

Almost Home Foundation

PAW PRINTS

ALMOST HOME
FOUNDATION

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In this issue

- 1-Featured Dog & Cat
- 2-Poisonous Plants For Dogs
- Training Will Help Your New Buddy Fit In
- 3-Ask Homer & Hope
- 4-There's A New Cat In Town
- Paws On Plastic

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D

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P

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Our featured pets

Meet Brycen!



Brycen is a stunning 2-year-old black retriever mix with a heart as big as his paws! This sweet and loving boy is equal parts cuddle bud and

goofball. Whether he's snuggling by your side or bounding through the backyard, Brycen brings joy and energy wherever he goes.

At 2 years old, Brycen has a medium to high energy level and thrives on both mental and physical stimulation. Puzzle toys, training games, and outdoor playtime are his jam! He's a super smart pup who's eager to please—and will do just about anything for a treat. Brycen is housebroken, rides like a pro in the car, and gets along wonderfully with other dogs. In fact, he'd love to have a canine sibling in his forever home to play with and learn from. He's still working on his leash manners, but with consistency and positive reinforcement, he'll be walking like a pro in no time.

While Brycen absolutely loves people of all ages, his playful energy and size mean he'd do best in a home with older kids or adults only—just to keep everyone safe and happy.

If you're looking for a loyal companion who's ready for both adventure and affection, Brycen might just be your perfect match. Give this sweet boy the loving home he deserves—you'll gain a best friend for life.

Brycen could be your new adventure buddy!

Meet Everest, Cliff & Logan!



Meet Everest and Cliff, a pair of adorable twin brothers who are truly inseparable. Just over a year old, these bonded boys

do everything together—curling up for naps, chasing wand toys, or watching birds and squirrels from the window—their connection is undeniable. They share a gentle, playful nature and love being close to each other and their humans. Their sister, Logan, is a petite tuxedo kitten—also just over a year old—with a big personality packed into a tiny frame. She's sweet, curious, and just as affectionate as her brothers, often joining in on their playful antics or cuddling up for a cozy nap.

All three absolutely adore their cat trees—they're favorite spots for climbing, lounging, and napping. They also love batting around pom poms, chasing wand toys, and soaking up sunbeams while bird-watching from a window.

Everest and Cliff must be adopted together where they can continue their lifelong bond, while Logan would thrive in a loving home of her own or be happily adopted alongside her brothers if you have room in your heart (and home!) for three. These sweet, social young cats are ready to bring joy, snuggles, and playful adventures to their new families.

Could you be their perfect match?



Poisonous plants for dogs

Dogs are always getting their snouts into things they shouldn't. Some of the stuff your dog gets into is just totally gross while others can be very dangerous. There are tons of outdoor plants that can be found in your garden that are poisonous and can harm your pet. Symptoms of plant poisoning may vary. Most common are vomiting, diarrhea, loss of coordination, drooling, seizures. If your dog experiences any of these, contact your vet immediately. Grab your cell phone and take pictures of BOTH the plant and the label on the plant's container—if the plant is still in its original container. This will greatly help with identification. For most toxicity cases, it is better to seek help and start treatment early instead of waiting to see what happens. Know which plants are toxic. Here are a few common poisonous plants that can be found in the garden.



Oleander



Mum



Azalea



Peony



Foxglove



Tulip



Iris



Daffodil



Daisy



Lilly

Training will help your new buddy fit in

You've taken a huge step and adopted a dog. Your buddy is, to some extent, a mystery to you. You've probably chosen him for one or more reasons – size, age, breed, or behavior during initial meetings are some. If he's been fostered, you may have some info from his fosters as to his behavior. They may have worked to improve the untrained dog he was when they took him in. But now he's all yours. His big soulful eyes are staring up at you for direction. He'll want to explore your home. It's up to you to show him how to live happily, safely, in your home. Some things he may need to learn or unlearn. For example, has he been allowed on the furniture? Do you want him to stay off your couch or to come up on it and cuddle with you? A senior will usually know all the basic commands but a puppy will require a lot of training.

There are many techniques to use in training. Positive Reinforcement is the best. The dog is given a command and upon successful completion is rewarded immediately with a food treat, petting, and/or enthusiastic praise from you. It can also be used to stop undesirable behavior by distracting the dog with a command and rewarding him when he completes the activity commanded instead of continuing the bad behavior. Positive is better than negative reinforcement such as yelling at him or punishing him which may make him fearful of you and keep you from forming the loving bond you want.

To help you navigate training, Almost Home Foundation does have a training program open to all dogs adopted from us. There is a small fee. Since he's spent some time in our care, we are aware of character flaws that may need attention. We may stipulate in his adoption papers that the adopter get him formal training. You can go with us or sign him up for classes elsewhere. We'll be happy to help you however we can. If you have children, it's a good idea to get them involved in all training activities to strengthen their bond with him too.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, is a backyard pool safe for the family dog?

To watch the family dog cavort in the backyard pool brings laughter to many a dog owner. With summer just around the corner, this scene will be repeated by dogs with prior experience as well as by some hesitant newbies. So, the time has come to review backyard pool safety because the pool is only as safe as the owner makes it.

Most importantly, dogs, like children, must always be supervised. Despite the fact that many dogs are natural swimmers, some breeds are not. Dogs with long bodies but short legs like the Corgi and dogs with short, flat muzzles like the Pug are particularly vulnerable because they cannot paddle or breathe easily in water.

Owners may have to teach their dogs swimming skills, exit strategies, and the use of life jackets, flotation devices, and pool ramps. A pool alarm could also increase protection. Lastly, both in-ground and above-ground pools require solid, inflexible covers and fencing to prevent potential drowning, and owners would benefit from canine CPR training.

Pool chemicals are another consideration. Thirsty dogs that drink chlorinated water may experience vomiting and diarrhea. Too much water may cause bloat. Chlorine dries out skin and fur, irritates eyes, and promotes ear infections. After using the pool, dogs should be completely rinsed, and ears should be dried. Even cleaning chemicals to test water chemistry are dangerous if not used correctly. So, enjoy the pool, but use that proverbial ounce of prevention.

Did you know?

As of May 2025, there 20 new dog breeds recognized by the AKC. To see them, go to <https://articles.hepper.com/new-dog-breeds/>

Hope, what do different cat sleeping positions mean?

Sleeping on or at your feet. It's just one way a kitty who likes to cuddle shows her love for you. She keeps warm and can escape easily should she be startled.

I need my space. Many cats like to sleep next to their owners, indicating they trust you enough to be close. But like humans, many appreciate some personal space.

All curled up. Experts say that when a cat sleeps in a ball-like position, he is comfortable with his surroundings and feels safe and happy.

Loafing. Cats who sleep in a position that resembles a loaf of bread, with paws curled underneath their body, may be relaxed but are ready to defend themselves at a moment's notice.

Close to you. The sound or your heartbeat and rhythmic breathing is comforting to many felines who choose to sleep on your chest. Experts suggest this position indicates your cat has a very close bond with you. It also keeps your kitty warm and toasty.

Cozy hammock. Some felines opt to sleep between your legs, creating a safe and cozy nest or hammock. This position, while not the most comfortable for the owner, provides security for your kitty.

Under cover. Under a blanket on your bed is often a favorite rest spot for some cats. The extra warmth and the security of their owner's scent can make for a safe place to sleep. This can also be attractive to cats who are sensitive to noise.

Sleep on the floor in his own bed near yours. He may be asserting some independence. Some experts say this may indicate he is standing guard of its owner and protecting her while she sleeps.

Whatever the position you find your feline friend in while he snoozes, sleeping nearby solidifies your bond with him. Sweet dreams!

There's a new cat in town!

In a small village in Finland, a unique breed of cats known as “Salty Licorice” cats has been discovered. These cats are distinct for their black fur with flecks of white and an ombre pattern that transitions to solid white on their neck, chest, belly and paw thanks to a fur strand that starts off black near the root but grows whiter and whiter the further they grow from the follicle.



Salamiakki

Researchers at the University of Helsinki studied the genetic composition behind these cats' unique fur patterns. The unique color is caused by a recessive genetic mutation. But you most likely haven't seen a Salty Licorice cat in person, because these exquisite felines have only been observed in central Finland.

The salty licorice name is odd because the coat pattern is more like cookies and cream or salt and pepper, but the name makes sense as the cat breed was named after a Finnish treat called “Salamiakki” which translates to “salty liquorice”. Salmiakki is black licorice pieces coated with ammonium chloride, a type of salt that gives the licorice its signature pungent taste.

Paws On Plastic

There are over 15,000 members of Paws On Plastic in over 60 countries and 6 continents around the world. What do they do you ask?

Well, several years ago, while on sick leave from her job, dog owner, Marion Montgomery, from Aberdeenshire, was out walking her dog along the beach. Her dog loved to pick up empty plastic bottles. She believed he liked the crunchy noise it made. She always felt her duty to take the plastic bottle and put it into a trash bin.

With plastic pollution in the news at the moment, more and more people are asking themselves what they can do, but the issue is so overwhelming. This gave her the idea to start Paws On Plastic. Paws On Plastic is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and supporters are pledging to pick up 22 million pieces of plastic litter this year. The social accounts display pictures of the dogs collecting litter on their walks.

This just shows the real desire among dog owners to protect wildlife and our environment from harm. As awareness of the horrendous impact of plastic pollution grows, more and more people are looking for ways to combat it.

Fun facts

Ever wonder why your dog will eat almost anything while your cat turns up its nose at new foods? The answer lies in their taste buds! Cats have around 470 taste buds, while dogs boast about 1,700 – and humans have nearly 10,000. Cats actually cannot taste sweetness at all. They lack the genetic coding for sweet taste receptors, making them completely indifferent to sugary treats that dogs often love. This taste limitation explains why cats are such picky eaters compared to dogs. Their fewer taste buds focus primarily on detecting meat and protein.

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