazing feeling. I've volunteered for six months and have fostered for about three to four months. This is such a wonderful community, and I try to come every Saturday. If you're someone my age and in the Virginia area, volunteering at **AFH** is amazing.



Choezom Tenzin

Available DOG SPOTLIGHT

Adoptable, Adorable: **Ginger**



Ginger is a sweet, spayed hound pup who's up-to-date on all her vaccinations. Like many rescue dogs, she needed a little extra care when she first came to us—she had an inflamed eyelid that was treated with surgery, and now she sees just fine out of that eye. Incredibly, she lost vision in her other eye after bumping it while playing. But don't worry—it doesn't slow her down one bit! Ginger is a happy, playful pup who loves other dogs, adores people, and is great with kids.

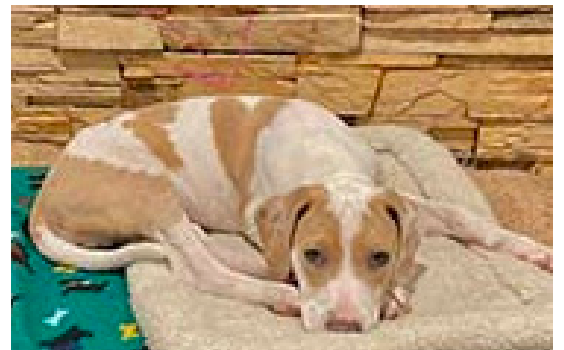
She's expected to be a nice medium size, around 40 pounds, and she's well on her way to being fully house-trained.

Ginger is a go-with-the-flow kind of girl with a joyful spirit. She's ready to bring love and laughter into your home—come meet her!

Contact us at info@aforeverhome.org to meet this sweet girl.

See all our available dogs at aforeverhome.org.

A BIG SUCCESS: **MIKEY**



Mikey and his littermates were found in rural Mississippi and brought to **A Forever Home** in November of 2022. He was adopted and loved until his owner's employment schedule became unmanageable. With too many hours away and not enough time for Mikey, his adopter, reluctantly, asked us to rehome him.

Mikey, now almost two years old and 80+ lbs, is a social, loving, well-trained dog. He was crate-trained, housebroken, obedience-trained, knew many commands, and even some tricks. He was incredibly affectionate, very intelligent, energetic and a typical hound "goofball."

However, rehoming an 80lb hound is never an easy task. It can be difficult to find the right foster and can take even longer to find the right adopter. When Mikey finally got to long-time fosters Stacy King and Peter Barnes, he was pretty unsettled. "Mikey was very destabilized when he came to us. We had a full house with a nursing mother with 10 small puppies on top of our 4 personal dogs and 3 cats," said Peter.

Once he settled, Mikey was a typical hound. Surfing the counter, looking for food, sniffing everything and testing the cats. "The cats weren't big fans of Mikey, but we worked on it." Mikey also earned the role of honorary "dad" to the 10 young puppies. "The mother wouldn't let any other dog near them, but she was fine with Mikey."

Mikey, a loving, trained, mischievous hound, spent 7+ months with Stacy and Peter waiting for the right family to come along. The new adopters had 2 other large dogs and plenty of space. They met him at adoption and then came to the house to see him again, walk him and make sure he would be a good fit.

"They were perfect for Mikey and Mikey was perfect for them. When Christmas came along, they sent us a card. It was just Mikey on the front announcing his addition to their family."

TO HOUND OR NOT TO HOUND?

Why Hound Dogs Make Amazing Pets



Cuddly Six Zira

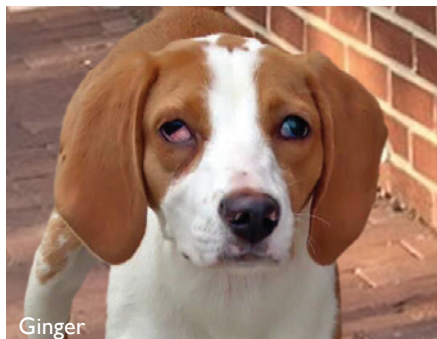
By Susan Warner, Volunteer

As a long-time dog owner and foster with **A Forever Home**, I never seriously considered adopting a hound. I saw them as hunting dogs—loud, stubborn, and always sniffing. Then I adopted Dyson.

Dyson looked like a Lab, but once I heard his distinct bark and saw his personality unfold, I realized how wrong I was. He wasn't just a hound—he was hilarious, affectionate, and full of life. He changed everything I thought I knew about the breed.



Waylon



Ginger



Leah's Pup Lyla



Tori's Litter Diego

WHY CONSIDER A HOUND?

1. Big Personality, Big Heart

Hounds are natural comedians. They'll make you laugh with their harmless antics—hiding toys, or finding food you thought was out of reach. Their curiosity and cleverness keep life interesting. They are affectionate and loyal and like to be part of the family.

2. The Nose Knows

Hounds were bred to follow their noses, and they still love to sniff everything. Rather than fight it, embrace it! Let them explore, and use scent-based games to keep them mentally stimulated and well-behaved.

3. Food = Motivation

Yes, hounds love food. That's also what makes them easy to train! With a treat in hand, your hound will be eager to learn.

4. Smart and Independent

Hounds are intelligent and often problem-solvers. With training, your hound can know what you want before you can even say it! Their brains work with you, not against you.

5. Family-Friendly

Despite their hunting roots, hounds make loving companions. They're often:

- Great with kids
- Gentle and affectionate
- Friendly with other dogs
- Low-maintenance in grooming
- Give Hounds a Chance

Hounds may not get adopted as quickly as other breeds, but they have so much love—and laughter—to offer. Dyson didn't just fit into our home; he became a perfect piece of our family.

So, to hound or not to hound? *Absolutely hound!*

READY TO MEET YOUR HOUND?

Visit aforeverhome.org to see all of our hounds and other breeds available for adoption. You might just find your new best friend.

Every \$20 ticket you buy supports the urgent medical needs of our rescued dogs.

Win BIG— Save a Pup's Life!

A Forever Home Rescue Foundation (AFH) is holding a "July Fourth 50/50 Raffle" where you could win a massive cash prize—**up to \$20,000!**



For over 20 years, **AFH** has given thousands of abused, neglected, and abandoned pups a second chance. Now, you can be a hero, too. Veterinary care is our biggest expense, and your raffle ticket will help us provide everything from routine checkups to life-saving surgeries, heartworm treatments, and emergency care. With only 2,000 tickets available, your odds of winning are fantastic! Picture yourself with a huge cash windfall, knowing you've also made a tangible difference in the lives of deserving rescue dogs. Get your tickets now, and win big while doing good!

Previous years' raffles netted the following:

Year	Total Collected	Rescue's Share	Winner's Share
2024	\$32,600	\$16,300	\$16,300
2023	\$26,380	\$13,190	\$13,190
2022	\$31,520	\$15,760	\$15,760

How much will you win this year? The excitement is palpable!

<https://aforeverhome.org/event/july-50-50-raffle-25/>

AFH Adoption Events

Come out and support us at our weekly adoption events!

While most events are held at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Chantilly on Saturdays from 12NOON-3PM, summer and festivals provide even more opportunities to showcase our amazing dogs.

Recently, we've participated in:

BarkBash
ViVa! Vienna!
and Loudoun Pride
and there's more to come!

Be sure to check our website regularly for the latest event updates at <https://aforeverhome.org/events/>



HOW YOU CAN HELP



A Forever Home (AFH) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused, abandoned, neglected, and unwanted puppies and dogs. As a foster and volunteer-run rescue, there are many ways for you to help save an at-risk puppy or dog.

Learn about all the options and programs to help our dogs at to-afh.org/help.

DONATE

Donate once or set up recurring donations. Even a \$10 monthly recurring donation can impact the lives of our puppies and dogs. Donate today at <https://givebutter.com/aforeverhome>

Other ways to give:

- Donate to Brownie's Fund for our dogs' medical expenses.
- Tap into your company's Corporate Giving programs.
- Donate your car.
- Include us in Estate Planning.
- Shop our Amazon and Chewy Wish Lists.

Support us through our Partner Programs:

- WoofTrax
- Jeanne Taylor Pet Portraits
- Hale Pet Doors
- Bissell
- Home Referral Program
- GoodSearch
- Color the World Lipsticks
- iGive
- Ebay
- Eight Moons
- PawTree
- City Renewables
- Little Beast

Find these programs and more at: <https://to-afh.org/>

FOSTER

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 also choose which dog(s) you want to foster!

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can help in both big ways and small ways depending on how much time you can offer.

Email volunteer@aforeverhome.org if you can help with any of the activities below.

- Transporting dogs from rescue partners to AFH fosters.
- Virtual Home Checks
- Occasional, temporary support for fosters as part of our Care Team.

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.



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