

# FOREVERtails

AUGUST 2025

[www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org)

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## JOIN US - CASINO NIGHT BENEFIT - OCTOBER 25

### Join Us for the 2025 Casino Night and Silent Auction to Help More Dogs!

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Centreville Dance Academy, we're rolling out the cards and spinning the roulette wheel for our much-anticipated Casino Night and Silent Auction.

This year's proceeds will benefit Brownie's Fund, named after one of AFH's very first medical miracles. Brownie, a sweet beagle mix puppy, battled parvo and pneumonia—and thanks to over \$6,000 in care, she made a full recovery and found her forever home.

Brownie's Fund now helps us give other seriously ill or injured dogs the same fighting chance.

#### Your Ticket Includes:

- Wonderful food and drinks
- Casino games that will keep you on your toes
- Silent Auction and Raffles for wonderful prizes
- Plenty of time to mingle with fellow animal lovers

Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org) for info and tickets!

### Help Us Make It a WINNER

We're looking for event sponsors to help cover costs, and we've got sponsorship tiers (plus a "Create Your Own" option) to fit any budget. Your tax-deductible gift will go directly toward making this night—and Brownie's Fund—a success.

We're also in search of raffle and Silent Auction donations—think experiences, services, or unique items people will love to bid on! Concert or show tickets, spa days, handyman services, hotel stays, outdoor adventures... if it's fun or useful, it's perfect.

Ready to help? Email Maribel at [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org) and let's make this the best Casino Night yet.

It's going to be a night full of fun, friends, and fundraising—come play your cards right for the dogs who need us most!



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## ADOPTABLE AND STILL WAITING...

Sometimes, there's no clear reason why a dog gets overlooked. They're healthy, sweet, and full of love to give—yet, for one reason or another, they're passed over.

Maybe they were shy or too excited on adoption day. Maybe they didn't "stand out" against a backdrop of small, adorable puppies. Or maybe fate just hasn't brought the right person along....yet.

They've waited patiently, day after day, for someone to see them—not just as another rescue dog, but as their dog. The one who will greet them at the door, curl up beside them, and make every day better just by being there.

We invite you to take a closer look—because your perfect companion might be right here, still waiting for you.

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### BRILLIANT BLACKKEY

Lori's pup, Blackey, likes to come up to you to get treats, pets, and give your hand kisses. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all his basic commands.



### CHARISMATIC KRIS

Four years old and full of life, Kris is a pure-breed hound waiting for her forever home. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all her basic commands.



### ADORABLE ARAMIS

Lori's pup, Aramis plays and cuddles and likes treats. He's just waiting for his forever home - and belly rubs. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all his basic commands.



### WHIMSICAL WENDY

Wendy has a gentle, calm and loving personality, but she's also playful. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all her basic commands.

### BEAUTIFUL BELLA

Gentle, mellow but playful, Bella was rescued when her owner left her behind. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all her basic commands.



## IN MEMORIAM

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

Helen Keller



### LUCIE

"Lucie loved vacationing. She gave us countless joy over the years. We miss her dearly."



### TUCKER

"We were so fortunate to have over 12.5 years of joy, antics, and mutual unconditional love. We loved him so much and miss him dearly. Thank you for bringing him into our lives!"



### ATTICUS

"We enjoyed every day of the 14 years and 11 months we had him. My husband called him the Dog of Dogs. Our vet said we gave him a wonderful life, but really he made our lives wonderful."



### MAYA

"She never met a stranger - just loved everyone. She is forever in our hearts."



## LETTERS FROM HOME

We love to hear about our AFH adoption successes. Please send any updates and pictures to [info@foreverhome.org](mailto:info@foreverhome.org).

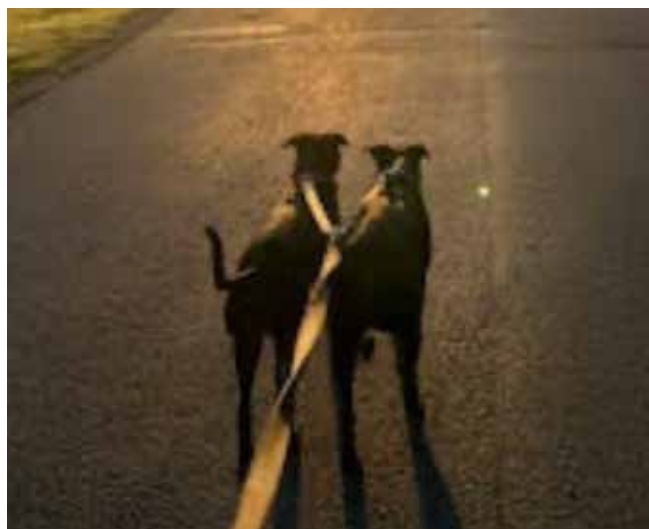
### TREVOR - AGILITY AT 11 YEARS OLD

At 7 months old, Trevor was a reactive boy with separation anxiety. With training and patience, he calmed and grew more confident - enough to have success in competitive obedience, rally, Fast CAT, parkour, trick dog, and CGC. Now, at 11 years old, Trevor has two years of agility success with awards in AKC Novice Agility Preferred, Novice Fast Preferred, Novice Jumpers with Weaves Preferred, and Open Agility Preferred. It is so special to experience a new sport with an older dog. Thank you for all you do!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY ABBY - 17!

Thank you for all the amazing work you and your amazing volunteers do. She is the joy of our life!



### LUNA AND COCOA

My mom's AFH pup and neighbor, are doing so well. We love them to pieces! (Luna is blue and Cocoa is pink). We feel so lucky to have these sweet girls in our family.

## AFH Adoption Events

*Come out and support us at our weekly adoption events!*

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



# BEST BUDDIES

I wanted to thank A Forever Home Rescue Foundation for allowing me to adopt my best friend, Bear, in 2010. I realized how important it is to have such great loves in your life after both Bear (2023) and my Mom (2024) passed over the bridge. Mom had always been petrified of dogs (for no apparent reason). There was an occasion when I was asleep when my mom came home from work and Bear was loose. Mom walked into the kitchen and Bear followed her. She screamed and he ran away. It happened again. I was asleep, Bear was loose and she walked in. This time, Bear jumped into a chair and covered his eyes with his paws. My Mom said, "this dog knows I'm afraid of him and he gives me my space". He did that and she knew he wouldn't hurt her. From then on, we would all gather in her bed to watch Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy every night. There were even nights when Bear chose to sleep with her or not me! I'm so glad that my two loves became great friends. I hope they are together now, hugging in heaven! RIP Mom and Bear.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*AFH has so many wonderful volunteers. Read on for a Q&A with our awesome volunteer, Kelly Byrd.*

**Q:** *How did you get involved with AFH?*

**A:** We previously adopted two wonderful lab puppies around 2004 and started fostering for AFH in 2008. My boys and I fostered over 80 puppies and young adult dogs between 2008 and 2012.

**Q:** *What other volunteering have you done with AFH?*

**A:** In 2012, I switched from being a foster to doing homechecks and interviews to ensure the pups are going to great homes. Prior to COVID we would drive to the potential adopters homes and meet in person to see the space and even offer suggestions to help with the dog's training and transition. Now we are able to complete all interviews faster by doing them virtually.

**Q:** *Do you love it?*

**A:** Volunteering is very rewarding. It's so nice meeting potential adopters since I was one previously. As a foster, you are their caretaker while they wait for their forever home. You love them like they are your own.

**Q:** *Any advice for potential volunteers?*

**A:** I encourage everyone to be a part of the AFH journey, whether it's collecting donations, contributing, fostering, transporting, volunteering at the adoption events or doing homechecks. Every bit helps so it doesn't matter what you do. Everyone working together helps the dogs!



# HELPING YOUR NEW DOG ADJUST

Adopting a dog is a big decision and an exciting time. You may want to show them off, take them out, get them spruced up. But here's the thing: your new family member has just been through a lot including leaving a foster home or shelter. They don't know your rules, your routine, or whether you're the kind of person who shares snacks. And that's okay.

Those first hours, days, and even weeks together? Think of them like the start of any brand-new relationship—exciting, a little awkward, and full of “getting to know you” moments. No dog should be judged by their day-one behavior. Adjustment takes **time, patience, and a sprinkle of strategy.**

Here are some helpful “settling-in” tips—collected from our own experience at A Forever Home and some of the best trainers we know:

## 1. Follow the “Rule of 3”

Dog pros swear by the 3-3-3 Rule:

- 3 Days to decompress (translation: they might be overwhelmed, quiet, or acting a little weird).
- 3 Weeks to start learning the ropes.
- 3 Months to feel like, “Yep, I live here now.”

Go slow, give grace, and remember—they're still unpacking their emotional suitcase.

## 2. Keep Things Calm, Predictable and Don't Rush Introductions

Skip the grooming, crowds, dog park tour, and cross-country road trip. Short walks, quiet hangouts, and a feeding schedule are the magic formula for now. And, there's no need to meet the “entire fan club” right away. One person or pet at a time, please.

## 3. Give Them Space

First, they need THEIR space. Crates give a dog their own “den” and help with training. We know. You want snuggles! But let them come to you. Relationships built on trust last a lifetime (and involve fewer side-eyes).

## 4. Make Alone Time a Positive Thing

One day, you'll have to leave them home. Start small—literally walk out the door for a couple minutes, then come back like it's no big deal. Leave behind a stuffed Kong, puzzle toy, or their favorite chew to make it a treat, not a tragedy.

## 5. Reward the Good Stuff

Treats, praise, play—positive reinforcement is your best friend. Skip the scolding. It breaks trust and slows progress.

## 6. Be Patient With Potty Training

Even seasoned pros can forget their manners in a new home. Take them out often, cheer like crazy when they go outside, and clean up accidents without a fuss.

## The Bottom Line:

The first few weeks are an adjustment period for you and your pup. Expect a few hiccups, keep your expectations realistic, and celebrate every little win. You didn't just adopt a dog—you started a new relationship. And with time, consistency, and love, it just might be the best one of your life.



DOVER



HOLLY



GINGER



IRIS



MIKEY



# SAVE A LIFE

## Become a Foster!



**A Forever Home**  
RESCUE FOUNDATION

AFH provides all the supplies you  
will need and pays the vet bills.

**YOU PROVIDE THE LOVE!**

To learn more about becoming an AFH foster, email:

[volunteer@foreverhome.org](mailto:volunteer@foreverhome.org)



## THANK YOU

**Girl Scout Troop 4044** completed their scouting journey during the 2024-25 school year. They have all graduated from high school and are moving on to college. The Troop decided to donate their leftover funds to A Forever Home. Helping to support one of their local animal rescues felt like a meaningful way to make a real difference while completing their journey.

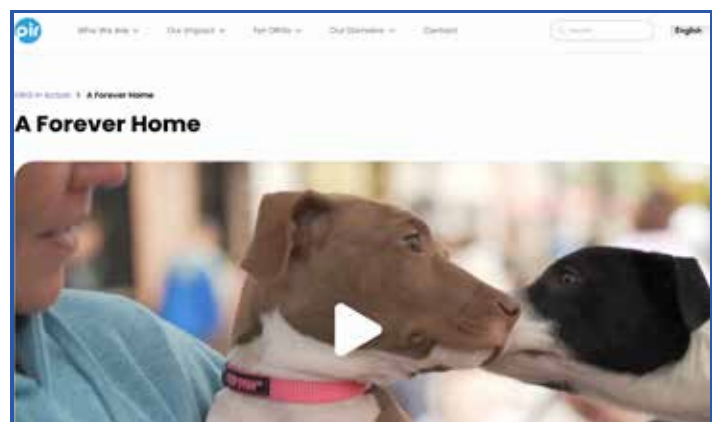


### ORG in Action Features A Forever Home

The organization behind the .ORG internet domain, Public Interest Registry (PIR.org), runs a wonderful program that highlights the impactful work of nonprofit organizations. Recently, PIR profiled A Forever Home (AFH) as part of its “.ORG in Action” series, producing compelling content and videos that AFH can use to share its mission for years to come.

The profile and full videos are viewable on [foreverhome.org/about](https://foreverhome.org/about)

A heartfelt thank you to PIR for your continued support and generosity — and for helping us shine a light on the critical work of dog rescue.



# 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](https://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](mailto: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.



**HERSHEY**



**SIMBA**

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/aforeverhome)