

Almost Home Foundation

PAW PRINTS



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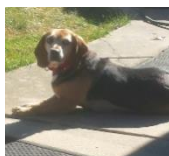
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Our featured pets

Meet Melon!

It was Sunday evening and the AHF phone rang. The caller was looking for a safe place to bring two dogs that had been dumped in the forest preserve. They were not microchipped and no one reported them missing. Soon, the two dogs arrived at the AHF kennel.



Volunteers gave them bedding, water, and food and some much needed affection. The next day, they went to the vet and we got some news about Melon. The growth on her belly was a hernia that appeared to be strangulating her intestine and needed to be taken care of. None of our regular vets could do that type of surgery so we needed to find a specialty vet. Further tests also showed growths on her spleen.

Melon went through a massive and extremely costly surgery. The biopsy indicated the growth was malignant. In animal rescue, it is difficult to make choices about how to spend money and on which dogs with which diseases. Once the medical intervention started, it wasn't until we were finished that we learned the devastating news.

Melon is with her foster and we won't know for 2 months if she is clear of cancer. She is comfortable, happy, playing with the other dogs, and loves to cuddle on the couch. How could we deprive her of these joys in life? Sometimes animal rescue is about humanity and love.

Is an animal's life worth saving? Absolutely! Is it costly? Yes, but how do we put a price on a life? Please consider making a donation to AHF for Melon and the many other animals that Almost Home Foundation saves every day.

Meet Bruno!

Bruno was formerly a street cat. We think he had a home at one point in his life but it is obvious he was on his own for a while. His face tells the story of his life on the streets.



Frostbite took part of Bruno's ear and a few of his fingers and toes. Altercations left scars on his face, and a bite from another cat gave him FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus). Being without shelter made him vulnerable to predators and parasites, Bruno now has heartworm disease.

In spite of his rough beginnings, Bruno is a gentle cat. He loves people. His favorite thing to do is to sit in his foster mom's lap and rub his face against her arm. He drools when he is happy, and he has the cutest little purr.

His second favorite thing is food. He loves it when his foster mom brings him something special to eat. He will purr, march and make biscuits when she brings him a special treat.

Bruno has so much love in his heart. He is so grateful to be rescued and off the streets. We are looking for the purr-fect home for Bruno. Please share and help us give his story a Furry Tale ending.

Bruno DSH black neutered male 7-10 years old. FIV positive, heartworm positive, would love to be the only pet in your life.



Check your chip or update your contact information

Step 1: Get Your Pet's Microchip Number

Don't have their microchip number handy? Call your vet OR bring your pet into your vet's office, animal shelter, or animal control to have them scanned (there shouldn't be any charge for this).

Step 2: Get Your Pet's Microchip Type/Brand

Can't recall the type/brand? Lost the original paperwork? Call your vet's office or the shelter/rescue where you adopted your pet or look up your pet's microchip number on the [AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup site](#). Just plug in the number and the site will tell you the type/brand and provide the necessary information about how to get in touch to check and update your contact information.

Step 3: Check & Update Your Contact Information with the Registry

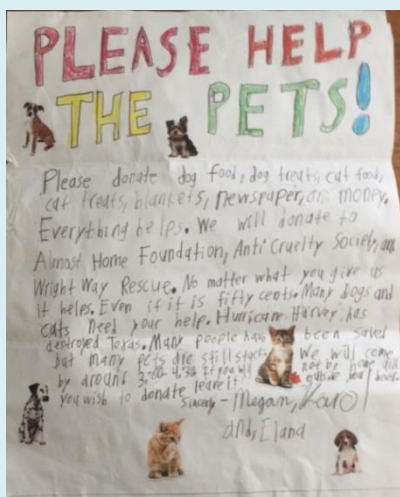
Now that you have your pet's microchip number and the name and contact info of the registry, call them or go onto their website to update your contact info.

Kids helping AHF



Bloomingdale Brownie Troop 55487 made cat and dog beds for Almost Home Foundation.

Kids helping AHF



Door to door fundraising for Almost Home Foundation by 9 year old Karol, 6 year old Elena and 11 year old Megan from Park Ridge.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, how can I successfully houstrain my new dog that I just adopted?

When adopting a dog, you must remember that your dog knew where the bathroom was in his/her old house but probably doesn't know where to go potty in its new location. There are also new smells, new rules, and a new schedule for your dog, so you must be patient.

First, you must manage the environment by either confining your dog to a crate or secluded area using a baby gate, or you must have your dog within your sight at all times. If these tips aren't followed, your dog may sneak off and relieve him/herself and begin to think that this is ok. You can attach a small bell to your dog's collar. This will allow you to know where your dog is at all times.

Take your dog out often and communicate what you expect of him/her. Reward your dog with favorite treats and use praise immediately after he/she uses the bathroom outside. Also, walk your dog to the same area each time for the bathroom. Use terms like "Go Potty" to communicate exactly what you want your dog to do.

Hope, is it ok to let my cat outside, especially on a nice day?

Letting your cat out on a nice spring day may sound like a great thing to do, but it is actually not a good idea. Letting your cat outside reduces his/her life expectancy. It is much more likely for your cat to contract diseases such as the Feline Leukemia virus, infections, or worms.

Cats are predators which means they love to catch and feast on songbirds. But besides being predators, cats are also sought after by coyotes and hawks. Letting your cat outside not only puts other animals in danger, but it puts your cat in danger as well.

Cats also love to nibble on grass. In the past, it has been thought that grass is healthy for a cat's digestive system. This is a myth! When cats eat grass, the grass can become lodged in their noses and throats. This leads to a very expensive vet procedure. Also, some grasses are sprayed with toxic pesticides that could be detrimental to your cat.

Although the day may look appealing to your cat, my advice is to allow your cat to enjoy the day by sitting in an inside windowsill. Cats love this!

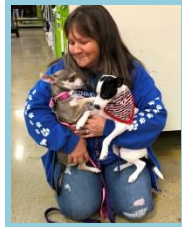
Kids helping AHF

A group of neighborhood friends in Palatine, Isaac, Sam, Millie, Oliver, Ruby, Emily and Shaun, ages 2-7 years old, came together to hold a lemonade stand in support of Almost Home Foundation.



Save a life become a foster parent

Collecting information about Almost Home Foundation foster parents is, as they say, like herding cats. The fostering population fluctuates greatly. Some fosters have been with AHF for all of our almost 13 years. Others come and go. Some just foster during summer break, some for just a short time, others are ready to foster long-term if necessary. And there are those foster “failures” (a win for the pet) who sign up to foster and lose their heart to their fostered pet and adopt it.



Why does fostering one animal really help TWO animals? By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you're freeing up a spot so AHF can rescue another dog/cat that has been sitting in a “kill” shelter, or wandering the streets.

Those who choose to foster an animal don't do this because it's easy to let them go later down the road. They foster because it's easier than seeing them die. They bring home an animal they may fall in love with but probably won't keep.



Fosters may stand at the adopter's door with tears running down their cheeks as they leave behind the dog or cat they have come to love. Brave souls. But as they walk down the sidewalk to their cars, their comfort is the knowledge they have helped find a loving home for their furry friend, and that they can now help another forlorn animal.

Who are these wonderful and brave people who open their homes temporarily and risk becoming attached to the animal? Many are folks whose old dogs and cats have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. They're not ready to adopt and yet ache for the feel of that old paw poking them for attention. Some are parents with children begging to have a dog or cat, but not sure if it would work. Many are people who are busy for various reasons and cannot take care of an animal fulltime. Yet they want to help and do have homes amenable to dogs or cats.



That is the nice thing about fostering. It IS temporary. Once you take a rescue as a foster, AHF will pay for all the animal's food and medical expenses. For the foster who travels occasionally or decides to take a vacation, AHF provides substitute fosters who will care for the animal while the foster is away.

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Save a life become a foster parent cont.

The day of transfer between foster and adopter need not be the last the foster sees of the animal they love. If both parties agree and provide each other with their contact information, they may keep in touch. Many adopters are happy to provide funny anecdotes and pictures of their new family member. And no one wants to see these more than the foster. Some adopters may ask fosters for their advice as well.

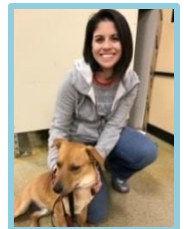
There are many benefits to fostering an animal. Fosters can provide valuable insights into the animal's temperament, traits and physical requirements that help AHF match the animal to the right permanent home. Some fosters, although not a requirement, are fond of training animals, making them more adoptable by teaching them better manners.

Boarding kennels are often noisy and frightening for an animal. Being in a home, lavished with love and attention, is a much nicer environment on the animal's journey to its forever home. There's a much better chance that a home will become permanent when the animal is fostered in a loving home. AHF relays to the adopters the animal's habits



and training status and hopefully the animal will become a permanent member of the adopter's family.

We'd love it if you'd pass this article on to any friends, family, or anyone you know interested in fostering. Foster homes are pure gold, the lifeblood of rescue.



If you're interested, check out our website where you can see the requirements to become a foster and fill out and submit an application on-line. We're also on Facebook and have ads on VolunteerMatch.com. You can also attend one of our weekly adoption shows every Saturday at:

Petsmart in Bloomingdale,
Petsmart in Schaumburg or
Petco in Bloomingdale

Our website, www.almosthomefoundation.org has information on exact locations, times of these shows and other special shows.

We are ALWAYS looking for more of those brave, loving foster volunteers.

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