

Almost Home Foundation

PAW PRINTS



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Summer 2017



Our featured pets

Meet Prince Carl!

Prince Carl is a five year old Chihuahua mix. He was given up by his owner as she could no longer afford him.



Prince is very attached to his foster mom and loves her very much. So, when at the adoption shows, he doesn't do well if he can see his foster mom. All he wants is to be with his foster mom. The good news is that he developed this attachment to her which means his forever mom will enjoy that same bond once he has time to adjust and attach to her.

Prince is small and would do best with teenagers or older. He will make someone a wonderful companion. He does well with the other dogs at the show and anyone that handles him as long as he can't see his mom. He is house trained, up to date with shots and ready to find his forever home. Could that be you? Will you give him the love, attention and time he needs to get to know you, learn to trust you, and fall in love with him?

Don't be fooled by his small size. He does need exercise. If you are interested in Prince Carl, send an email to dogs@almosthomefoundation.org or fill out an on-line application. You won't regret it. He is usually at the Bloomingdale Petsmart on Saturdays by noon until 3 pm at our adoption show.



Homer



Hope

Enjoy our summer newsletter!

Meet Zoey!

Zoey was at a high kill shelter. The post we saw said there was something wrong with her leg. She walked with a limp. The post also said what a sweet cat Zoey was. Injured pets at kill shelters are not the first picked. Being black, we knew Zoey did not have much chance of rescue. So we saved Zoey.



When she came to us, we had no idea what this poor kitty had been through. The X-rays we took showed she had been hit with a shotgun blast that broke her leg and left pellets deeply embedded inside her. Unfortunately, we could not safely remove them. Her leg had healed on its own and she was walking and even jumping and climbing. Fixing her leg would require major surgery and re-breaking her bones.

For all she had been through, you think Zoey would hate people. Not the case. She adores people. She follows her foster mom around and "talks" to her. She loves to be petted and will flop and beg for more. She is in a foster home with other cats but would prefer to be an only kitty. Because of her leg she gets nervous if another cat moves too fast or gets in "her space".

Zoey is spayed, up-to-date on all her shots, is litterbox trained and up for adoption. If you can open your heart and your home to this sweet little girl, you will have Zoey's unconditional love and devotion. She is a wonderful kitty.

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Ways to help

Run a cat/dog food drive

Volunteer to walk dogs at the kennel

Be a handler at an adoption show

Join the Action team and head up a fundraising event

Volunteer to help at any of our fundraising events

Summer safety tips just a reminder

For all pets

NEVER, NEVER leave your pet in a car, truck, or any enclosed outdoor space. The temperature can rapidly climb to over 140 degrees F. It can rise enough in 10 minutes to cause problems for your pet. Leaving the windows open doesn't help much and exposes your pet to possibly being stolen or tormented by passersby.

Road trip: If you are going on a "road" trip, be sure to research what is available between home and at final destination by way of pet-friendly restaurants and motels BEFORE you start out. Also check if there is a vet near your final destination.

Safety especially for dogs

As you are more likely to take your canine buddy on a walk during the summer months, there are several things of which you should be mindful.

Water: Take along a supply of cool water for your friend. This includes a bottle of water. A great tip is to freeze some water in the bottom of the bottle and then fill the rest with cold water just before you leave for your walk. You'll need a collapsible dish and, for convenience, a small tote for the bottle and dish. And maybe a paper towel or two to dry the dish after it's used. All equipment can be purchased at most pet stores and many retail stores. Or you can improvise using items you may already have at home. Do NOT let your dog drink water out of puddles as these may contain all kinds of toxins.

Terrain: Asphalt and even concrete can be extremely hot on warm, sunny days. Let the dogs walk on the grass as much as possible (however, avoid yards with signs that the lawn has been fertilized recently.) Cross streets at the narrowest points that way your dog's paws are exposed to that awful heat as short a time as possible. Watch out for construction areas where the road is torn up and filled with gravel. See if you can find a way to avoid crossing till you can find a part of the road that is not so gravelly.

Shade is good: If possible, walk on the shady side of the street. Stop and rest in the shade and take another drink of water.

Cooling vests: Some pet stores sell Cooling Vests. One version seen is wetted with cold water, wrung out, and put on the dog like a coat, held on by Velcro. The dog does not get wet but the vest does keep him cool. However, do not assume this item will keep the animal cool for hours and hours in the hot sun. Check the information available at the point of sale of the cooling vests.

Type of dog: If your dog is one of those breeds that have pushed-in or flat noses they are more apt to become overheated quickly. Also dogs that are old, ill, overweight, black, etc., may overheat faster. So be very careful and only go for short walks, or just let them out in the yard for short periods of time.

Time of day: If it's one of those really hot, humid summer days, go early in the morning before the temperature starts to head upward, or in the evening after the sun has gone down a bit.

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

Heroes come in small packages



Tide was born into this world under less than ideal circumstances. His litter was a result of what's called backyard breeding. The owner kept the litter in a back porch cement area. He took the puppies outside even though they had no shots to protect them against disease. Three of a litter of five have had health issues. One was so sick it became anemic, and is still on the mend. A second one has been diagnosed with diabetes. Tide, the third, was the most unlucky of the bunch because he was born with two heart defects. He was the runt of the litter, had a heart murmur, and two heart defects that nothing could not be taken care of. People were drawn to this sweet pup. He loved everyone he met and they loved him too. He had a gentle personality that warmed people's hearts. If someone was in a bad mood/having a bad day, just spending a few minutes with Tide would cheer them up. He was just that special and we knew that from the beginning. What we didn't know was just how special Tide really was.

Tide was a sweet puppy who was gentle, playful, loving, and it turns out, very intelligent. Tide's foster mom fell in love with him. She needed surgery herself and had to let Tide be watched by extended family members. It was during this time, that one of the stove knobs got turned on and released gas fumes. During the night, Tide was relentless and wouldn't stop until he woke up the mom. The mom quickly realized something was terribly wrong and was able to get help. Tide saved everyone in the household, including himself. This little guy WANTED TO LIVE! He was a fighter. He was a special dog. Some of us didn't just consider him a dog, HE WAS FAMILY AND ALWAYS WILL BE!

Almost Home Foundation and Tide's foster gave this little guy as much of a "normal" life as possible and vet bills did not stop us. Unfortunately, money wasn't enough. His little heart with its defects could no longer sustain his growing body and it is with tremendous sadness to say he moved onto the Rainbow Bridge. AHF is committed to fighting against backyard breeders and puppy mills. If you would like to help animals like Tide, please feel free to go to our website www.almosthomefoundation.org and make an on-line donation or send a check to Almost Home Foundation PO Box 308, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009.

Kids helping Almost Home Foundation



♥ Thanks to the eleven third grade members of Troop 4140 from Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Hoffman Estates for all their efforts to support AHF. They made toys and brought them to share with some of the rescues and earned their pet badge.



♥ Thanks to this Eagle Scout for building two beautiful benches for our kennel.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, can dogs see in the dark better than people?

The answer is yes! A dog's eyes have larger pupils than human eyes. The eye muscle contains light sensitive cells called rods which help us see in low light. A dog's eyes contain more rods than a human eye. The ability to see in the dark is a part of the canine eye called the tapetum. The tapetum acts as a mirror, reflecting back the light that enters it. This also causes the glow-in-the-dark effect of a dog's eyes at night. The tapetum reflects up to 130 times more light than human eyes which is why we dogs are five times more sensitive to light. Most dog breeds also have about 250 degrees of a field of vision compared to 190 degrees for a human. So the next time you are walking your dog at night, don't be surprised if their ears perk up because your dog spots something that you can't see. The greenish-yellowish glow in your dog's eyes is an indication that your dog has better night vision than you do!

Hope, why does my cat purr?

The most common sound cats make is the purring sound. Most of the time, people associate purring with a cat being content, but this is not always the case. A cat's purring is also used to communicate a variety of emotions and needs. If a cat is lying on his or her back with its eyes half-closed and the tail is mostly stiff, the purring sound he or she is making most likely means happiness. Mealtime is another instance when a cat may purr. If a cat combines its normal purr with an unpleasant cry or mew, much like a human baby's cry, this means it may be hungry. A kitten will purr to let its mother know its location and that he or she is ok, and a mother cat often uses her purr as a sweet lullaby for her babies. If a cat is hurt or in pain, he or she will often purr. Amazingly the purring sensation soothes the cat and actually helps a cat to heal faster.

Success stories that will touch your heart...



This is **Ikati**. She cracks me up! From her NASCAR spins off the walls, to sounding like a small horse running through the apartment, to her newest thing...taking a nip at my leg as I'm brushing my teeth, to name just a few of the very many things that make me laugh. When I first saw her at the adoption show she hissed and swiped at me with her paw and tried to bite. But she was just afraid. I fell in love with her. I let her put on her little show and after a little bit of chin scratching I was able to coax a little purr out of her. Yes, she has an attitude. She has a three second holding rule and don't even try to touch her belly! But that is what makes her, well, her. She still doesn't like her older sister, Baby, but she tolerates her. She's a little nut job but she's my little furry nut job and she fits right in. Jennifer R



This is **Taco**. I'm his grandma and call him Taco Fresco. He was found lost in Champaign, Illinois, by my daughter, Jordan, in September, 2015. Jordan did the right thing and turned him into the county animal control so his owner could be located. Long story short, he was chipped but his owners never responded. So since they were able to track him back to AHF, Taco was returned to them. The animal control wanted to euthanize him but my daughter wasn't having it. Taco is now Jordan's forever pup. He gets to celebrate Halloween, Christmas, and his birthday. He lives with Jordan, goes to college at the U of I and just graduated in May of this year. Such an accomplishment! He makes friends everywhere he goes. He's an awesome pup and Jordan loves him to death. Danette B

How to provide an enriching environment for your pet

Deciding to adopt a new pet is a lifelong commitment. Making sure your pet's basic needs are being provided in your home is essential for your pet to live a long, happy life. By following these tips, you can provide your pet with an enriching environment that is suitable for his/her preferences..

Easy Access to Food, Water, and Toilet

Pets like to have their own zone where they will not be disturbed or frightened when they are eating and drinking.

If you have multiple pets, each should have his/her own designated area where everything they need is provided. This will lessen the chance of your pets developing competitive behaviors. It is best to provide food and water in safe, low traffic areas. Dogs require predictable routines. You need to decide if your dog will use a doggy door or will have a fixed schedule for bathroom times. Make sure your dog's bathroom time is consistent each day.

Cats need to know where their litter tray is placed. When bringing a new kitty home, show him/her immediately where the litter tray is located.

Physical Environment

Structural features are important to your pet.

Dogs must be allowed to carry out fun, safe activities throughout the different stages of their lives. Dogs like to chase as well as chew. Make sure your dog has plenty of chew toys as well as toys that allow him/her to chase. Your dog will also need ample space in your home for play time.

Cats enjoy height. Provide your cat with climbing frames, scratching posts, and easy access to window sills.

Audio/Visual Enrichment

Your pet may enjoy watching television, especially when other animals are on the screen.

There are many DVDs offered, specifically for pets to watch, for purchase at most pet supply stores. To keep your pet entertained while you are away from home, using a pet DVD is a good option. Turning on the radio can also be very calming for your pet.

If you have a cat, make sure he or she has easy access to a window sill. Cats love to bird and animal watch.

Olfactory Stimulation

Pets love new smells.

Playing hide and seek with your dog while using a smelly sock is an activity your dog will enjoy. Using a few drops of essential oils (such as lavender, anise, and valerian) on a toy will also excite your dog's tracking instincts. Playing a simple game of fetch with the scented toy several times a day will help to stimulate your dog's sense of smell.

Indoor cats enjoy herbs such as catnip and catmint. There are a variety of cat toys for purchase that contain these herbs in pet supply stores and supermarkets.

Keep in mind that changing your pet's environment should be done at a gradual pace so as not to confuse your pet. Make sure that all toys are safe and age appropriate. And most importantly, have fun with your pet!

Bingo fundraiser

It may be that electronic games on the computer are all the rage these days but the all-chairs-full attendance at the April 22nd AHF Bingo fundraiser proves that there is still nothing as much fun as participation in a real live evening of Bingo at the local VFW Hall. Singles, couples, families with children all joined in to make the evening a rollicking success. Donated Bingo prizes lined the entire front of the hall waiting to be chosen by the winners. "BINGO!" was heard throughout the hall during the evening as folks filled out the rows on their cards. Several donation items were auctioned off and there was also a 50/50.



Kitten shower

How could anyone resist 22 kittens ranging from 4 weeks to 12 weeks old? The Kitten Shower raised over \$1500 in supplies and cash/gift card donations and lots of applications for forever homes were submitted. We celebrated with snacks and drinks and a Baby Boy and Baby Girl cake all donated by our many supporters. We had a table filled with toys and stickers the kids could take home. Besides all the supply donations, we raffled off a cat tree to help raise more money to support these adorable babies.



Paw jam

Paw Jam was our first kennel fundraiser. The goal was to raise money to make our kennel a more comfortable place for our dogs until they find their forever homes. All the donations will go toward rehabbing the inside with more storage, new floors, cabinets, and making the rooms and runs comfortable so the rescues don't feel so confined. Once the inside is finished, we will have family days with open adoptions at the kennel. This will facilitate our mission to have the dogs adopted quicker and in turn allow us to save more lives. It was a huge success with online donations as well as over 200 people in attendance. We could not have been more grateful!

Upcoming events

Barking Lot Sale	June 2, 3, 4
Poker for Paws – Texas Hold'em	June 3
Rick Saucedo's Tribute to Elvis	July 21
Running 4 Rescue – Chicago Beer Run	August 26
Guitars Under the Stars	September 16
Little Paws Big Hearts Gala	November 18

For more information about these events check our website.

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