

Almost Home Foundation

PAW PRINTS

ALMOST HOME
FOUNDATION 

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Fall 2022



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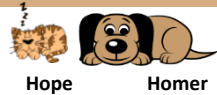
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Our featured pets



Meet Bella, Miles and Sophie!



Our volunteers adore these Siamese mix 5-month-old kittens as they are soooo sweet, extremely loveable and also entertaining.

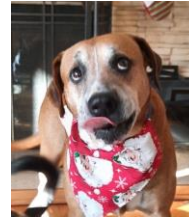
Bella is the smallest of the three. She enjoys chilling on her comfy bed to rest. She will stretch out to make sure you get her belly when you are petting her. She is a sweet girl, who likes to give nose kisses.

Miles is the biggest of the three. He likes sitting in your lap and gives kisses while you are petting him. He is interested in necklaces and likes playing with your hair. He is a sweet and lovable guy and has the loudest purr.

Sophie is a bit smaller than Miles. She likes to watch what you are doing and enjoys resting in a cat tower. She enjoys neck scratches and lets you know she is happy when she purrs.

All three enjoy playing with string toys and they love to swat and chase balls and mice. Sometimes they wrestle with each other and then at times curl up together. They need to be in a home with no other cats. They have not been introduced to dogs yet but they are good with children. These three cuties need a forever or foster home with lots of love, playing and cuddle time. Help us find a home for these kittens.

Meet Archie!



Hi! My name is Archie. I am about 10 years old and have been searching for my forever home for a long time. I know you

may find it hard to believe considering I'm 98 pounds, but I walk fantastic on leash and love going for walks. I do not need a fenced in yard and if I had one, the fence would have to be 6 feet or up.

I am housebroken and do not need to be crated. When you're gone, I will wait for you to come back by sleeping or looking out the window. I show my affection by giving kisses, but I still like my own space, so I may not always snuggle up next to you. I hope you don't mind!

I am dog selective, so a slow introduction would be needed. No cats in my house please! I love all people, and although I have not been exposed to little kids, I think I would be okay with them as long as they respect me. Lastly, I am a very smart boy that can be stubborn at times (try being my age and dealing with some of these humans!) but I would make a great companion for someone.

I know I am not a cute purebred puppy, or a young energetic lab, but I have so much love to give! I am just looking for a place to call forever. I have been searching for over a year and I would love to meet you!!!

*If interested in Archie, Bella, Miles or Sophie,
please visit almosthomefoundation.org to fill out an application.*

Are you prepared for unexpected emergencies?

You've got the supplies you need to care for your new furbaby, you've checked the house and gotten rid of any dangerous plants, food, and other items. You're ready to bring him home. But there's one more thing you can do to make life with your new friend a bit more serene: prepare to deal with unexpected emergencies.

Your buddy may injure himself or eat something he shouldn't. Now he's bleeding or sick. The best way to deal with these surprises is to have the right supplies available so you can diagnose and treat as much as possible, and quickly get information from a veterinarian.

For all pets you'll want to have on hand the following suggested supplies and keep in mind that in most cases, you should use ointments and solutions made for animals, not for humans, unless your vet tells you it is okay: antibiotic ointment, saline eye solution, styptic pencil, or powder, or Super Clot to stop bleeding, non-alcoholic wet wipes, hot and cold packs, bandage material, gauze of various sizes, tampons or thick cotton pads to stop bleeding, tape, syringes, eye dropper, blunt end scissors, tweezers, towels, pillow cases to limit movements of cats, soft muzzle to stop dogs in pain from biting, blanket to keep them warm and limit movements, gloves and goggles for yourself, cage to get them to the vet, if necessary.

A first aid book for your type of pet might come in handy for you to read and study ahead of time. You might also think about enrolling in an in-person pet first-aid training class or enroll in one that's offered on-line.

Here are suggestions for emergency phone numbers to have handy: regular veterinarian's phone number and address, closest emergency veterinarian phone number and address who is available when your regular vet is closed and a poison control phone number.

Ground scraping

During walks with your dog, have you been bombarded with grass and flying dirt when he scrapes his paws on the ground? Why would he scrape the ground around his poop pile, showering all around him with whatever is in the path of his paws?

If you happen to catch a whiff of your pup's paws, you will smell an aroma. That odor is created by sweat glands in the paws. Sweat from his paws keep him cool when it's hot and warm when it's cold. But they also produce that funky odor. When the pup scratches up the ground, his paws leave behind a scent.

And why does he want to leave a scent? Before dogs became domesticated, it was useful to mark their territory using the scent from their glands. Wolves and dogs roamed wild, they needed to warn other animals away from their territory. This was the dogs' way of protecting their food sources, for example, the rabbits living in their territory, and also their breeding females. You might think that the dog's feces are sufficiently pungent to warn off competing animals, but much of the scent is lost once the feces dries out. The scent from the dog's feet glands is more lasting. Additionally, the long and deep scrape marks left by the dog's paws and claws let other dogs know that your dog is strong and powerful.

Whatever the reason dogs do this crazy kicking, it is a natural behavior for them. The best thing to do is let your buddy finish his joyful kicking before you clean up and continue on your walk. Don't try to train your dog out of scraping as it's a natural and instinctive behavior that takes only a little time and doesn't cause significant damage to the landscape.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, how do I care for my aging dog?

You know, we dogs are living longer due to better nutrition and health care. Genetics and environment also affect our aging. Senior dogs are categorized according to size; small breeds are considered geriatric at 10-11 years, medium breeds at 8-9 years, and giant breeds at 5-6 years. Aging requires understanding and patience to make this part of life meaningful for dog and owner.

First, recognize the normal physical changes. Senior dogs develop a thinning coat and skin lumps, graying muzzles and their eyes may appear cloudy. They may lose weight due to bad teeth or from heart, liver, or kidney disease, or they may gain weight from inactivity caused by degenerative diseases. Obesity contributes to cancers, diabetes, and mobility problems so body conditions must be evaluated by the vet. Recommendations should include a high-quality diet to maintain ideal body weight, daily exercise, and appropriate medications.

Next, watch for behavioral changes. Senior dogs get stressed more easily so stress-reducing meds may be prescribed. Some may appear confused; others may be anxious, irritable, or aggressive. Such mental deterioration may lead to sundowning, increased agitation and anxiety in the evening. Their sleep patterns change; they might have potty accidents or start to wander and pace. They may have trouble moving around, standing up, lying down, or playing and exhibit increased sensitivity to heat or cold. A heated dog bed, a support sling, and ramps will help. Area rugs or runners provide traction on tile and hardwood floors, and nightlights will help with diminishing night vision.

Lastly, remember that caring for senior dogs is not hard. But now they may need some accommodations to their regular routine. Aging is a part of life, so treasure the memories and anticipate the happy times ahead.

Hope, why does my cat's behavior seem to change in the cooler months?

Cats do experience behavior changes when the weather changes. Similar to humans, cats can be affected by the shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures and can even develop Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Cooler weather increases joint pain, dry skin issues, and reduces the production of Serotonin leading to SAD.

Cats can demonstrate increased food seeking behaviors while their metabolism slows to promote fat storage for winter months. This is normal as is their curiosity about new fall smells in the home like potpourri or pumpkin candles which may cause kitty to sneeze. They will also be interested in exploring and playing with new decorations like garland or strings of lights.

You can help your feline friends better tolerate the winter and stay safe. Here are some suggestions.

- Keep your home well lit to help to improve the cat's disposition.
- Keep your cat active with play. A red laser pointer easily provides endless fun.
- Consider turning up the heat or a heated cat bed to alleviate joint pain or arthritis if your cat is older.
- Keep inviting decorations out of reach and cords safely tucked away.
- If storing clothing away in mothballs, be aware that they are poisonous to cats.
- Fall cleaning and pest control products can irritate your cat's skin just by being out as well as being poisonous if they try to eat.

Fall is a glorious season and can be enjoyed by your cat by keeping these tips in mind.

Fun dog facts

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare states that on average around 30% of Dalmatians are deaf in one ear and 5% are deaf in both. This is due to something called the *extreme piebald gene* which is responsible for their white coat and blue eyes (in some of them). Dalmatians with larger dark patches are less likely to be deaf.

Fun cat facts

Almost a rarity for any breed of species, the Scottish Fold cat can trace its roots back to one particular cat named Susie. Susie was a barn cat living in Scotland who so happened to have flat ears. When she gave birth to a litter, the kittens also developed folded ears. A neighboring farmer and cat fancier decided to start breeding Susie with the help of a geneticist. By 1976, the Scottish Fold cat was one of the most popular cat breeds in Europe and America.

‘Tis the season for sugar, spice and everything...pumpkin!

Pumpkin is a nutritious and high fiber food for both cats and dogs! Plain canned pumpkin is the healthiest choice. Both fresh and canned pumpkin are good sources of nutrients and fiber, but canned pumpkin contains a higher concentration of fiber and nutrients compared to fresh pumpkin. This is because fresh pumpkin has higher water content than canned pumpkin. So take some time to make your pet some pumpkin treats! Here’s two simple recipes.

CAT PUMPKIN TREATS

Ingredients:

- 14 oz canned salmon, drained thoroughly
- ½ cup old fashioned oats
- ⅓ cup canned pumpkin
- 1 egg
- 2 Tb avocado oil

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Pulse oatmeal in a blender to make flourlike. Add remaining ingredients and combine. Form into half inch balls or use silicone paw mold and bake 25 minutes or until firm. Allow to cool. These can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days or in the freezer for 1 month.

DOG PUMPKIN TREATS

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- ½ cup peanut butter (make sure it is Xylitol-free)

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, mix together the pumpkin and peanut butter. Stir in the flour and combine the mixture into a dough. Roll out the dough onto a floured surface. Cut the dough into shapes with your favorite cookie cutter. Place the treats half an inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 12 minutes. Let cool. These last in an airtight container in the fridge for a week, or frozen for 3 months.

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