

Almost Home Foundation PAW PRINTS

ALMOST HOME
FOUNDATION

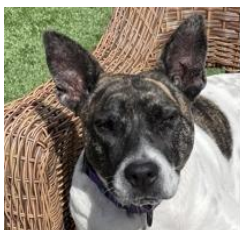
P.O. Box 308, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009 | 630.582.3738
www.almosthomefoundation.org

Fall 2025



Our featured pets

Meet Penny!



Hi, I'm Penny, a sweet and spunky, adult, 45-lb. mixed breed looking for a foster or forever

home where I can be your one and only. I'm already housebroken and crate trained (pretty impressive, right?), and I come with just the right mix of independence, goofiness, and affection. I get along with other dogs when I'm out and about, but at home, I'd really love to be the center of your world. I've got a big personality and even bigger energy, so daily walks, fun training sessions, and brain games are totally my jam. I'm a smart girl who loves to learn - and I'll keep you smiling with my playful antics and happy-go-lucky attitude.

But don't let my zoomies fool you - I'm also a world-class snuggler. I'm a "couch cuddling champion," and I take that title very seriously. After a day of play, nothing makes me happier than curling up next to my favorite human for a cozy night in.

Life is pretty great, but the one thing I'm missing is a family to share it with.

If you're looking for a loyal companion who is equal parts silly and sweet, I might just be your girl.

Meet Carter!



Hi there! I'm Carter. When I first met my foster mom, I was filled with curiosity and a bit of uncertainty. Why did she want to give

me those bitter-tasting medicines and, oh, the dreaded baths? But I decided to cooperate and let her do her thing.

Day by day, I started feeling better, and she even treated me to delicious meals every day! Slowly, I realized I could trust her, and I began to cherish all the petting and conversations we had. I truly believe she understands my special language of grunts, twills, and purrs. I even made friends with a pretty cool dog. Now, I spend my days hanging out with them, and my favorite time is snuggling in her lap! The toys she gives me are still a bit of a mystery, but I do enjoy batting around a couple of the balls on occasion. While I enjoy spending time with her, my ultimate goal is to find a permanent and dedicated human companion.

Whether it's watching TV, having lap time or just watching the world go by together, I'm ready. I might even consider becoming a Packers fan if it means spending quality time with my new human! Honestly, I'm just looking for a peaceful and cozy home where I can learn to bond with my new forever family.

In this issue

- 1 Our Featured Pets
- 2 History of Dogs in the Military
- Fun Facts
- 3 Ask Homer & Hope

A

D

O

P

T

History of dogs in the military

Dogs have been used in the military for centuries. Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans used large mastiffs for attack and defense. The use of dogs to deliver messages and act as sentries continued into World War I and II. Modern Military Working Dogs are highly trained for tasks like explosives detection and patrol. They can detect threats that humans might miss which makes them indispensable in combat zones.



In ancient times, large, armor-clad mastiff breeds were used to attack enemy forces. The first recorded use of war dogs was by the Egyptians around 600 BC to defend their camps and attack chariots and horses and defend Egyptian camps.

In the Middle Ages, dogs were often used in sieges to pull down enemy walls or to protect attackers from enemy counterattacks. The Alaunt was an ancient type of large, powerful dog that could be used as part of a shock troop force to disrupt formations. The Irish used Irish Wolfhounds to counter invading Norman knights.



In WWI and WWII and the American Civil War, dogs were used to deliver messages across the battlefield. Sentry and scouting dogs were ideal for detecting wounded soldiers in dense, difficult terrain, such as the Pacific islands during World War II. The U.S. Army officially launched its War Dog Program in 1942, establishing the K-9 Corps and training family pets for service.



Recently military dogs have also been used in law enforcement and search-and-rescue operations. Police dogs are often used to track criminals and find missing people. Search-and-rescue dogs have been used to locate people in natural disasters.

Fun dog facts

When dogs howl at each other, they adjust the pitch of the howl to sound more unique.

Fun cat facts

On October 18, 1963, French scientists used a rocket to launch the first cat into space. The feline's name was Félicette, and she made it safely to the ground following a parachute descent. Almost definitely landing on her feet.



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, why do dogs lick themselves?

Dog lovers have learned to live with some unusual habits of their canine companions. Why does Max dig holes? Why did Bella roll in some strange-smelling rubbish? What does Duke do with all his chew toys? The most complicated daily behavior, however, may be licking because dogs lick not only themselves but other dogs and humans to communicate a wide variety of messages including affection, fear, submission, comfort, or approval. When dogs lick themselves, however, most dog owners take notice because of the definite physical and mental messages being sent.

Dog owners should first distinguish between occasional and excessive licking. Excessive licking is a constant activity resulting in matted fur, open sores, or bald patches. It may affect sleep patterns and quality of life. Because licking releases the relaxing hormones dopamine and endorphins, dogs may be relieving stress from a lifestyle change, or they may be bored from a lack of stimulation as are certain breeds with high-energy levels. Kicked up a notch, this licking may be the result of body trauma, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or social imitation. Dogs also lick themselves to remove dirt from their coats or paws. When this grooming becomes constant, however, it may be a sign of allergies, painful cuts, yeast infections, bug bites, or fleas. Although dog saliva has cleansing enzymes, paw licking is particularly noticeable because it can leave ulcers on the skin that are challenging to heal.

So, dog owners must be proactive and aware of their pets' behavior. Dogs do groom themselves and care for slight itches, but excessive licking must be treated by a veterinarian before conditions lead to further complications.

Hope, are cats intelligent?

Did I leave that light on? Why is that door open? How did my favorite pen get under the bed? The truth of the matter is, it could just be your cat who is the culprit. Cats are smart. They recognize their names, our voices, and can even be trained if they're in the mood, of course.

Keen observers. Cats watch their surroundings closely, including the behavior of humans and other animals. **Active listeners.** Some experts contend that cats, and their relatives, have the best hearing in the animal kingdom. **Mirroring behavior.** Cats imitate and learn from each other. If they live in a one-cat family, your feline companion will pick up cues from you and learn how to flip a light switch or patiently stand in front of the treat cabinet. **Good communicators.** While we enjoy their soft purring, a cat can tell us if she is hungry, not feeling up to snuff, or just needs some alone time by using different vocalizations. **Problem solvers.** Cats often use the trial-and-error strategy to achieve their goals, whether it's figuring out how to open that tricky door or navigate around obstacles. If at first, they don't succeed, they will likely try and try again. What makes them so tenacious and fascinating? It all starts with the brain. Experts contend that the feline brain comprises about 0.9% of their body mass. That may seem small, but researchers say the complexity of the feline brain is similar to that of the human brain, particularly the structure. A cat's brain is used for memory, emotional awareness, play and learning, hunting instincts, adaptability to change and so much more.

So, the next time you question members of your family to find out who borrowed your favorite pen, be sure to add your cat in the line-up. Your furry friend may just be the guilty party.

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