

Winter 2021



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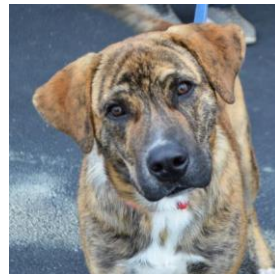
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## *Our featured pets*



### *Meet Jason!*



Meet Jason, a very special boy who survived a terrible act of cruelty. Jason was rescued after someone shot him with an arrow. The arrow went in one side of his neck and pierced through the other side. Incredibly, it didn't kill him, and a veterinarian was able to remove it. The pictures of Jason with an arrow through his neck are heartbreaking. We are happy to report that the person who shot Jason was sent to jail.

Meeting Jason, you would never guess what he's been through. This 1 year old, 60 lb. mix is incredibly sweet and loving. He gets along great with other dogs and loves people, including kids. AHF volunteers adore him.

He is obsessed with tennis balls and destroys them in little time. When he runs he is a bit crooked and we are hoping that's not a result of his injury. He is a cuddler and a quick learner and already has added a few new tricks to his repertoire. When out walking, he never pulls on his leash.

After all Jason has gone through, he is now healed and ready to start his new life!

### *Meet Kiddo!*



Kiddo is a sweet, cuddly, and affectionate 8 year old tabby girl. She has a great personality and would be an amazing cat for anyone. Kiddo does need to be an only cat.

She spends her days laying on her hammock, watching the birds and squirrels. She really likes when the occasional bunny or chipmunk run past the door as well. Exhausted after a long day of watching the wildlife outside, she will even let her human cover her with a blanket and tuck her in for a cat nap in her bed or on the couch! She enjoys playing with wand and mice toys and pom poms. The sparkly ones are her favorite. When she's feeling spunky and has some built up kitten energy, she will chase a laser pointer on the floor.

Poor Kiddo has been waiting for her forever home since she first arrived at Almost Home over 7 years ago. After a long time of battling stomach issues and diarrhea, she was finally diagnosed with kitty IBS and needs a monthly injection of B12. To some, this may sound daunting, but the injection is easy and helps Kiddo live a normal kitty life. Although she is in a foster home, Kiddo still has one holiday wish--to find her purrfect family! Can you help make Kiddo's wish come true?

## *A pharmacy just perfect for finicky pets*

You may not have heard of the Wood Dale Pet Pharmacy unless you have been blessed with a finicky cat like Colby. He refused to swallow the pills given to him to treat his enlarged heart. He spit those nasty-tasting pills out with contempt, no matter how they were hidden in his food or pill pockets. His kitchen staff was getting desperate and called his veterinarian for urgent advice.

That's when Colby's veterinarian introduced his frantic adopter to the Wood Dale Pet Pharmacy. It's a state of the art pharmaceutical lab, exclusively for animals. They specialize in custom pet prescriptions, catering to your pet's particular needs and likes. They can make a medication that's a tasty chewable treat, or a capsule so small he won't notice it, or a liquid he has to swallow, or even a special gel for application through the skin. The best part is these pharmacists have lots of experience in disguising nasty tastes in flavors your pet will find yummy such as bacon, beef, banana, apple, vanilla, etc.

They will also work with your veterinarian to create just the right compound for the medication your pet needs. They will eliminate allergens such as artificial sweeteners, alcohols, etc. Is your pet on multiple medications? Consulting with your veterinarian, the Wood Dale Pet Pharmacy may be able to consolidate them into one pill.

To learn more about what they can do for you, take a look at their very user-friendly, interactive website. It's there

you can see what types of medications are available in what type of delivery application. Just type in the name of the medication your pet needs and see in what kind of dosage it is available and in what flavors. Contact your vet to discuss.

The pharmacy will work with you and your veterinarian to make sure you get precisely what your pet needs. Your pet's medicine is compounded in their state of the art pharmaceutical lab, exactly as your veterinarian prescribes it.

Shipping is quick and usually free, depending on how fast the prescription is needed. They can ship it directly to your door within a day or so. If you need it the same day, you can pick it up at the pharmacy in Wood Dale. They are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are closed Saturday and Sunday.

To learn more, check out their website: [Wooddalepharmacy.com](http://Wooddalepharmacy.com) Phone: 630-509-0909

Their strategy worked for Colby as he's now getting a tasty liquid squirted into his mouth and there's no way he can spit it out.

## *Fun dog facts*

We know dogs have a powerful sense of smell and while we can just about smell a spoonful of sugar in a cup of tea, our canine friends are capable of smelling that same spoonful in two Olympic swimming pools of water.

## *Fun cat facts*

Approximately 200 feral cats roam the grounds of Disneyland, where they help control the amusement park's rodent population. They're all spayed or neutered, and park staffers provide them with medical care and extra food.



## Ask Homer and Hope



### Homer, how do I find a competent dog walker?

Finding a competent dog walker is not a simple process because so much depends upon the dog's needs. Is the dog a young puppy in need of companionship, an older dog in need of more frequent potty breaks, or an energetic character in need of rigorous exercise? Will the dog walker have more responsibilities other than walking the dog? Before investigating potential candidates, consider the requirements.

Next, assemble a list of potential candidates, beginning with recommendations from family and friends. Other sources may include veterinarians, groomers, or dog trainers. If resorting to online searches, read reviews carefully.

After selecting possible choices, arrange for a personal interview that includes an opportunity for the dog and the walker to meet, and observe how the two interact. Identify the dog's needs, personality, medications, and behavior. Does the dog react negatively toward bicycles, sirens, children, or other dogs? Address topics including references, experience, licensing, bonding, insurance, salary, and cancellation policies for both parties.

Remember that the walker is legally responsible for the dog from the moment he leaves the owners property. Be sure to ask about the number of dogs being walked at one time, how much time will be spent with each dog, how big is the area they will cover, are they animal first aid trained, are they licensed bonded and insured. Some walkers even make a daily report by leaving a note or sending pictures. Responses to these questions will help to establish a trust between the owner and the walker.

After making a selection, mutually exchange contact information and prepare the dog ahead of time. Is the dog micro-chipped? Are his tags updated? Is his harness or collar in good condition? Does it fit correctly? Will the dog be gated or crated so that he doesn't dash for the door? Being proactive should result in a comfortable relationship.

### Hope, do cats really have 9 lives?

The myth that cats have multiple lives exists around the world. William Shakespeare even used the phrase in *Romeo and Juliet*: "Mercutio: Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives." However, it's not always nine lives. In certain regions of Spain, it is believed that cats have seven lives. Some Turkish and Arabic legends say cats have six lives.

A cat is one of the most agile, quick-witted pets out there. They have lightning-fast reflexes, speedy decision-making skills and are remarkably agile. They're adept at making themselves scarce at the first sign of trouble. Cats can withstand falls that would easily kill a human. In one documented case, a pet cat in New York City survived a fall of 32 stories with only relatively minor injuries. This ability to survive against the odds is all thanks to a cat's amazing anatomy.

Cats have an incredibly elastic spine with 53 vertebrae (humans typically have 33) and can lengthen it by alternately extending and flexing their backs, allowing for extra-long strides that give them the ability to run 20-30 mph for short bursts. This also allows them to rotate their bodies at angles of as much as 180 degrees and contributes to their incredible righting reflex, the ability to land on their feet.

Cats have a large body surface area compared with their weight, which helps them sustain minimal injury from impacts. Their springy, muscular legs help them absorb the shock of a hard landing and also jump as much as nine times their height from a standing position. Great flexibility in their bones and ligaments helps them sustain minimal injury from impacts. Their tiny collarbones allow them to flatten their bodies and squeeze through impossibly tight spaces.

These abilities may sometimes seem extraordinary, even supernatural to us. But we know that the nine lives thing is really a myth... but isn't it fun to believe in myths?

## *Holiday and winter safety*

The first light snow flakes have fallen and melted as soon as they hit the still-warm grass. A gentle reminder that the holidays and winter are imminent. We shift gears from worrying about keeping our pets safe from the summer heat to keeping them safe during the holidays and the cold weather of winter.

If you're cold, your dog may be shivering, too. A sweater or coat can be had for him at your local pet store or on line. And won't his paws look snazzy if you can get him to wear boots! You can protect his little feet from getting ice, salt, or ice-melt chemicals caught in his paws. If you can't get him to wear boots, keep his paws well-groomed with the fur short. Then dab some petroleum jelly or paw balm on his paws before going out. Wash them to remove any ice, etc., as soon as he gets back home from his outing.

Don't leave him out for any length of time when it's cold. He could get hypothermia or frost bite. Don't shave his hair short during the winter as longer hair will keep him warmer. Also, be careful to keep any antifreeze out of his reach. It might taste good but is totally toxic.

As for your cat, don't let him out at all, if possible. Aside from the risks he faces outside in any weather, he might try to find warmth outside under a car hood. If the car is started while he's there, he can be severely injured or killed.

With the holidays coming up, it's time to think about all that food and company you'll have. Be careful to keep food away from your pet. Put the turkey and servings somewhere neither Fido nor Pusycat can reach. Keep all those chocolate items, and candies hidden. Be careful of toxic plants such as poinsettias, chrysanthemums, etc., and foods with Xylitol in them.

If you are having company this year, be sure your guests don't feed your pets table scraps or treats that will make your furry friend sick. The best bet might be to pick a room away from your guests and any doors to the outside, fill it with comforts such as dog/cat beds, water, etc., and label it off limits to your guests. A note on the closed door saying: "Wild animals currently inhabit this room. Please do not open the door."

Don't leave lit candles around so a curious cat or dog might stick his paw in the flame. Be sure the fireplace and other heat sources are covered and unattainable. Don't leave hot ovens open without making sure the dog doesn't try to sniff out the food you're going to remove from it.

If you have a real Christmas tree, be sure to cover the water in the tree stand so your cat or dog cannot drink it. Keep watch that your pet does not chew on light strands, pull at tinsel or knock glass ornaments off the tree that will break with the glass imbedding itself in his paws.

All these precautions will ensure that you, your guests and your pets will have a safe and happy holiday.



*Thank you for your continued support and  
we wish you a healthy and prosperous 2022!*