

Almost Home Foundation PAW PRINTS

Special
Edition
2021



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Special 2021 Year-End Edition



Welcome to the new year, Almost Home Foundation supporters! As another successful year comes to an end, we want to thank you - our adopters, supporters, and volunteers - for everything you did and continue to do to help us save the lives of cats and dogs in need.

We would also like to take a moment to express our tremendous gratitude for your remarkable level of generosity. Our \$50,000 December Holiday Gift Match was a huge success, a testament to the dedication of our supporters. We were able to add \$100,000 to our Cause 4 Paws Campaign! With each donation received, we become that much closer to our goal to add a surgical and medical treatment center to our facility. Thank you for making a difference through your compassion and generosity.

This special edition of our newsletter highlights some of these saved animals. We hope you enjoy their amazing stories. We are excited about the new year and look forward to rescuing even more animals in need of our help as we work on expanding our rescue program. Once again, thank you for all your support. We couldn't save all these lives without you!

Jojo



After his owners in Alabama couldn't afford to take care of him, our sweet and loving boy, Jojo, made his journey to Almost Home on June 5th to have another chance. Our transport team noticed a large growth on his left elbow and his teeth were in rough shape. When getting checked at the vet, it was discovered that he tested positive for heartworm disease. We wanted to help him out any way we could! He had the large growth removed and biopsied for cancer, a good teeth cleaning with extractions, and was treated for heartworm disease. His new family says he fits right in with his two dog sisters and four humans. They report that he is the sweetest dog they have ever met and he doesn't realize he's 66 lbs. He thinks he's a 10 lb. lap dog! He is the best at giving hugs and loves to cuddle. He is his mother's shadow.

Save the Smalls



Can you imagine living your whole life in one small room of an apartment with five other dogs and eight cats? You never get to go outside or get the medical care you so desperately need? This is what life was like for these six dogs that were rescued from a hoarding situation in Alabama. All six dogs were missing teeth, one only has three legs, and one of the sweet girls has a mammary tumor. When Almost Home heard about these poor dogs, we knew that we had to help. Upon entering our organization, all the dogs received the necessary vetting to prepare them for their new, happy, and healthy lives. Three of the six pups have found their forever homes, but three are still looking for the perfect families to show them what true love is. Can you be their happily ever after?

Bernie

Six-month old Bernie came to us from Indiana where he was scheduled to be euthanized due to an overcrowded shelter. He arrived on June 5th and by the end of that week, he was not eating and was having digestive issues. We know those are Parvo symptoms, so we got him into the vet the next day. Our worst fears were confirmed. Little Bernie had Canine Parvovirus. This is a highly contagious virus that is spread from dog to dog by contact with feces. Vaccines can prevent this but mortality rates can reach 91% in untreated cases! Bernie was immediately hospitalized and given all the necessary treatments to combat this virus. He spent almost a week there. The good news is Bernie is feeling better and is enjoying his wonderful new life in a forever home!



Polly

Polly is a breathtakingly beautiful domestic longhair dilute tortoiseshell gal that does not have one mean bone in her body. She is on the shy and submissive side so finding her forever family was challenging. Polly got the best birthday present ever in May 2021. She was adopted just 6 days before her 11th birthday! She waited 3,842 days in foster care before she was adopted. It took her some time to adjust to her new human mom and feline sibling, but patience paid off and she is now living her dream life!

Mick Jagger



Poor Mick Jagger can't get no satisfaction. This senior fella was a stray. He arrived at Almost Home on July 8th of this year. He was said to be ten years old. Upon arrival, the volunteers quickly realized he had some issues. He was straining to use the bathroom, and his body was full of lumps. So off to the first of many vet appointments, he went. Flash forward a few days, and he finds a wonderful foster family to take care of him while he is sick. Many vet visits and tests later, we got a diagnosis. He has a raging E. coli infection in his urinary tract. These infections are difficult to treat and very resistant to typical antibiotics. He also had a mouth full of worn-down teeth with bad dental disease and is completely deaf and partially blind. To top that off, they were looking at Cushing's disease or bladder cancer. The good news is that he has an incredible foster family that absolutely adores him. He has two children and a rescued chihuahua to play with. This wonderful family has graciously agreed to give Mick Jagger all the love and kindness he deserves until he crosses the rainbow bridge.

Sissy Mom

Sissy Mom is a beautiful Great Pyrenees/retriever mix who has overcome her medical issues with success! Sissy arrived from Alabama with her 9 adorable puppies. She was very shy around people, but she was a very good mom to her pups. Upon arrival, Sissy and her pups went to the vet for wellness exams. During Sissy's exam it was discovered that she was heartworm positive and could receive treatment once her puppies were weaned. Treatment went well, but Sissy still wasn't healthy. Blood tests showed that her liver values were at high levels, but an ultrasound showed no liver abnormalities. The next diagnostic step was a liver biopsy which confirmed that she had a disease called copper associated hepatitis. Due to this disease, Sissy's liver could not process copper from her food, and it would build up in her system. Treatment for this issue consisted of taking a daily chelation medicine that helped remove the excess copper from the body. Sissy was monitored each month with exams and blood tests. After the 6 months, Sissy's tests showed her liver values were within a normal range! Presently, she is on a low-copper food diet, and she will need to be on life-long daily liver supplements. During Sissy's treatment, she has been taken care of by very loving fosters. Her fantastic foster home eventually became her forever home. Sissy can now show her love and affection to people and is a very happy, beautiful, and healthy dog!



Claus

This gentle giant had 25 inches of his intestines removed to save his young life. Claus had not even reached his first birthday when he was brought to the emergency room for a second time. His second surgery required an intestinal resection due to blockage caused from prior intussusception surgery. Intussusception is incited by abnormal movement of the bowel, which may have been caused by a bacterial infection or intestinal parasites. Why all of this happened to poor Claus before his first birthday is unknown and rare. What we did know is that Claus deserved to live. He is an amazing, lovable guy with everyone and anything he meets. We are happy to report that Claus is living a wonderful life with his forever family.



Jason



Meet Jason, a very special boy who survived a terrible act of cruelty. Jason was rescued after someone shot him with an arrow. The arrow went in one side of his neck and pierced through the other side. Incredibly, it didn't kill him, and a veterinarian was able to remove it. The pictures of Jason with an arrow through his neck are heartbreaking. We are happy to report that the person who shot Jason was sent to jail. Meeting Jason, you would never guess what he's been through. This 1 year old, 60 lb. mix is incredibly sweet and loving. He gets along great with other dogs and loves people, including kids. AHF volunteers adore him. Jason is now healed and ready to start his new life in his forever family. He is being adopted this month!

Tiger

Imagine waiting 1479 days for your forever family. This was the case for our sweet, handsome, tabby-boy, Tiger. Tiger is full of personality and sass. He knows what he wants and when he wants it. Mostly, he wants food and treats and is excellent at sneaking them at any opportunity. When not hungry, Tiger loves jumping into your lap for cuddle time. Tiger is very vocal and loves having long conversations with you. Tiger was with us for so long because he needed a cat-experienced person who could read cat behavior and establish routines and boundaries. At Almost Home, we celebrated Tiger's 8th birthday on 7/3/21, and his birthday wish came true! He found his forever home. He was adopted in July and is living the good life with his new dad. While 1479 days is a long time to wait, Almost Home never gave up hope that Tiger's perfect family was coming for him. We are so happy to share that Tiger is doing amazing and is one happy kitty. Here is a picture of Tiger in his new home.



Huey

Huey is a cute retriever/lab mix. Upon arrival to Almost Home, Huey had already been diagnosed heartworm positive and was treated in Alabama. Since heartworm is a blood parasite, it takes 6 to 9 months for the body to get rid of the worm parts after treatment occurs. Huey was given the medical support and the time to successfully turn heartworm negative in his foster home. Presently Huey is free of heartworm and getting his monthly heartworm preventative for life. Huey had two additional medical issues that needed immediate attention when he arrived. He had bad teeth and he had an obvious back leg limp. After mouth x-rays were taken, Huey had to immediately have dental surgery where he had 12 teeth extracted. The vet felt Huey must have been crated a lot and probably became a crate chewer. After his dental, he no longer had mouth pain! Huey also had x-rays taken of his back leg. After looking at the x-rays, the orthopedic surgeon felt a traumatic injury occurred with Huey-most likely he was hit by a car. The femur bone was pushed out of the socket and never fixed. The x-rays also showed that Huey had buck shot under his skin. This poor boy has been through a lot of challenges in his young life, but is now living a very happy and healthy life in his loving forever home.



Shari Lynette

Shari Lynette originally came to AHF in March of 2011 at 3 months of age. She was adopted 7 weeks later and thought she had it made. Unfortunately, her forever family was unable to care for her. She found her way back to us ten years later! Shari spent a few days in the kennel, crying and whining, not understanding what happened to her family. We noticed that Shari had a lump under her front left leg, appeared to have limited vision in her left eye, and had an unusual gait, particularly on her left side. She went to the vet for evaluation, as well as vaccinations. The lab results showed that Shari tested positive for Lyme Disease and was started on antibiotics. The lump turned out to be a mast cell tumor, that we had surgically removed. We are hopeful that the tumor is low grade and has not metastasized to other areas of her body. The biopsy will give us more information. Shari is now in a loving foster home. She is very gentle, super sweet, and a little goofy. She is a 40-pound lap dog who loves to cuddle.



Eddie



Soon after Edison's arrival to Almost Home, he appeared to be very uncomfortable and became vocal at times and thought to be in pain. He was taken to the vet for an exam, x-rays, and an ultrasound. It was determined that Edison had unilateral cryptorchidism which means his right testicle had not descended. If the canine testicle does not descend into the scrotum, it will remain in the abdomen or inguinal canal. A cryptorchid testicle needs to be surgically removed to prevent testicular torsion and testicular cancer. Since his surgery, Eddie is feeling so much better. Eddie also needed multiple teeth extracted along with his teeth cleaned. After his dental and extraction surgery, Eddie felt like a new dog! Now that he is healthy, he has found his new forever family!

Jenny

Jenny is a special kitty whose story melted our hearts. In March 2021, we received an urgent phone call from a local stray facility about a sweet young cat who had tested positive for FIV. Due to her medical condition, many rescues turned her away, and she was scheduled to be put to sleep the next day. The staff at the stray facility had fallen in love with her personality and pleaded with AHF to save this sweet young cat's life. Almost Home does not discriminate based on medical status, so we welcomed her into our family. In no time at all, Jenny was fully integrated with other cats and dogs in her foster home. Jenny proved to be so good with other animals that she started visiting dogs at Almost Home's kennel to see if they were cat-friendly. With Jenny's help we have placed dozens of dogs into their appropriate homes. While we loved having Jenny as part of our team, we knew this sweet kitten deserved her own forever family. Due to her medical condition, Jenny wasn't allowed to attend adoption shows, and pictures don't show the warmth in her beautiful eyes, the softness of her fur, or allow you to experience her amazing personality. We had to hope that sharing Jenny's story would be enough. Luckily, it was! One day, the perfect family contacted us about Jenny. They too had a FIV+ kitten, and they were interested in meeting Jenny. It was a perfect match. While we miss Jenny at the kennel, we are so happy that this sweet, young cat was given the chance to experience love in her forever home.



**Thank you for all your support.
We couldn't save all these lives without you!
Almost Home Foundation**