

Spring 2022



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Our featured pets



Meet Rico!



This big hunk of love has been with AHF since April of last year. His name is Rico and he's a big cloud of love. He weighs around 60 pounds. He's very laid back

and loves napping on the couch with his people. But he also enjoys a romp in the yard with a female dog. He loves going on car rides too. He enjoys looking out the window and taking in all the sights.

He grows attached to his humans and has a bit of separation anxiety but we are working on it. Currently he lives with a woman, her 12 year old daughter, and their 16 year old female dog. He is very respectful to the older dog even though he'd love to play. He's potty trained and knows some basic commands like sit, down, and wait.

He is sometimes reactive to male humans and male dogs. With the humans, he can get past it with a little time and training. This guy is a looker with so much love to give. He's waited so long for the right family. He will come with four hours of training upon adoption so he can get settled in nicely.

Meet Mary & Peter!



Mary and Peter are six months old and weigh 5 and 6 pounds respectively. They were both born with a condition called cerebellar hypoplasia (CH) which affects their coordination and balance. CH is neither contagious nor progressive. Kitties with CH are sometimes referred to as "wobblers". Mary's case is mild while Peter's is moderate, but neither kitten lets this condition slow them down!

Mary lets nothing stop her love of life! She loves to be with you. She is fun to play with and loves her brother, Peter, who she helps and watches over. Mary is a true lap cat, as she will jump up and stay on your lap for cuddles and head scratches.

Peter is a sweetheart. He is quick to purr and loves to have his head scratched and sit between his foster mom and the side of a chair. He plays with just about anything that moves, especially his sister, Mary.

Both get along well with the four adult male cats in their foster home. This brother-sister team is bonded and need to be adopted together. With some accommodations needed because of CH, Mary and Peter will be a loving addition to anyone's home.

Raise a slice! Dine to Donate



Wednesday, April 6, Lou Malnati's will donate 20% of total pre-taxed sales to AHF. Mention the fundraiser when placing your order. Ordering online, use the code FUNDAH22.

Lou Malnati's Schaumburg 11:00am-10:00pm
Lou Malnati's Elk Grove 11:00am-10:00pm
Lou Malnati's Bloomingdale 4:00pm-9:00pm

Dogs and cats have identifier as unique as human fingerprints

If you were a contestant on a TV quiz show and were asked what body part on a dog or cat is as unique as a human fingerprint, you might say their paws. While it's true that cats and dogs might have dominant paws, like humans are right or left-handed, dog and cat paw prints are not unique to the individual animal.

Nope, the parts that are unique are those annoying, wet noses that are always being stuck into places they ought not be and that leave messes all over your windows. They are as unique to the individual animal as fingerprints are to humans. Every cat's nose has its very own pattern of bumps and ridges. Each dog's nose has its own ridges and creases. These are permanent. If you have a record of them, you can use them to identify your animal should he get lost or stolen and then be found.

And how might you get a record of your pet's nose print? If you query the subject on the internet, you'll find a few companies that sell kits for making nose prints. They'll send you the kit with instructions on how to make the prints. One example is by taking a photo of your pet's nose with your mobile device. There are nose print stamp pads. With some you can send the prints you make to the company that sent the kit and get a jewelry design of kitty's nose print. If you want to create your own print of your pet's nose, you can find instructions and lists of materials needed for the job on the internet. You can even find demonstrations on You-Tube of how to do it. There is one trick required for all methods and it may be the hardest part of the job: you have to keep your pet still while you are making the impression of his nose. Good luck!

What an interesting concept, too, if nose prints can be applied to the serious business of identifying pets as belonging to you. If scans could be used to record your pet's nose, it would be a quicker and less expensive process than microchips. Microchips are the current universal method of identifying animals. However, over time microchips may move around in the animal's body. They can degrade. That said, currently there is no universal system for registering pet's noses. But there are companies working on it.

So now that the secret is out about the amazing uniqueness of pets' noses, will we turn to using them as the universal system of identification? If you can take an accurate photo or scan of your pet's nose and post it on an app with a description of your pet, someone who sees a dog or cat wandering the streets looking lost could check the app to see if there's a match.

The technology has already been invented! The nose print is already being used for some applications in China, South Korea, and Canada. Many kennel clubs recognize nose prints as an accurate means of identifying dogs. The technology and app are available in some parts of the U.S. but not widely used yet. More facts and detailed information on all aspects of the use of nose prints can be had on the internet. Looking forward to when this recognition system will spread around the country.



BINGO Fundraiser

VFW 9284

**400 E Devon Avenue
Elk Grove Village**

April 23rd

**Check in: 6:15 pm
Bingo: 7:00 pm**

Win a game, get a prize!

Raffle Prizes & 50/50

**Desserts and snacks at nominal cost, cash bar
Bingo cards sold separately**

\$20 pre-registration before April 23rd at:

www.almosthomefoundation.org

\$25 cash or check at door

Dangers of retractable leashes

Retractable leashes are wildly popular and are sold at every pet store and are available online. People often buy them because they think they will give their dogs freedom to poke around on walks. Unfortunately, there exist more dangers than up sides. Even Consumer Reports reported on the dangers of retractable leashes. So please think twice before buying one for your dog.

They may malfunction over time. Due to wear and tear on the leash, the cord can become stuck or refuse to retract. This can cause a lot of jerking to you and your pet, as well as become a tripping hazard.

The leash handle is bulky. This allows the handle to easily be pulled out of the person's hand and frightening your pet as it comes hurling toward them. It can cause injury to the pet if it hits them, or the loud sound could alarm your pet, causing them to run away.

The thin cord can easily break, tear or fray. If the pet on the other end is quite powerful and takes off running full speed, the cord can snap. This might put the dog in danger. It could also injure the person walking them as the cord comes snapping back toward their body and face. Also, the constant retracting on the cord can cause it to rub on the handle, creating frays which can eventually tear.

Fun facts

Originally it was thought that Egyptians domesticated the cat, but in 2004 French archaeologists discovered a 9,500 year old cat grave in Cyprus. This makes this the oldest known pet cat and it predates Egyptian art about cats by over 4,000 years!

The tallest dog in the world ever was a Great Dane named Zeus. Measured at 44 inches tall in 2011, he's the current Guinness World Record holder.

The length allows pets to be put in dangerous situations. Retractable leashes can extended up to 26 feet, which allows the dog to wander far enough to make contact with another dog or person, as well as wander into the street or traffic.

The jerking stop of the leash can cause injuries. Once the leash has run out of cord, or the person hits the stop button on the handle, it results in a sudden jerk that can cause neck wounds, lacerations to the trachea, as well as injuries to the spine.

The cord can cut, burn or even amputate the walker. If the walker gets tangled in the cord or grabs it while its retracting or reeling out, serious injuries can occur.

It is a tripping hazard. The cord can easily get tangled around the person's feet, or can pile up if your pet decides to suddenly stop and the cord is completely extended, which results in a giant tripping hazard.

Doesn't teach proper leash walking skills. Retractable leashes teach pets it is okay to pull while on the leash, since it allows them to extend the leash.

AHF Fundraiser

Spring
FLOWER BULB sale



- Dahlias
- Lilies
- Perennials
- Seed Mats
- More!

Deadline for ordering May 15th

ORDERS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://AHF.fpfundraising.com>

Orders shipped to your door for a small fee
Orders do not begin to ship until April 1st



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, should I adopt a deaf shelter dog?

If shelter dogs could tell their stories, one of the saddest would be that of the deaf dog labeled untrainable. Often adopted and returned to the shelter several times, he becomes confused, and his behavior becomes erratic. How does someone reach the decision to provide a forever home for a dog with this special need?

It all boils down to this. A deaf dog can do almost anything a hearing dog can. If the chemistry and personality are right, and the owner is willing to make some training changes, adopting a deaf dog should not be an issue as long as the owner is loving, patient, and consistent.

However, the potential owner of a deaf dog should recognize several challenges. First, the dog must be trained to make visual contact and to learn hand cues for each behavior. Next, the dog must have limited space within the home; stairs are a potential problem because the dog cannot hear his owner's voice and may need to wear a vibration only collar or a bell instead. Also, the dog requires a fenced-in yard and a walking routine to protect him from cars and wildlife that he cannot hear.

The potential owner should also be aware that a deaf dog startles easily and must be approached from the front and awakened gently; small children in the home may frighten him. He may have medical conditions such as sensitive skin or seizures that require attention. He may cling to his owner for emotional support.

Are there advantages? Yes, a deaf dog has no sound sensitivity, so doorbells, sirens, thunder, fireworks, and squeaky toys are not catalysts. The owner may even make new acquaintances if he joins a support group. Most importantly, the dog has been given another chance at success.

Hope, how do cats' eyes see the world?

Cats' eyes see things differently than humans. They have been formed by nature to assist cats' evolution into the amazing hunters they have become. Their eyes are structured to see better in low light which enables them to hunt when their prey is active. You may think cats are nocturnal but they are actually crepuscular. That means they are most active at dawn and dusk. That's the same time as their prey.

Cats' eyes are shaped to the kind of vision they need for the chase. They have a slit-shaped pupil which helps them in judging distance. Cats' eyes are also set more on the sides of their heads, giving them better peripheral vision. Great for the sudden ambush.

Cats don't see color and distance as well as humans. They see mostly blue and gray and maybe some yellow. If you have on a red coat, they just see a dark shape. A human or panorama in the distance, 20 feet away for example, will appear as a blur.

Cats don't have eyebrows, making them seem unemotional. Their faces may not show emotion, but their pupils do. When they are large and dilated, the cat is excited. It could be a good or bad emotion, but it's a strong one.

When pupils are constricted you are looking at an angry cat. They may be ready to strike out at something or someone. Cats also use their eyes to show dominance. If they are staring into another cat's eyes, they are showing they are in charge.

Are you having difficulty figuring out what your cat is thinking? Try smiling and blinking at him. If he blinks back, it means he trusts you. It's a sign of affection and he really does acknowledge your existence.

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