

Fall 2017



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You can't do everything but you can do something....

Adopt...

If you can't adopt, foster...

If you can't foster, volunteer...

If you can't volunteer, donate.



Our featured pets

Meet Seth!



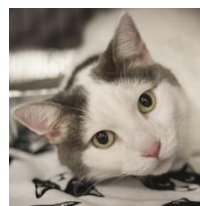
Seth is looking for a foster or forever home. He is about 2 years old and is

intelligent, affectionate, and eager to please. He has even had training to help make him the best dog he can be.

One really great thing about Seth is that he is fully housebroken. You can leave him loose in your home and he won't chew up your things or have accidents. Seth gets along with most other dogs, but he would also be perfectly fine being your one and only. A yard and regular walks would be ideal for Seth.

He feels best around people who are confident with dogs and will let him know that the people in the home are in charge, so he can just relax and be a dog. This loyal, loving boy is going to make a great pet for some lucky person or family.

Meet Sweet D!



Sweet D is a 9 year old cat who knows what she wants in life. She does not like the adoption

shows or being crated. She has lived as an only cat, so she needs to find a family who wants her to be their one and only.

Sweet D will come and climb on your lap or neck but she doesn't care to be picked up. She prefers to get to her destination on her own. She also loves to lie on the cat tree and look outside. If you're not careful, she will sneak outside but please don't let her. Inside is the safest place for her. She uses her litter box and has a healthy appetite.

She also gets along with dogs just fine and will let them know if they are bothering her. Her favorite place is laying on you and kneading your chest while she purrs continuously. If you would like to learn more, contact her foster at asego_sw@yahoo.com or 630-715-4139.

A day of rescue

Actually, the “rescue” really starts about four days before transport when an email is received by AHF and other rescue groups from the group arranging transport. It lists animals that are available at various kill shelters, these mostly in southern Illinois and southern states such as Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma. From this email a large number of AHF dogs first come to our attention. And there are so many...all ages, all types...puppies, pregnant females, seniors, ones given up for medical reasons, purebreds...the faithful ones.



Available doesn't even begin to describe the heart-wrenching doom faced by these dogs. They are living in despair at kill shelters until they are either rescued or euthanized to make room for animals submit later to the shelters.

The email AHF receives includes such information as the dogs' breeds, how they get along with other animals and people, what is known about their age and background, and if known, the date they are scheduled to be euthanized. A brave team of AHF volunteers pours over the list while considering how many we can find fosters for and how many we can make room for at the kennel

until we find a foster or a forever home. A message is then sent back to the transport group, advising which animals we can take.

The lucky ones chosen are thus rescued. They are loaded on a truck in crates, one on top of the other in rows, secured with bungee cords. Then they face a grueling 9 to possibly 20-hour ride from their original shelters, making various stops along the way to pick up or take off animals. Depending on the origin of the transport, some of the animals are dropped off at the kennel and some are dropped off at Petsmart.



When they arrive, the cargo door opens, the crates are taken off and the dogs released to the AHF t-shirted volunteers. Some are so frightened that they have to be gently convinced to leave their crate. Others, tails wagging, are hyper and eager to run as soon as their little feet hit the ground. Their attitude: “LIFE IS SOOO EXCITING!” They immediately get a collar and leash, are walked, given food and water and deworm and flea tablets just in case. It was impossible to tell who was happier, the dogs or the animal-loving AHF volunteers.

All the dogs are micro-chipped by a member of the AHF staff. In some cases we do not have a foster immediately so the dogs remain in the kennel until we find someone. While at the AHF kennel, dogs are well cared for by AHF volunteers who several times daily walk, feed, and play with them.

So by rescuing, even though we can't change a dog's past, we can change a dog's future. Understand that by choosing to adopt, you are actually saving TWO lives; the one you adopt and the one that has been waiting to be rescued.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, why are dogs noses wet?

Well, there are two main reasons: to regulate body temperature and to help in scent detection. And our noses are not always cold and wet. Sometimes they are dry and warm. They can go from one to the other in short periods of time, depending on the environment, such as weather, air temperature, air dryness, and what the dog has been doing. The wetness and coldness can vary from dog to dog. And their nose will dry up, like human noses get stuffy, if there are allergens present.

Dogs do not sweat through skin as humans do. They cool off by panting and having wet noses and sweating through the pads of their paws. Their wet noses also cue them into what's happening in their environment via scent. The nose captures water droplets that carry scents. Their sense of smell is amazing compared to human noses and helps us smell those squirrels before you can even see them.

That's why, contrary to popular believe, it is NOT true that a dry nose always indicates a dog is sick. A dry (and warm) nose can be caused by the dog being near a heat source, if he's been sleeping or exercising, and there are a number of other possible causes.

The best thing to do is monitor your dog to determine what is "normal" for him. If the dryness becomes severe, or longer-lasting than usual, or his nose becomes cracked or he is excreting mucous (even if his nose is cold and wet), you should take him to the vet.

Hope, what is TNR?

The initials TNR stand for "Trap-Neuter-Return" which involves humanely trapping feral cats and taking them to veterinary clinics where they are sterilized. They are vaccinated against rabies, ear tipped and returned to the trapping location. An ear tip is a small portion of a cat's ear that is removed during the surgery (while the cat is under anesthesia) to indicate that it has been through the TNR process. This process helps to control the feral cat population and saves the cats from euthanasia, which is the alternative because feral cats are usually afraid of humans and unadoptable. Many cities welcome feral cats as they help reduce rodent overpopulation.

If you find a cat, see if it is friendly or not. If tame, and will approach you for food or attention, it is probably a stray cat and may belong to someone. Check for identification and try to contact the owner. If you can get it into a carrier, take it to a veterinarian or shelter to have it checked for a microchip. Notify area veterinarians, animal shelters and rescue groups that you've found the cat.

A feral cat may approach you when extremely hungry but will only eat once you've put down the food and left the scene. If they won't come near and refuse to be touched after several days of feeding, they're probably feral. Don't try to handle the cat. Look for that notch on its ear to see if it has been through TNR. Contact your nearest animal rescue group who will have some info on any local TNR groups.



Little Paws Big Hearts Gala

November 18, 2017

**Thank you for supporting our biggest event of the year!
Dinner, cocktails, wonderful auction items to bid on.
Invite your friends...purchase a table together!**

For more information check our website.

Meridian

**BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
1701 Algonquin Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008**

Cats Meow mobile cat adoption trailer

We are thrilled and excited to announce to our supporters this new addition to our foundation...the Cats Meow Mobile! A very generous donor has gifted us with a mobile cat adoption center. This opens so many doors for cat adoptions!

We were very limited for several reasons. One reason was because of the high risk of a cat getting loose outside, we could never do outdoor events. Another problem was the amount of time and space a cat adoption show requires. It takes us an hour to set up and tear down a show and we need an area that will accommodate at least eight cages. These limit the locations that would work for us.

This 20 foot trailer has so many other benefits. It is a safe and secure offsite place and a unique way to show off adoptable cats. It is heated and air conditioned and has twelve cat carriers and twelve litter boxes. Now we will be able to go to any locality to promote interest, educate the community about the perks of adopting and find forever homes for our rescued cats.



Did you know about these ways to give?



Make a purchase and up to 26% will be donated to us.

Website: [igive.com](https://www.igive.com)



Shop [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchase will be donated to us.



A Pets Before Profits Pharmacy™



Purchase pet medications and 100% of their profits go to us.

Website: [petrescuerx.com](https://www.petrescuerx.com)



Electronics Restoration Experts

Donate used electronics and device value will be donated to us.

Website: [almosthome.reupfundraising.com](https://www.almosthome.reupfundraising.com)

Fall safety tips

- #1. Watch out for ticks in fall** Just because fall is here doesn't mean that ticks aren't still lurking.
- #2. Beware rat poison and other rodenticides** Fall is the time of year when mice, rats, and other rodents start to scurry for warmth. And where do they find it? You guessed it – your home! Be careful when it comes to mouse traps and rodenticides like rat and mouse poison.
- #3. There is a fungus among us!** In some regions of the country, fall is just as wet as spring. That means that more mushrooms dot backyards and forest floors. While most mushrooms are perfectly safe, there's a small percentage that are highly toxic to our furry friends (and to us!).
- #4. Watch out for antifreeze toxicity** In preparing for the winter months ahead, people tend to use fall to winterize their cars which involves antifreeze. Antifreeze is highly toxic to pets and ingesting even a small amount can harm or kill them.
- #5. Beware chocolate and hearty foods** The fall and winter parallel our holiday seasons, when we ramp up our intake of hearty, heavy foods and sweets. Make sure your pets don't get into any foods that can make them sick; this means chocolate, grapes, and raisins are off limits because they are toxic.
- #6. Be careful with decorations** While you might like to get into the seasonal spirit, dogs and cats do too – in the form of sampling, say, decorative gourds or other fall props.

Upcoming events

Septemberfest Schaumburg	September 3, 4
Adoption Show Joe Cotton Ford	September 23
Dine to Donate – Chipolte	October 19
Adopt-a-Pet WGN News	October 20
Guitars Under the Stars	September 16
Kind Service Project Palatine Library	Month of November
Little Paws Big Hearts Gala	November 18

For more information about these events check our website.



We'd like to *Thank You* for your past generosity. *Please help us help them..*
We desperately need donations to keep us going strong!

To donate, go to: www.almosthomefoundation.org OR

Mail a check to: **Almost Home Foundation, P.O. Box 308, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009**

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