

Almost Home Foundation

PAW PRINTS

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In this issue

- 1 Featured Dog & Cat
- 2 Can Cats Be Happy Inside?
Keeping Your Dog Safe in a Car
- 3 Ask Homer & Hope
- 4 Coyotes Are Everywhere

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Our featured pets



Meet Calvin!



Meet Calvin, one of our special needs dogs. This sweet, charming, 7-month-old pup has been diagnosed with hip dysplasia, a genetic

birth defect affecting his hips. He is currently receiving physical therapy, and it's recommended that he have surgery on one of his hips. That's the bad news. Now for the good news!

Calvin is intelligent, funny, charming, and inquisitive. He loves giving puppy kisses. He is generally calm, especially for a pup his age. Calvin's favorite things; attention, single-protein treats, his Kong and Nylabone toys, stuffies with squeakers, playing in the yard, meeting other dogs (and he doesn't mind cats either), grown-up humans, little humans, and taking walks (but not too long). In other words, he's a friendly, happy, well-adjusted puppy.

In order to have surgery, Calvin needs a foster home to recover in. Do you have room in your heart and home for him? AHF will pay for ALL medical costs associated with Calvin's surgery and recovery. We have no doubt Calvin will be a good patient as he recovers. He is such a friendly, loving, and well-mannered pup, despite the hand life has dealt him.

Meet Bonnie & Clyde!



Bonnie and Clyde are quite the bonded pair. Bonnie is a 5-pound female Domestic Shorthair mix and Clyde is a

6-pound male Domestic Shorthair mix.

They are both very affectionate with each other and their humans. They are a bit shy when it comes to small children, but great with other cats and dogs. Bonnie loves to sleep in the room with her human and Clyde loves to snuggle in bed with his. One always knows where the other one is. If they are out of sight of each other for too long, they will call for one another.

They love to play with their toys then relax on their cat tree. Bonnie loves to have her lower back scratched. When you do that, she drops to her back and wants a full body rub down. They eat well, always use the litter box and keep themselves very clean.

Due to a respiratory infection they had as baby kittens, Bonnie is visually impaired in one eye. You would never know it as she doesn't skip a beat! If you are looking for a pair of siblings that keep each other busy with exercise and cuddles, this is the pair for you!

If you're interested in Calvin or Bonnie and Clyde,
Please go to our website to fill out an application.

www.almosthomefoundation.org

Can cats be happy inside?

Cats do love to roam and hunt outside. Should you let your cat go outside? Not a good idea.

There are too many dangers outdoors: cars, nasty cold or hot weather, bad food, coyotes, owls, foxes, to name a few. Yes, those predators may go after your cat. Even smaller animals can be hazardous to your cat. People may put out poisons to get rid of those pesky creatures. Should your erstwhile hunter eat a poisoned rat or mouse, he can be poisoned by them secondhand. Keep kitty inside!

Can our feline friends be happy staying in? Absolutely! Just make sure kitty has plenty of the right food and keep his litter box clean (two litter boxes please). Give him an entertaining environment. Cats love small spaces such as open-ended boxes. Keep interactive toys on hand such as strings with feathers attached to exercise his hunting instincts. Use them to play with him. Set up a fountain with running water as cats like to play by swatting it.

Get cat furniture such as vertical climbing towers of varying heights, and scratching posts to sharpen his claws. Be sure he has access to a window so he can watch what's happening outside. Provide him areas where he can get warm and lie in the sun. There are cat harnesses to use to train him to walk outside on leash.

Most important, give him your attention. Pet, snuggle, groom him by brushing him and play with him. If possible, it would be excellent to get a second cat to keep him company. And then you'll have two happy inside cats!

Fun dog facts

Bloodhound's sense of smell is so spot on that it can be admitted as evidence in a court of law. Now if you thought that was incredible, prepare to have your mind blown. Bloodhounds can also follow tracks that are over 300 hours old and can stay on a trail for over 130 miles!

Keeping your dog safe in a car

Let them loose, a little restraint or most secure option, which method works best for you?

Letting them loose gives them lots of freedom to move around. They can crawl under a seat or brake pedal, bark, climb into your lap. These behaviors increase the dangers of a distraction which could lead to an accident that might hurt you and your pup. Even well-behaved dogs can distract you. It's interesting that only about 16% of people restrain their dogs in the back seat.

Restraining your dog with a tether or dog seat belt will keep him in the backseat, but also give him some room to move. If your dog is restless, this method may work best for you. It minimizes your distractions, but still gives your dog some room to move, turn around and lie down. Even though your pup is constrained to the backseat, he may not be fully protected against crash safety in the event of an accident.

Securing your dog with a dog harness is the best way to keep him safe. If a car crashes at a speed of 30 mph, an unrestrained dog can be projected forward at a force equal to around 30 times its weight. So that means that a 40-pound dog in a 30 mph crash equals 1,200 pounds of force.

Here's some other suggestions for dog safety. Dog car barriers create a bit of separation that can aid in safety. Dog car seats are designed for smaller dog breeds. Even though your dog may enjoy the whiffs of smells from the outdoors, make sure that your pup is secured inside the vehicle so he doesn't run the risk of getting hit by a passing car or falling out. And lastly, for everyone's safety, front seats should remain a human-only zone!

Fun cat facts

Cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four on the back ones. It's not uncommon, though, for cats to have extra toes. The cat with the most toes known had 32—eight on each paw!



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, what should I consider before adopting a dog?

Bringing a dog into the home is a serious commitment that should be reached after discussions with those who will be most affected. After all, a dog is for life, and life expectancy today may be twelve to fifteen years. A dog bonds with family members, and broken bonds can cause stress and trauma. Shelters are filled with pets that did not fit in with that new job, new baby, new home, or those frequent business trips. So, a potential owner must decide how a dog will fit into their future.

Because it is long term, a major consideration before committing to dog ownership is cost. Initially, there are the adoption fee, dog equipment including a crate, toys, food, bowls, harness, and leash. Add monthly heartworm prevention, parasite control, emergency trips to the vet, grooming, yearly check-ups that include heartworm and fecal test and necessary vaccinations. Behavioral training, doggy daycare, or boarding is costly, while pet insurance, if desired, generally increases as the dog ages. Expenses add up.

A second consideration is breed choice. Different breeds exhibit different personalities and should not be selected upon appearance only. Large breeds tend to have more energy and will require more space. Smaller breeds need less exercise and are good for apartment dwellers or seniors. A potential owner should research information on adult size, weight, personality, and health needs. Does a family member have allergies? Is the breed one that sheds? Is the purpose of the breed to herd, guard, hunt, or be a companion? This becomes more complicated if the dog is a mixed breed.

House rules are another consideration. These should be in place before bringing a dog home. Where will the dog eat and sleep? Will he be crate trained? What commands must he obey? Who will train him? What are the consequences for bad behavior? How will the house be dog proofed? To avoid sending the dog mixed messages, family members should agree.

Dog ownership is an important decision. Love and loyalty are the benefits.

Hope, how can I keep my cat active during the cold winter months?

Veterinarian, Dr. Letrisa Miller, says that just like people, cats need daily exercise to stay healthy and prevent weight gain. It is true that kitties of all ages enjoy some daily play time. In fact, it is true that if you play close to the same time each day, they will come to expect it and reduce attention seeking behavior during the day.

You should set aside at least 10 minutes every day to have some fun with your cat. You can use a cardboard box to play with your kitty, you can even create a newspaper tunnel to play and hide in. Devoting time to your cat each day is key!

Some toys that Hope recommends are the Retractable Cat Wand or the Crinkle Cat Balls that make inviting sounds when we play. Another fun way to stimulate the kitty's mind is a treat puzzle. There are many types to choose from, some requiring rocking to shake a treat loose or opening a latch to uncover a hidden treat. An old favorite is the red pen laser light that when pointed at the floor will make your cat chase its beam. A good old piece of yarn or an empty packing box with some holes are always fun to explore to stimulate their mind and keep your cat young at heart.

Another way to keep your feline entertained in the house, is to play a hunting game! A fun way to do this is by spreading some low-calorie treats around the house and letting your feline sniff them out. This allows you to relax in front of the TV!

All of the above mentioned items are available through Amazon. Remember, you can choose Almost Home Foundation to benefit from your purchase!

'Tis the season: Coyotes are everywhere

Would you be surprised to encounter a coyote as you walk down your suburban sidewalk with your dog? Well you might be more likely to see one at this time of year. They are more visible in the winter landscape and the young are leaving their dens and looking for mates and food.

Coyotes are not necessarily dangerous to people, as long as they do not lose their natural fear of us. But they will go after our pets on the road or in our yards. There are some steps you can take to safeguard your dogs from coyote attacks. If you should run into a coyote while out for a walk, stand tall and make yourself look as big as possible. Making loud noises and screaming has been successful in scaring them away. Bring along horns or whistles. Shining bright lights in their eyes and tossing objects at them such as sticks and stones works also. Whatever you do, do NOT turn away from them. Hopefully they will back away from you. Keep facing them and back away. If you turn and try to run away, they will see you as prey and chase you.

Keep your dog on a short leash so he won't be able to chase the coyote. Do not use retractable leashes. Retractable leashes don't provide control. Do not let your dog walk unleashed, no matter how obedient he is or how polite to other dogs and people. It's also best to walk during the day as coyotes tend to attack at twilight or during the night. There are also Coyote Vests to protect smaller dogs. These have spiked collars and the backs of the vests have long spikes along them. These will also keep dogs safer from birds of prey such as owls and hawks.

To keep coyotes away from your property, do not feed your dog outside. Keep the property free of all food and do not feed any wild animals. Clean up your grills and garbage areas. Otherwise coyotes may get used to being near people and be lured into the yard by the smell of food. Pick up any dog waste in your yard as coyotes may smell food in it and be attracted to it. Also, supervise your dog while he is outside.

Do not leave him outside at night. Put bright lights such as motion sensor lights in your yard. Coyotes don't see as well in bright light. They see better in low light.

It's said it's possible for coyotes to jump over a 3 foot fence and climb over a 6 foot fence and carry a small dog back over it. If you're in an area where coyotes live, there are Coyote Rollers that can be put on top of the fence to make it more difficult for the coyote to scramble over. The Coyote Roller is an aluminum pole that turns when the coyote puts his paw on top of it.

It is also important to keep in mind that coyotes are wild animals that are not vaccinated against rabies and other diseases fatal to dogs. They may be infested with fleas or other insect critters. Thus, make sure your dog has all his shots and preventions in place. And if your dog is attacked by a coyote, you must see a veterinarian immediately so his wounds can be treated and antibiotics administered, if necessary.



INTERESTING COYOTE/DOG NOTES:

Coyotes and dogs can mate, though it is not common. If you have a dog that is not spayed or neutered, a coyote can mate with them. Their puppies are called Coydogs.

Coyotes are family-oriented and mate for life. The males help raise their pups.

*Thank you for your continued support and
we wish you a healthy and prosperous 2023!*