

Almost Home Foundation PAW PRINTS

ALMOST HOME
FOUNDATION

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Fall 2026



Our featured pets

Meet Ophelia!



Meet Ophelia, a beautiful 2-year-old Great Dane weighing about 95 pounds, with a big personality and an even bigger heart.

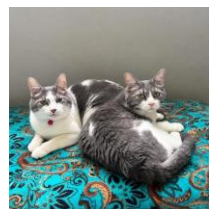
Ophelia is a sweet, affectionate girl who is still learning how to feel confident and make good choices in the world.

Ophelia loves going for walks and enjoys being around her people. Once she feels comfortable, her playful and loving personality really shines. She has also shown that, with patience and thoughtful introductions, she can form friendships with other dogs. Because Ophelia is dog selective, her ideal home may be as an only dog, although the right canine companion could be possible with careful introductions and a dog whose energy and play style are a good match.

Ophelia is looking for a home with adults or older, respectful teens. Young children are not the right fit for her, as their energy can make her anxious. She will need an adopter who understands that continued training, socialization, structure, and confidence-building are important parts of helping her succeed.

Her future family should be committed to continuing the guided training plan created specifically for her and giving her the time, patience, and consistency she needs to thrive. A secure fenced yard and a calm, predictable environment would be wonderful for her.

Meet Kirk & Kramer!



We may be 11 years old, but we're proof that the best things in life only get better with age! We've got plenty of personality, curiosity,

and love to give, and we're always ready to see what our humans are up to.

We're curious guys who love to explore the house, supervise the daily activities, and make sure we're never too far from the action. We're also big fans of affection and cuddles, especially when our humans are getting up in the morning or settling in for bed.

But we're not demanding—we're independent, too. During the day, we're perfectly content to entertain ourselves with our favorite toys, watch the birds and squirrels from the window, or curl up for a cat nap. We're the kind of cats who enjoy being part of your life without needing to be the center of attention every second.

We're looking for a family who will give us plenty of love and attention while also understanding that sometimes we just want to do our own thing. We've spent our whole lives as the only four-legged family members, so we'd be happiest keeping it that way.

Our dream home? Multiple cat trees for lounging and bird-watching, lots of wand and mouse toys for playtime, cozy nap spots, and plenty of humans to give us all the pets and attention we can handle.



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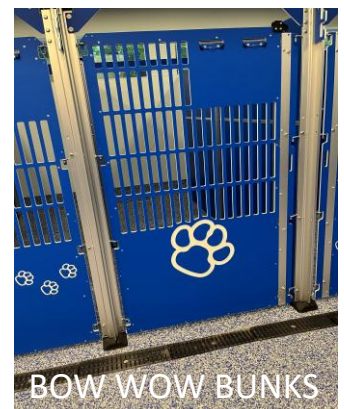
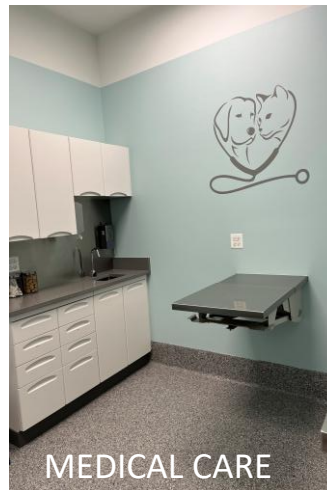
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We are ever so thankful for your support in our efforts to remodel and expand our Almost Home facility. We are excited to share with you some pictures of what your donations have enabled us to accomplish.





Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, what are canine zoomies?

Few dog owners can resist watching their pets with the zoomies. Those wide eyes, flapping tongues, perky ears, wiggling rear ends, accompanied by play bows, rapid circling, and mad dashes are endearing behaviors that are usually normal, natural, and healthy. Sometimes identified as FRAP, frenetic random activity period, zoomies are a release of tension or energy that accumulates within the dog's nervous system so that adrenaline, endorphins, and cortisol can return to normal levels. They may last a few seconds or a few minutes.

A variety of life situations may instigate the zoomies. Dogs that have been confined for long periods need to release pent-up energy while dogs that have been alone all day need to express their happiness. They may be excited by a new toy, a treat, or a walk outdoors. Even bath time creates tension for some dogs as they roll and run around to dry off and restore their natural scent. Puppies, by nature, experience the most zoomies, perhaps several daily, because their nervous systems are still developing. However, even older dogs have the zoomies, just not as often.

Zoomies are safest outdoors unless holes or ice present a danger. Indoors, dogs may injure themselves on stairways, slippery floors, long cords, or other decor. Observant owners should be aware of these everyday obstacles although there is no reason to interrupt zoomies in safe places. Dogs that regularly seem frightened, destructive, or whiny may need a trip to the vet since these behaviors may be of concern, especially if accompanied by confusion, imbalance, or pain.

Although other mammals have zoomies, canine zoomies seem more recognizable. They easily attract attention and communicate feelings that owners enjoy experiencing. It is a win-win situation!

Hope, what extra care do my cats need this fall?

The air turns brisk, daylight shortens and the leaves on the trees turn color. You're busy packing up your summer wardrobe, bringing out your fall sweaters, getting your furnace serviced and putting new batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Remember your furry felines react to the change of seasons too and need your love and attention. It's our responsibility as their guardians to create a warm and safe environment for them.

Cats are natural heat seekers and look for cozy spots to curl up in. Consider a plush bed or a big blanket that they can retreat to when the temps start to fall. Place them under a sunny window for extra coziness.

Fall is a time when our feline companions start shedding more as they transition to their winter fur coats. Regular brushing can manage shedding and reduce the risk of hairballs.

Just like humans, cats can experience fall allergies. Watch for itching and sneezing. Fleas and ticks are common in the fall. If your kitty goes outside, check her for unwanted guests before you let her back in. The chill in the air can cause seasonal arthritis for older cats. Limping and moving more slowly than normal are signs that shouldn't be ignored. Contact your vet if you notice any changes in your cat's behavior. Symptoms may warrant a visit to the doctor.

Fall brings the interior decorators out in many of us. Candles, strands of Halloween lights, and fake spider webs are fun and festive, but can pose serious threats for cats. Extra people and car traffic is a good reason to keep your feline friend's safe and sound indoors. Start preparing for the chilly months ahead. Create a warm, comfortable and safe environment, and you and your feline friends will enjoy each other's company and the change of seasons

View From a Vet *Arthritis Advice for Our Aging Pets!*

As our pets age, it is important to support their aging bodies. Dogs and cats inevitably get osteoarthritis (OA) just like humans do. For some dog breeds, signs of OA may be seen as early as 5 years of age. However, there are plenty of things dog owners can do to help delay the effects of OA including dietary supplements, medications when necessary, and regular exercise.

For dogs with mild signs of OA, such as stiffness, joint supplements may help improve/slow the progression of disease. Supplements that contain glucosamine, as well as green-lipped mussel and methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) have been shown to support the joint fluid in a joint, which cushions it and prevents the rubbing of bone on bone. Another supplement that is equally important is omega-3 fatty acids, which are most commonly found in a high-quality fish oil. Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to have a possible positive effect on joint health in certain studies, as well as be great for skin and brain health.

Keep in mind that supplements are not regulated by the FDA and therefore, it is extremely important to pick a high-quality company that is backed by science. There is a lot of misinformation on the internet and a lot of companies that are just trying to make money. Thus, it is important for you to do your own research and reach out to your veterinarian for advice when choosing a reliable supplement company, as well as the age to start supplements.

The other thing that is equally important in preventing/delaying the progression of OA is keeping your pet at a healthy weight and exercising them regularly. Making sure that your pet has the proper muscle mass to support their aging bodies can help in the long run. In addition, pets that are fit and have good body condition put less stress on aging joints. They are also more likely to live longer, fuller lives. It is equally important to get your senior dog up and moving every couple of hours throughout the day, to prevent muscle atrophy and stiffness.

Helping our pets age with grace is so important, and implementing small changes can end up having big impacts on their quality of life.

As always, if you have any questions on this topic or need recommendations please talk to your family veterinarian.

By: Nina Pasquini, DVM

Fun dog *facts*

Germany was the first country to train seeing eye dogs after WWI as a way to help disabled veterans. In 1916 they opened the world's first guide dog school in Oldenburg, Germany.

Fun cat *facts*

Male cats are more likely to be left-pawed, while female cats are more likely to be right-pawed.

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