

Fall 2020



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Our featured pets

Meet Bucky!



I'm told that I'm a big goof! I like toys and treats and rolling around outside. I came from AL but I don't

bark with a southern accent. Actually I don't bark much at all. I love kids and other dogs. I would suggest kids over 5 since sometimes I become a little rambunctious.

I walk well on a leash, but I am easily startled and will try to get away. For that reason, you need to have a firm grip on my leash at all times. Crowded places are very overwhelming for me. I shake and drool like crazy when I'm afraid.

I am timid in the beginning and unsure of men in particular. I will come around. I do require a 6 foot fence. It keeps me safe and secure and I can be free! I have been known to scale chain link fencing. I do not dig and am very good outside. I like to sit and soak up the sun.

I am not crated in the house so it would be awesome for me to find someone who works from home or is retired. A crate would terrify me, and I'm already scared of so much to begin with. It took me eight months to finally get into a vehicle on my own. Now I ride in the car like a champ!

Since being rescued, I finally know love and would really like a family of my own with kind, gentle, patient and understanding people. Could it be with you?



Hope

Homer

Meet Tiger!



Tiger was rescued from a high-kill shelter a few days before he was scheduled to be euthanized. He is an extremely handsome tabby

mix with magnificent stripes and the softest fur, not to mention his ultra-fine whiskers and sparkling eyes!

Tiger is a very vocal cat with an "I'm in charge!" attitude, and he lets everyone know it. He meows and growls and will occasionally hiss, but he is all talk and no action. He is not overly fond of being picked up or held, but after he trusts you, he does like to sit on your lap to purr and be petted.

As he has a dominant personality, he needs an experienced cat owner who is familiar with behavioral cues so they can see how full of love he really is. When he gets overstimulated while being petted, he can get mouthy and will gently take your hand or arm in his mouth but doesn't bite down. He will let you pet him gently on the head and shoulders and likes to play with his toys. He also likes to watch the world go by outside his window.

He gets along with submissive cats, but may prefer to be your one and only cat. We are not sure if Tiger likes dogs. Tiger would do best in a home with adults and older children rather than younger children. Tiger has been anxiously waiting to be part of a forever family so he can be loved by people who will take the time to understand him and enjoy all the love he has to share.

Almost Home Foundation awarded GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency

AHF is excited to share that we have earned the 2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit organizations. It is the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar.



The GuideStar seals indicate that a nonprofit has provided key information to its Nonprofit Profile. Through our Platinum level, we can easily share a wealth of up-to-date organizational information with our supporters as well as GuideStar's immense online audience, which includes donors, grant-makers, our peers, and the media. This recognition shows a commitment to transparency. By providing up-to-date information, nonprofits allow potential donors and funders to make educated decisions. Platinum is the highest GuideStar seal.

Got shoes?

Here's what 4,125 pairs of shoes look like! Thanks to everyone for your donation which helped us reach our goal.



Our new fence

Have you noticed our beautiful new fence around our dumpsters at the kennel? We have Chris Kaechele from Action Fence to thank for his generosity and gorgeous work! Thank you for your support!



Barking lot sale

Our Barking Lot Sale that was held August 15th and 16th was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who donated or purchased some items.





Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, do dogs really help to reduce anxiety in humans?

Since March 2020, dog fostering and adoptions have soared throughout the US. People sheltering in place have emptied the humane societies. Living alone or in a limited social unit has awakened public awareness of canine companionship to reduce loneliness that may lead to anxiety and depression.

Prehistoric man and his animal relied heavily upon each other. The human offered a consistent source of food and shelter, the dog provided protection, helped with hunting, and alerted the family to potential dangers. They developed an emotional bond, and the stress of everyday life was relieved through physical closeness and touch. Today scientists know that petting a dog increases levels of serotonin and dopamine that lower anxiety and blood pressure through their calming effects. For this reason, dogs are used as psychiatric support animals (PSA) and emotional support animals (ESA) in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. They also can be trained to recognize panic attacks and to intervene.

Walking, exercising, feeding, and socializing the dog can make a big difference for someone who needs to be connected and needed; dog walkers often meet and become friends. Even the unconditional love of a dog provides companionship. Dogs are good listeners too!

If indeed, “A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself” (Josh Billings), then dog owners reap the benefits. Their canine companions distract and calm them, reducing anxiety and depression in a world that encourages distancing.

Hope, do different cat breeds have different personalities?

There are so many different cat breeds in the world and they all have different personalities and traits. Be sure to research each breed before adopting as knowing this can help in deciding which cat is perfect for you. Here are a few examples.

Sphynx cats are very lovable and social. They enjoy being around a lot of people because that means they’ll have more playmates. Because of their openness and social skills, they can get along with other cats and dogs. They also are known to be very silly, clumsy, and mischievous.

Norwegian Forest cats are very intelligent and full of curiosity. They are usually quiet and calm and are on the independent side. It is said that they have dog-like personalities. Because of this, they are actually one of the few cat breeds that can go on a walk with a leash. But only do that at cat friendly places with no dogs!

Persian cats tend to be very calm and quiet. They don’t have a lot of curiosity so they aren’t very active. They are amiable and enjoy getting attention, but at the same time they don’t really ask for it. They tend to get along with other animals but make sure they have their own place to have some privacy!

Siamese cats are VERY social and crave attention. They get along with people and other animals. They also talk a lot and can be noisy so it’s important to have a lot of time for them. These cats are very emotional and intelligent so they would be a perfect fit for a lively house that can give them a lot of love.

Maine Coon cats are extremely intelligent but are quiet and calm. They quickly adapt to new surroundings, which a lot of cats struggle with. They are very loyal and form strong bonds with those that they trust.

Run for rescue

Since we can't gather together this year, we are holding a virtual walk/run. The best part about this is that you can participate when it is convenient for YOU, anytime between September 1-15. And you can complete any distance you'd like. Register now and with your \$25 registration fee, you will receive a blue AHF t-shirt to proudly wear when you do your walk or run.

Register at: <https://AHFVirtualWalk.givesmart.com> and join in [#AHFFunAtHome](#) , [#AHFontherun](#) , and brag about your personal records!

Choosing a pet

When choosing a pet, be sure you are prepared. There are many things to consider before you take an animal into your home. This is a big step for many people so think things through carefully and talk them over with your entire household. Here are some points ponder:

- Breed you are interested in
- Male or female
- Type of pet personality: active, lap pet or both
- Behaviors/habits of the breed
- Allergies to pets by members of your family
- Compatibility with children
- Compatibility with current pets
- Housing space, time and financial means to properly care for the pet
- Willingness to make a lifetime commitment to the health and well-being of the pet for the pet's entire lifetime

Flower power

Starting September 1 through September 20, we will be launching our newest fundraiser selling flower bulbs ONLINE. AHF will receive 50% of total sales.

How to get your order? Order on the website that's indicated below and the bulbs will be shipped directly to your house for a \$6 flat fee per order.

If you wish to avoid the shipping fee, just drop off your paper order and a check made payable to Almost Home at the kennel no later than September 20th. We will place a mass order which ships to us for free. However, you MUST be able to pick up your order at the kennel when it comes in. There will be catalogs and order forms available at the kennel front desk.

Be sure to check the map at the bottom of the page that tells you what the bulbs "zone" is. Fall bulb orders begin shipping Mid-September. Orders placed Mid-September thru October will be shipped on a weekly basis. The online ordering website is: <http://AHF.fpfundraising.com>

Dog training in the age of the pandemonium

The great news in this year of pandemic craziness is that many people are turning to pets for companionship and entertainment. Thus more animals are being rescued and adopted.

What's a little tricky about this is what to do about turning the little fuzz-ball of energy into a civilized member of the family. This is especially true for first-time adopters. The problem is that many of the in-person obedience classes are on hold due to the pandemic.

That's where Almost Home Foundation is happy to offer advice and help our adopters get off on the right paw (oops, foot) with their new buddies.

For those who have a dog in need of immediate obedience training, we suggest you check the Resource page on the Almost Home Foundation website www.almosthomefoundation.org for information on training programs available. By the way, the German Shepherd Training Club displayed on our website offers all-breed training and is not just for German Shepherds, so you can check them out regardless of breed.

There is also much information available over the internet on trainers and methods of training. For instance, check out the ASPCA website. Also ask your veterinarian for recommendations. Many veterinarians have training classes in-house and may be able to guide you to an alternate training program if their classes are cancelled due to the pandemic. If the vets themselves don't normally offer classes, many trainers will leave their business cards with veterinarians. You may be able to find a trainer to come to your home and work outside with you and your dog.

Another great method of training these days is virtual dog training. The way this works is you learn how to teach your dog by observing methods demonstrated live by your on-line trainer. You will practice with your dog while the trainer watches you and makes comments and suggestions. There will be several sessions and you will be given "homework" to practice with your dog between sessions. You may even enroll in group sessions where you can observe other dogs doing the same exercises you are doing. That way you can make sure you are doing everything correctly. Once you contact a trainer, they will guide you to whatever media (Zoom, Skype, etc.) they use to conduct these virtual meetings.

Prior to the Covid-19 shutdown orders, AHF had set up a training regimen for our fostered and kennel dogs waiting to be adopted, in cases where they seemed to require a bit of extra help in basic training and socialization. This program had to be put on hold during the COVID shutdown. However, we are opening it again, starting with those dogs adopted during the shutdown whose training had been incomplete. This program will be led by a trainer with many years of experience in various aspects of training. For people who have previously adopted from Almost Home, and future AHF adopters, who wish to participate in our training classes, we hope to offer short term (one-month/four session) classes for a small donation. Contact us for information.

You can also get advice, suggestions and help over the phone from our team by calling our general number: 630-582-3738.

Help us replace the kennel parking lot!



We need
2000 people to donate
5 dollars for
5 months...

Our kennel parking lot is literally crumbling. The entire lot is covered with broken pieces of pavement, large potholes and severe cracking. The entrance is a disaster with huge holes and flooding when it rains or when snow melts. The condition of our parking lot makes it unsafe for our volunteers and dogs. Also, we are not in compliance with the village building and ground standards. We have no alternative but to replace the entire parking lot. It is beyond repair. Go to our website, www.almosthomefoundation.org, and click on the "It's a bumpy road" banner. Go to <https://youtu.be/XXCUkallQ3s> to actually see the condition of the lot during a transport.

Petco Holiday Wishes Grant

Has Your Adopted Pet Changed Your Life? Share Your Story and Help Us Earn \$100K from the Petco Foundation! Does the pet you adopted from Almost Home Foundation brighten your life every day? Of course, they do! Share how your adopted pet changed your life to give us the chance at a \$100,000 Holiday Wishes grant award from the Petco Foundation and BOBS from Skechers (plus you can earn a Petco shopping spree and BOBS from Skechers shoes). Submit your story by September 23, noon CST at petcofoundation.org/holidaywishes.

This is the information you will need to complete your submission:

Email address:

board@almosthomefoundation.org

Phone: 630-582-3738

Tax ID: 04-3805366

Rescue dogs & bonding

Many people believe that the only way to get a dog who will bond strongly and adapt well to their family is to purchase a puppy from a breeder or pet store. This simply is not true. Rescued dogs bond with their families as well as puppies do. Rescued dogs are grateful to have a home and make very loyal and loving pets. Dogs who are in shelters and rescues are desperate for someone to love them, and they are ready to give their whole heart to a new family who makes them feel safe and cared for. They will bond very quickly and deeply with a new loving owner.

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