

# FOREVERtails

NOVEMBER 2025

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

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## 'TIS THE SEASON

### Giving Season and Giving Tuesday

Please consider starting off this holiday season with the gift of love by showing your support with a donation to A Forever Home Rescue. No matter how large or small, your generosity will make the life of abandoned, abused, and orphaned dogs and pups healthy, happy, and secure.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to help pregnant moms and dogs with heartworm or needing surgery. We have rescued dogs and pups from hoarding situations and when they were hurt and abandoned. We have helped dogs whose owners passed away or could no longer care for them. Without your help, these sweet souls would have no chance of finding a forever home.

If you're unable to donate, you can still help by sharing and promoting AFH to your friends, family and network. Share our posts on FaceBook, Instagram and TikTok with a link to donate at <https://givebutter.com/aforeverhome>.

### SAVE THE DATE: Photos with SantaPaws

Join A Forever Home for photos with Santa and support a great cause. For just a \$30 donation, capture the moment with a digital photo of your fur and/or human children with Santa!

**Saturday • December 6, 2025**

Noon-3 PM

PetSmart, Bristow

**Saturday • December 13, 2025**

Noon-3 PM

Weber's Pet Supermarket, Chantilly



- All photos will be e-mailed to you for personal use.
- All proceeds will benefit the dogs and pups at AFH.
- All dogs must be leashed, cats must be crated and children should be on the nice list!

### In this issue...

Foster to Forever .....	2
Adoptable Dogs .....	3
Rescue Story Cherry .....	4
In Memoriam .....	5
Letters from Home .....	6
Volunteer Highlight .....	6
Holiday Tips .....	7
How You Can Help .....	8



# FOSTER TO FOREVER

## Fostering Sets Dogs Up for Adoption Success

Every dog's rescue story begins with uncertainty, but for many, the path to a happy ending runs through a loving foster home. Fostering isn't just a temporary stop — it's a powerful transformation that benefits both the dog and the future adopter.

### Why Fostering Matters

When a dog is pulled from a shelter, they often arrive scared, unsure, and sometimes in poor health. A foster home provides a safe, stable environment where they can decompress, learn routines, and rediscover the joy of being a dog. Foster families offer patience, structure, and love — the first steps toward healing both emotionally and physically.

### The Dog's Transformation

In foster care, dogs get to:

- **Build Confidence:** Shy or anxious dogs learn to trust people and adapt to new surroundings.
- **Learn the Ropes:** House training, basic commands, and good manners are introduced and reinforced.
- **Receive Socialization:** Exposure to other pets, people, and everyday life prepares them for adoption.
- **Get Needed Care:** Medical needs are addressed, from vaccinations to surgeries, so adopters take home a healthy pet.
- **Behavior & Temperament Insights:** Fosters observe dogs in a home environment, providing valuable details about energy level, personality, and compatibility with children or other pets.

### Peace of Mind for Adopters

Adopting a dog that's been fostered comes with fewer unknowns. Foster families can share exactly how the dog behaves in a home, how they respond to training, and what type of household would be the best fit. This means adopters can choose a pet whose needs and personality align with their lifestyle, reducing the risk of mismatches — a common reason dogs are returned to rescues.

### A Win-Win for Everyone

Fostering sets dogs up for success and gives adopters confidence in their decision. It shortens the adjustment period, reduces surprises, and increases the likelihood of a lifelong match.

When you see "fostered" in a dog's adoption profile, know that it's more than a word — it's a promise that this dog has already taken big steps toward becoming the perfect companion.

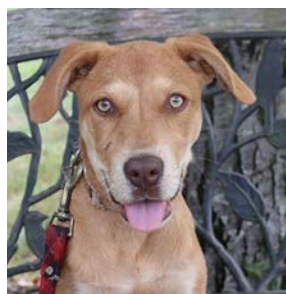
## SAVE A LIFE

### Become a Foster!



**A Forever Home**  
RESCUE FOUNDATION

To learn more about becoming an AFH foster,  
email:  
[volunteer@aforeverhome.org](mailto:volunteer@aforeverhome.org)



MAM



SASHA



TOPPER



IRIS



JACKSON



## 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. They've waited patiently, day after day, for someone to see them as THEIR dog. We invite you to take a closer look—because your perfect companion might be right here, still waiting for you.



### BRILLIANT BLACKEY

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.



### MAGNIFICENT MIKEY

Full of curiosity and energy, Mikey loves to be outside exploring. He also likes to be chill and snuggle. Crate-trained, house-trained, leash-trained and knows all his 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.



### SWEET SISTERS

#### EASYGOING ERICA

Erica is smart and attentive, warm and loving - the perfect package. She loves to play and then snuggle. Her blend of smarts, playfulness, and affection makes her the perfect companion for anyone.

#### REGAL REGINA

Gentle yet curious, Regina is the epitome of sweetness, always ready with a friendly tail wag. She is a smart little girl who has learned to walk on leash and knows how to sit for treats.





# RESCUE STORY

## Cherry's Journey: From Suffering to Safety



Cherry was discovered by one of our rescue partners, lying motionless, clearly in unbearable pain. This little 17-pound dog had blood on her head and could barely move. At first, they believed she had been hit by a car. X-rays confirmed a broken pelvis, but also revealed more: she had an older leg injury from a previous car accident, and the wounds on her head weren't from the road. Cherry had been shot in the head with birdshot.

### She Deserved So Much More

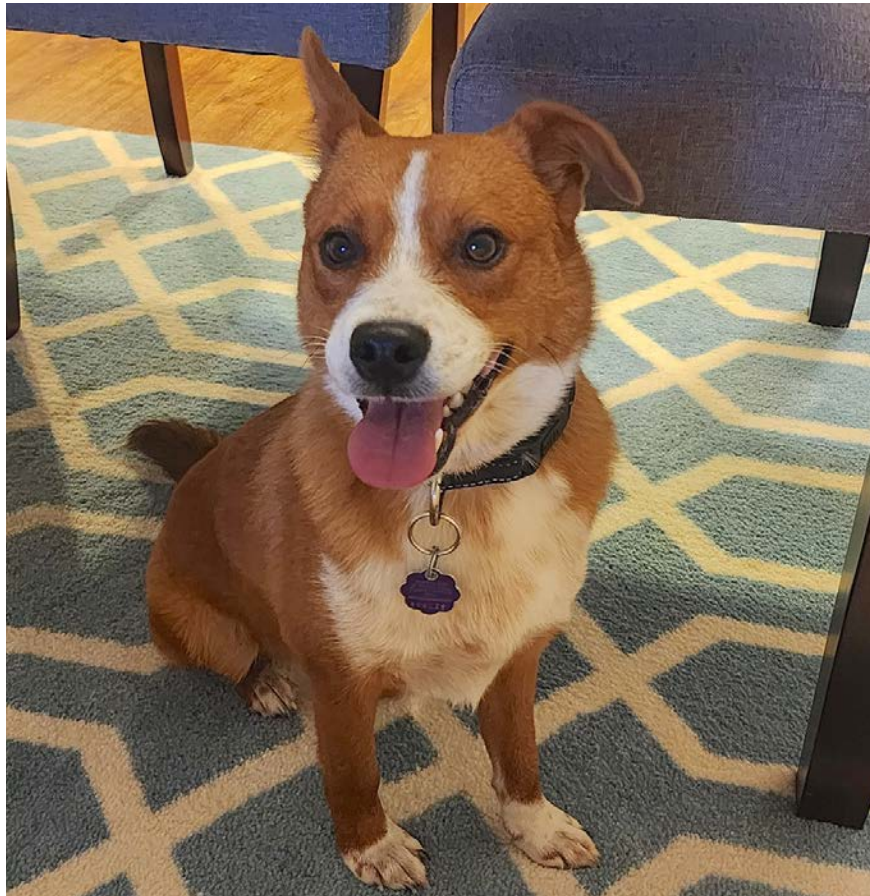
We weren't sure what to expect when she arrived. But Cherry's resilience, her will to survive, reminds us why we continue this work.

Cherry's foster family was immediately smitten. Despite everything she had

endured in her short life, Cherry remained unbelievably sweet and sassy. Besides being a silly sock thief, she is gentle, affectionate, and trusting—traits that are all the more remarkable considering how humans had failed her time and time again.

Cherry was worth every effort. And we are so thrilled that she's found her forever family who will love her endlessly and never let her down again.

Cherry is just one example highlighting the urgent and ongoing support needed to provide care including surgery, pain management, rehabilitation, and long-term support for both physical and emotional recovery.



## IN MEMORIAM

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

Helen Keller



### LOLA

For 14 wonderful years, Lola filled our lives with love, joy, and a bit of mischief whenever we left her side. She never met a stranger, greeting everyone with warmth and enthusiasm, and she cherished her simple pleasures, treats, naps, walks, and curling up in our bed each night on her own pillow like one of us. She had a gentle spirit and a heart full of love. Lola was our constant companion, and she will be missed more than words can express.



### STELLA

Stella will best be remembered by everyone as the master escape artist, food enthusiast, no-BS matriarch of our house and neighborhood. We hope she is enjoying an endless amount of cheese slices on the other side of the rainbow bridge and we all look forward to reuniting with her again someday in the future.



### PIDDLES

While fostering Piddles, the vet revealed that he had a heart defect and would be lucky to live to see his 2nd birthday. So we adopted him and let him have his best days living out his bucket list. He played and ran. He ate at the table and we ignored "piddles" in the house. A year later, the vet revealed that he "grew into his defect." We happily spent the next 11 years trying to help him develop some manners. We are so thankful for the 12+ years with the worst trained, most ill-behaved and most entertaining, charming dog we've ever known.



## LETTERS FROM HOME



### ONYX

Onyx (formerly Rufus) was adopted in October 2023. Onyx just turned two and is as energetic and happy as ever. He has truly been such a wonderful addition to my family, and I am beyond grateful to your team for giving me the opportunity to adopt him. Thank you again for everything you do and for bringing Onyx into my life

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

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARY MONIE

I've loved dogs since I can remember and have had at least 2 (often 4) since I became an adult. My list of dogs we've loved and lost is more than can fit on the application. They are my best friends and a constant source of love for my family. I find the joy of loving a pet to be very rewarding and can't imagine a life without them! I adopted my first rescue in 2017 and began volunteering right afterwards. I was so impressed by the entire organization that I called immediately to find out how I could help. Our second rescue came to us in 2020 after she was returned to AFH.

I began (pre-Covid) doing in-person home visit/inspections but all of that changed once we had to do them all virtually. Now it's so easy to get done via virtual chat. It's a quick email to the potential adopter to schedule the visit and a 25-35 minute video call which includes the interview and tour of the home. I look for anything that stands out as dangerous, talk through how to care for a new pet, answer questions, and go over our expectations of care/rules/contract items. It's fun for me to get to know the adopters and their families during this process. Many send me pics of themselves with their new babies on adoption day and those make my whole week!



## 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://aforeverhome.org/events/>



## TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### Happy Howl-idays! Keeping Things Calm for You and Your Pup

The holidays are meant to be merry—but let's be honest, they can get a little hectic, especially for your dog. Between the visitors, the noise, and the irresistible smells coming from the kitchen, it's easy for your furry friend to feel a bit frazzled. Here are a few easy ways to keep things chill and safe for everyone this season.

#### Give Them a Chill Zone:

Even social butterflies need downtime. Set up a quiet space—maybe a bedroom or cozy corner—with their bed, toys, and water. It's the perfect escape when things get too loud or crowded.

#### Keep Their Routine (Mostly) Normal:

Dogs are creatures of habit. Try to stick to their usual walk, meal, and bedtime schedule as best you can. Familiar routines help them feel secure, even when the rest of the house is buzzing with activity.

#### No People Food, Please:

Your holiday spread may smell amazing, but it's not meant for canine taste buds. Skip sharing things like chocolate, onions, grapes, and bones—they can make dogs sick. Keep some of their favorite treats handy so they don't feel left out of the fun.

#### Mind the Kiddos:

Kids get excited (and loud!) around dogs. Gently remind little ones how to approach and pet your pup calmly, and always keep an eye on the interactions to prevent any holiday mishaps.

#### Traveling Together?

Bring familiar stuff—like their blanket, food, and toys—to help them relax on the road. And don't forget those potty breaks!

With a little planning and a lot of love, you can keep tails wagging, spirits high, and the holidays peaceful for everyone—two- and four-legged alike.



POPPI



REDDI WHIP

## CALLING ALL HELPING HEARTS



AFH is seeking donations of experiences, services, and items to help support the upcoming Valentine's Day Online Auction. Examples of donations include: Sports memorabilia or tickets, tea and coffee baskets, gift certificates to restaurants or movies, wine and cheese baskets, stays in vacation homes, train rides, items or services related to your business, baskets of dog related items.

The online silent auction will be held from February 1 - February 7, 2026.

Please contact [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org) to learn more and to make your donation.

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

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.



**RUFFIN TUMBLE**



**RAY**

## 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)