

# Almost Home Foundation

# PAW PRINTS



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## *Ways to give*

*Donate supplies...  
Check our wish list*

*Donate unused  
tickets*

*Become a  
member or a  
sponsor*

*Send a check or  
go online for  
credit card  
donation*

*Donate when you  
shop on Amazon.com  
by selecting us as your  
charity*

## *Our featured pets*



Welcome to our  
newsletter!  
We hope you like  
our new look!

### *Meet Ira!*



At first glance, Ira looks like an exotic cat. "What breed of cat is he, "ScottishFold"? No. Ira is a domestic short hair.

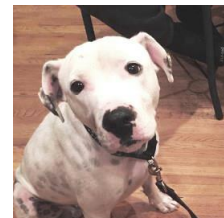
His unusual ears come from having untreated ear infections for a very long time. The constant scratching and itching at his ears resulted in cauliflower ears.

Once rescued, Almost Home Foundation had his ear infections treated right away. There is nothing we can do to repair the damage to his ears. Thankfully his deformed ears do not cause him any pain. In fact, we think Ira is quite handsome with his distinctive good looks.

Ira was born on 05/10/2007. He is close to 10 years old which makes him a senior cat, but Ira does not act like any senior cats we know. Ira loves to play. Bring out a feather toy and he is the first one to "catch the birdie". Ira loves people and will come up to you and give you a head butt or rub against your leg. He enjoys being petted and loves attention.

Ira is in foster with other cats, but he is definitely an alpha cat. He would do best in a home where he is the center of attention. Ira has been FELV/FIV tested negative, is up-to-date on vaccinations, is neutered, microchipped and litter box trained. If you are looking for a fabulous feline companion, check out Ira. He is a really great kitty who needs a forever home of his own.

### *Meet Boone!*



Boone is a 2 year old terrier mix who was rescued from terrible conditions. He was found running as a stray in a more rural area of Kane

County and was so terrified of people that it took three days for animal control to catch him.

When he was finally caught, it was evident Boone did not have a very good start in life. He had visible cuts/abrasions, wasn't really using his back leg, his skin was in poor shape and he was very thin.

It was discovered that the ligament in his ankle was not attached to the bone and was just hanging in the leg. We can only imagine what this little guy had gone through. He had surgery to repair the ligament and, although completely healed, sometimes he still will not put weight on it but it does not slow him down.

He does still have some fear issues, with men, so an all-female home would be preferred. He will need someone willing to continue to work with him, but his foster would be more than happy to advise. He will need a quiet home, with no young children. He does not like crating but never destroys anything in the house. He would do best in a house with a fenced yard.

Boone is a special guy in search of a special home! He has been waiting far too long for his own forever family! We know they are out there!

# Adopt, don't shop! Here's why.

## There are many reasons to adopt a pet rather than buy one.

- Adopting a pet saves a life. Over two million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized every year. There's just not enough shelter space for all of them.
- Adopting a pet can actually save two lives. When you adopt a pet, you free up a spot at a shelter and give another animal more time to find a home.
- Adoption allows you to support a not-for-profit rescue. Buying, on the other hand, often puts money in the pockets of puppy and kitten mill owners or unscrupulous breeders.
- You're getting a good deal when you adopt a pet. An adoption fee typically covers vaccinations, spaying/neutering, and a microchip for considerably less than the purchase price of a pet from a store or breeder.
- If the animal you are interested in adopting is in a foster home, the foster family can tell you about its personality, energy-level, and behavior. Most pet store animals aren't trained, socialized, or used to being in a home, but many adoptable pets are.
- Adopting is more rewarding than buying. It feels good knowing you've saved a life! Also, pets who have been neglected, abandoned, or were just unwanted have a way of showing their adoptive family how grateful they are.

### With all these good reasons, why do some people still buy pets from pet stores or breeders?

A few reasons you might have heard:

- 1) "I want a puppy/kitten."
- 2) "I want a particular breed."
- 3) "I don't want an animal with 'issues.'" There's nothing wrong with any of these, but these aren't reasons that should stop a person from adopting!

- A surprising number of people don't realize they can adopt a puppy or kitten. Even puppies and kittens need rescuing. There are PLENTY of them available for adoption.

- If you have a fondness for a particular breed, consider adopting from a breed-specific rescue. You can also find purebred animals for adoption at many all-breed rescues. It's true. They may not have "papers," but fortunately that is not important to the average pet owner.

- Finally, shelters are not full of "problem" animals. Most pets end up in shelters through no fault of their own. Some are unclaimed strays. Many others are given up because their owner's family, job, housing, or financial situation changed. Rescues temperament-test the animals they save, and, as noted earlier, a foster can tell you quite a lot about an animal you are considering adopting.

If you're reading this article, there is a good chance you already know that rescuing is the way to go.

### Special thanks....

to all the employees of Lynfred Winery Roselle and Lynfred Winery Wheeling. Almost Home Foundation was their January charity of the month and all the employees donated their tips to Almost Home Foundation.



### Kids helping AHF

Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 376 based in Lake Zurich for all their efforts to support AHF. They made signs promoting fostering and adopting pets, baked dog treats, made blankets, put a collection box at ELA library, and did a neighborhood collection drive for needed items!



**Adopt, don't shop! Let's keep spreading the word!**

## Interview with puppy fosters

Dog and cat fosters are an essential part of our rescue mission. We have so many loving families that open their hearts and homes to these animals. Some of them have a special fondness for puppies. We asked some of our devoted fosters to tell us just what it's like.

### What is different about fostering a puppy than fostering an older dog?

We have to make sure they are safe so they need to be penned in a room or caged when we're not around. They do need more supervision though and there are often visits to the vet to check to see that they are healthy. They eat three times a day and sleep a lot. They give tons of puppy kisses and cuddles and will sleep together and play together. They can be pad trained when babies so they don't have to go outside. It's always better to foster more than one to keep each other company.

### What is the hardest part of fostering puppies?

The hardest part is seeing the condition of some of the more neglected pups or nursing the very sick ones back to health again. Puppies need lots of special attention when they're sick.

### What is the best part of fostering puppies?

The best part is seeing how much a pup has changed in your care. Seeing them play with a toy for the first time, being comfortable meeting new people, learning manners and commands, exploring the outside, coming out of their shell, making their new family happy and getting updates about how much joy a pup brings their new family!

### There are many success stories but is there one that stands out?

That would have to be Sookey. She came in with three of her sisters at about 4 weeks old. All of them had a very rough case of kennel cough that just wouldn't go away but Sookey just continued to get worse. Each day something else went wrong. It took many different vets to finally diagnose her problem. At one point we were told she might not make it. We spent that weekend loving her as much as possible. After much research and many visits, we finally got her diagnosis of puppy strangles. We got her on the correct medicine and everything quickly turned around.

### What advice would you give to people who would like to foster but are afraid they will get too attached?

This is always the first thing everyone asks. In our hearts we always know that we are only a temporary parent/caretaker and that these animals will have a wonderful future with a loving family. And we remember...the next litter is waiting. Since rescue never sleeps, when the last of the fosters go home, very soon there are new fosters coming in.



Little Paws, Big Hearts Gala 2016



The crowd - 340 dog and cat lovers



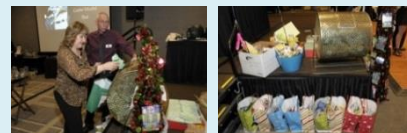
Help a Pet – Get a Gift



Over 250 auction Items



Bidding to raise money for kennel improvements



Raffle



Heads or Tails



Dancing

Save the date for the for our 2017 Gala, November 18.  
Looking for volunteers to help with sponsors, donations.  
If interested contact us:

[gala@almosthomefoundation.org](mailto:gala@almosthomefoundation.org)



## Ask Homer and Hope



### *Homer, should I get a crate for my dog?*

Dogs are den animals and crates provide comfort and security. Many people refuse to crate or kennel-train their dogs because they feel the confinement is cruel. However, a crate or kennel can give dogs a sense of security. Crate training done properly is a highly effective system that can be a lifesaver for dog owners.

Young dogs have a tendency to investigate everywhere and everything...and putting "stuff" in their mouths is one of their joys. Crates will keep pets safe while they sleep and when owners are away from home. Just knowing their pet is safely tucked away gives them peace of mind. The crate is a place for the dog to be when no one is around to supervise him. Its purpose is to provide confinement for reasons of safety, security for the dog, housetraining, prevention of destructive behavior, and/or travel.

It also is an effective potty-training tool because instinctively, dogs won't soil in their den. Crate training is a method of teaching your puppy to hold his bladder and bowels by confining him in a crate when he is unsupervised. This allows you to prevent him from having accidents by taking advantage of his natural instinct to avoid soiling where he sleeps. Be sure to consult a guide to crate training your dog for specific information.

### *Hope, are two kittens better than one?*

Kittens need a playmate. Two kittens entertain each other and siblings are the best bet, but any two of the same age can form close bond. Kittens learn by copying. If one kitten is quick to learn appropriate litter box use, the other will be likely to copy. They also help each other with grooming. Kittens love to play and two will wear each other out. Kittens just don't get that "clock thing". They like to play after the lights are out. A pair of young cats will entertain each other - effectively tiring themselves out while their owners sleep.

Many people who experience behavior problems with kittens find that some of them go away when they adopt another playmate. What may be perceived as mischief is often just the result of boredom. Kittens sometimes misbehave because "negative attention is better than no attention."

If one kitten is finicky about food, his fussiness may be overcome by curiosity at what its sibling is eating. No doubt kittens are fun, but having two is twice the fun. Watching two kittens play together can be hours of entertainment and laughs — it's better than television and no commercials! If you have a chance to get a pair, seize the opportunity. They will each have a friend for life.

# a Bowlful of Heart



It takes 1,000 cans of moist food and 80 lbs of dry food to feed our cats every week! And it doesn't take much for our dogs to go through the kibble...just the dry food can be over 35 bags a week! That's almost a ton every year.

## HOST A FOOD DRIVE... IT'S SO EASY!

We email you the flyers and all you have to do is promote and host your food drive. Then bring the donations to our kennel or adoption show.

Schools ~ Churches ~ Workplace  
Scout Troops ~ Groups ~ Associations

Contact us: [Feedafurryfriend@almosthomefoundation.org](mailto:Feedafurryfriend@almosthomefoundation.org)

## Success stories that will touch your heart...



We asked you for your adoption success stories and we were overwhelmed by the response. Here are just a few of them.

I adopted my cat **Mickey** from AHF after the loss of a pet. I really loved how AHF could tell me all about Mickey and his personality. He was perfect for me. After a while, I noticed that when Mickey would go with me to my mom's house, who has two dogs and a cat, that he seemed sad coming home to an empty house.

I contacted AHF and told them about the situation and they said they had another cat



that they thought would fit perfectly with Mickey. His name was **Sabre**. I was told that he was high energy and could get into trouble but that didn't phase me. I brought Sabre home and after only an hour it was instant friendship. Mickey started playing and running around like crazy with his new buddy. Once again, AHF knew the perfect cat for my household. It has now been almost two years since I got Sabre and he and Mickey still remain best friends. Jackie N

When I lost my two senior dogs within two months I was about as low as I could be. Then I went online to



Almost Home and saw the sweetest face ever. A trip to the adoption show and I came home with the perfect little girl. I named her **Fossie** (after the dancer and choreography Bob Fosse) and she has lived up to her name, dancing on her hind legs for affection and treats. I am definitely getting my exercise. I live right next door to Elmhurst College and that's Fossie's favorite walk. We can't get twenty feet out the door without students, teachers or staff members asking, "Can I pet your dog?" Can you ever! She loves everyone and has become the therapy pup, especially around final exam time. Thank you Almost Home for my companion. Patricia M

We had lost our Golden at the age of 15. We had her from a puppy and as time went on, the hole in our hearts was quite evident...so puppy hunting began. A friend mentioned "rescue." However, I was hesitant...how would I trust or be able to manage a dog that had a history? Would this "rescue" be flexible to our routine? My granddaughter and I began hunting the Almost Home website and decided we would look with intent at one of the adoption shows. As we stood waiting our turn to meet our intended prospect, this sweet gray and white pup appeared. We began talking to her foster and continued to spend some time with her. After a bit, my granddaughter said, "This is the one."



It's been four months and our **Scarlet** is so much a part of our lives. She adapted quickly, loved and trusted easily. I absolutely never thought a rescue would be our joy.....she sits next to me with her head on my lap as I write this. Betty O



2015 was a very bad year for me. I lost my mother and my two elderly fur-babies. My wife went to the Itasca vet where the receptionist told her about Almost Home. I went on the web site and filled out an adoption form indicating that I would like to adopt one or two female dogs. I received a reply asking if I'd be interested in a mother and one of her puppies. After discussing it with my wife, we jumped at the opportunity. We went to meet them at the foster home and the mother, **Circe**, took

me right away. As we sat talking, the puppies busied themselves with untying my shoes and playing with the laces. After a while they all got bored and went off about their business except for one little girl, **Penelope**, who kept wanting our attention. Obviously, she picked us. After completing the screening process, the girls were brought to our house. They are wonderful. We enjoy long walks and they have so much fun playing together. It's a decision I'm glad we made. We would certainly do it all over again! Terry T

## Calendar of Events

## Meet Adoptable Cats and Dogs



**March 26:**  
Paw Jam Fireside Ale House  
Streamwood

**Daily:**  
PetSmart Bloomingdale  
(cats & kittens)  
162 S Gary Avenue



**April 22:**  
Bingo  
American Legion, Roselle

**Saturday:**  
AHF hosts adoption shows every  
Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
at the following locations:



**May 6:**  
Adopt-a-thon  
PetSmarts

**PetSmart Bloomingdale**  
(cats and dogs)  
162 S Gary Avenue

**PetSmart Schaumburg**  
(dogs)  
1440 E Golf Road



**July 21:**  
Elvis is Here!  
Durdy Nellies, Palatine

**Petco Bloomingdale**  
(puppies & kittens)  
412 W Army Trail Road



**Sept 16:**  
Guitars Under the Stars  
Danny's on Douglas, Elgin

**Pet Supplies Plus Streamwood**  
(dogs)  
61 Irving Park Road



Little Paws, Big Hearts

**Nov 18:**  
Gala  
Regency Hyatt, Schaumburg

***Within the heart of every stray lies the singular desire to be loved...***