



# Forever Tails

We at A Forever Home Rescue Foundation are constantly striving to expand our operations so we can help more homeless dogs. As a business, we recognize that it is critical to manage our existing resources efficiently and to develop new resources that can help us grow. Since we rely solely on adoption fees and donations to function, it is a constant balancing act to make sure that our financial obligations don't overwhelm us and that we can pay our bills. We are proud of the fact that we pay our bills in full every month. Just like you have to budget for your household, we have to budget for our rescue. The difference is that most people have a set monthly income.

Since our income varies from month to month, sometimes significantly, we have to be even more careful when expending our limited funds. With vet bills averaging \$20,000 - \$30,000 each and every month, we have to make sure that we are always able to provide whatever level of care is necessary for every dog we commit to helping. It is not unusual for us to have unexpected expenses of an additional \$10,000 - \$15,000 per month due to a litter of puppies with parvo or a dog who needs an expensive operation. Once we commit to a dog, we do whatever it takes to restore him or her to health.

We are at a significant crossroad. We have been in business for 11 years and had amazing success, but the time has come to make a decision regarding our future. We have decided to make a real and determined effort to grow our business and expand our support base. Our goal is to purchase a property, erect or renovate a building on that property, and turn it into our own forever home.

Our short term goal is to acquire a property and a building to use as an office, storage space, adoption center, and education center.

Our mid-term goal is to build a boarding facility that will fund our rescue work. We know that all of our adopters would feel secure leaving their beloved pets with us while they travel.

Our long term goal is to create a sanctuary for elderly and/or sick animals, build a low cost spay/neuter clinic that anyone can use – regardless of their income, and build housing for a full-time caretaker/maintenance person.

We have met with several fundraising professionals who have given us some invaluable advice. We are considering entering a contract with one

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## Adoption Information

Are you looking for a new furry family member? Visit [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org) or stop by an adoption fair to find the perfect one. We have many beautiful dogs waiting for forever homes. Once you've fallen in love, the next step is to fill out an adoption application to get the ball rolling.

Please see our website for our adoption schedule.

## Contact Information

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<b>Twitter</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/aforeverhome">@aforeverhome</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/aforeverhome">twitter.com/aforeverhome</a>



**Oliver Twist**  
is looking for his forever home  
*Read about him on Page 2*

"If your dog is too fat, you're not getting enough exercise."

— Unknown

## In Search of My Forever Home

### Oliver Twist (Male)

**Breed:** Norwegian Elkhound mix

**Age:** 4 years

Oliver Twist is a herding dog, and although he doesn't have any farm animals to herd, he still has a strong drive to herd. Herding dogs are bred to work at moderate to high levels of exercise. They are extremely intelligent and require mental stimulation. They need relatively high levels of intense exercise such as playing fetch daily, as well as long walks. Herding dogs excel at agility, fly ball, and herding trials. Oliver needs a home where he can get all the exercise he needs. He's fast and he loves to run!

Oliver (aka Olly Dolly) is a small dog with a huge personality. He loves stairs. He hits every third stair with his ears flapping



like he is imagining that he is flying. He is crate trained (as soon as he hears the cookie go into the crate, he's right behind it) and house trained. He loves to be cuddled while you talk to him. He watches the squirrels outside with a passive interest and watches intently for his foster mom's neighbor. He barks to let her know that he's been sighted. His favorite thing to do is hang with the big boy dogs and chew rawhide chips with them. He is very big on being right in the middle of all the activity in the house.

Although Olly gets along well with the other dogs in his foster home, he is selective about his doggy friends. His new family will have to understand that he will love some dogs and not tolerate others. This will factor into their ability to take him to dog parks or interact with other dogs. Since Oliver is so active, a home with older children or no children will be best for him. If you have any questions about Oliver, please email [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org). If you are ready to apply to adopt him, please visit [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org) and fill out an adoption application.

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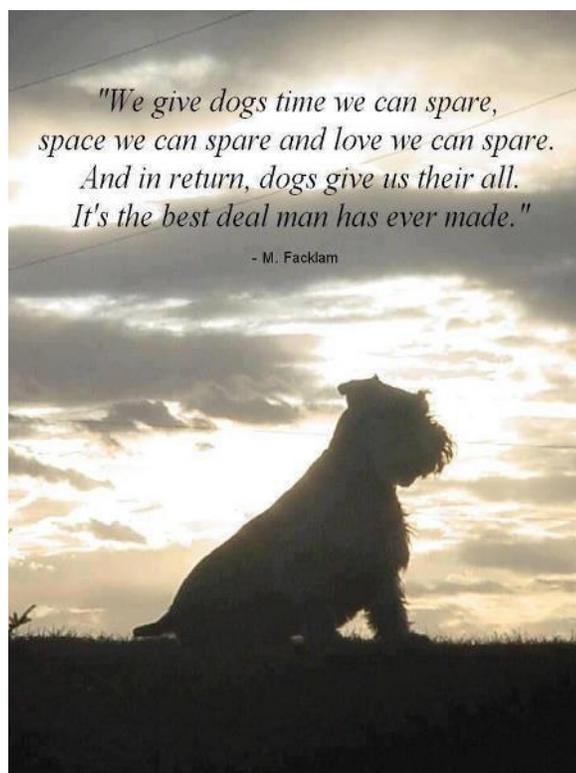
of them to guide us through the first year of this new endeavor, but as with everything we do, the cost is a factor. Our Board of Directors is taking a hard look at whether this is something we can realistically do. It will require that our Officers, volunteers, and supporters are all on board and dedicated to helping us move forward.

We invite all of you to join us – help us – grow with us. Each one of you is an important part of what we do. Our dedicated team of volunteers rescue dogs from certain death and rehabilitate them. You, our supporters, give them forever homes and support us financially so we can help the next dog waiting in line for a home.

Rescue only works when all parties are committed to working hard to ensure success. We are ready and we hope that you will continue to support us, help us grow our support base, and get involved with us even more as time goes on.

Over the coming months we will be reaching out to ask for your financial assistance. We know that times are tough and that everyone is watching their finances, but it is true that it only takes a little effort on the part of many people to make the world a better place for so many deserving animals.

We hope you will join us on our journey. We are optimistic that good things are in our future!



## Ask the Regal Beagle



**Q: Dear Sam:** Today, at my dog's annual well pet visit, the veterinarian informed me that my Oscar is obese. I have noticed that he seemed to have put on a little weight, but I thought it just made him look even cuter. The vet said that if Oscar does not drop a few pounds, his is in danger of needing surgery on his knees. Oscar absolutely

loves his meals and treats! How can I help Oscar? *Sincerely, Oscar's mom in Occoquan*

**A: Dear Oscar's Mom:** I completely understand. I know that food is love, but so is helping Oscar be in the best shape he can be. Just a few pounds can be the difference between a perfectly healthy dog, and a dog with serious health issues such as arthritis and joint pain. Since your vet is the one who recommended a weight loss regimen for Oscar, I am assuming he has checked Oscar out for any other medical conditions? Certain health conditions can also contribute to weight gain in pets and need to be ruled out.

If you know that Oscar is in otherwise good health, the main issues to take a look at are his food intake and his level of exercise. Sometimes we overfeed our pets without meaning to – and it's hard because many times, we reward our pets with food. Start by keeping a food journal for Oscar for at least a few days to a week so you can really see everything he is eating. Include his regular meals plus any treats or people food he may be eating.

Whether you feed your dog kibble or homemade food, this is

an informative article with some general feeding guidelines: <http://www.petfinder.com/dogs/dog-nutrition/how-much-to-feed-your-dog/>

When you have a pet that needs to drop some weight, it's a good idea to first begin by eliminating any table scraps. Next, really take a look at how many treats you are giving per day. You can also switch from higher calorie treats to ones with less fat and calories. That way you are still able to reward them for good behavior, just in a healthier way! Some dogs even enjoy carrot slices or frozen green beans as treats and snacks. Try it. Oscar just might like it! As far as his regular food – if he is eating kibble or pre-packaged food, you can either cut back on the total amount and add in some healthy fillers, such as the carrots or green beans I already mentioned, or switch to a lower calorie food. There are a lot of options – there is no need for Oscar to feel hungry.

Next on the list is exercise. All dogs need some daily exercise and couch surfing doesn't count. First, check with your vet before making any changes to his exercise routine. When a pet is very overweight, you don't want to put extra stress on his joints by having him jump up to catch a Frisbee or engage in a strenuous fetch session. Start out by going for some nice long walks. Most dogs need about 30 minutes of activity per day – some require more, some less - depending on age, health condition, and breed. This can even be broken up into three 10 minute walks per day. If you have to be away during the day, perhaps it would be a good idea to have a dog walker or even a neighborhood high school student stop by to take Oscar for a nice mid-day walk.

Between the dietary changes and regular exercise, Oscar should be in great shape in no time!

**Have a question for Sam? Email it to [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org) and look for his answers in the next issue of our newsletter.**

## We're Not Just About Dogs!

We love dogs - we rescue dogs - we know a lot about dogs, but did you know that AFH has also rescued goats and donkeys? We were recently asked to help find a home for 17 goats and 2 donkeys and thanks to our friend Sharon S., these animals are now living happily at her farm!

We couldn't resist sharing just a few pictures with you!

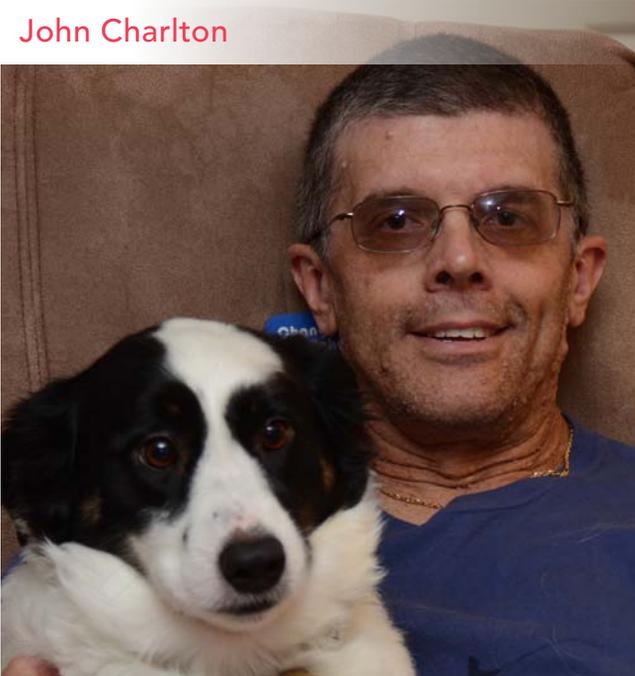


“Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.”

— Unknown

## Volunteer Spotlight

John Charlton

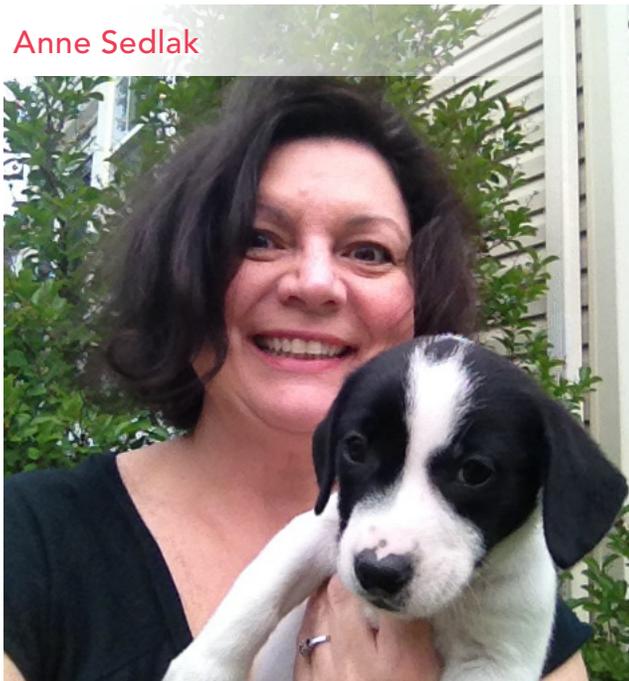


John first became involved with AFH in 2008 when he and his wife adopted Midge. They had recently lost their beloved dog and were looking for another puppy to love. When Midge’s foster mom brought Midge and three of her siblings to their house, Midge found the basket of toys that belonged to the dog they just lost. She climbed in the basket and sat down. They knew immediately that she was the one - they were hooked! Midge has shown them nothing but unconditional love. Who says that AFH dogs don’t know how to market themselves?

John says that’s what rescue is all about - along with saving lives and giving wonderful dogs a second chance.

Since John is unable to foster, he helps out with contract signings on Sundays at adoption fairs. He finds it very rewarding to be a part of the final step in the process of sending our rescues to their forever homes. He is also new to photography and has started to take some of the pictures you see on our website.

Anne Sedlak



Anne has been with us since 2012 when she fostered her first litter of six Australian Shepherd puppies. They barked all night, needed constant refills of food and water, and left a mess in her house but she fell in love with each and every one of them. We can always count on her to provide the highest quality of care to our puppies. When asked what rescue means to her, she responded as follows.

Everyone knows what rescue means, but it can be so much more than its base definition - it can change a life. Fostering has brought color into my world. Being able to have hands-on involvement in the care of these puppies has really made me feel like I’m doing something that gives back. For the first time I can take my love of animals and pour that passion into making sure every puppy I foster grows healthy and happy to be adopted to the right family. Puppies are innocent and give unconditional love freely, so when I have a rough day at work I know I can come home and have happy little faces excited to see me. I think everyone deserves to have that love, and these puppies deserve to have a chance to give it. There have been hard times

of course. Fostering has caused more sleepless nights than I would have ever thought, but when I see a healthy puppy capture the heart of their perfect family there is just no way I can stop what I am doing.

## Adopter's Corner

AFH recently received a very generous donation from Gina, one of our adopters, along with a nice note. Her donation was sent to help us with the Valentine dogs that we rescued from a puppy mill in North Carolina on Valentine's Day.

**Editor's Note:** Gina – thank you so much for the generous donation and the wonderful story. It looks like Nikki was paying it forward when she rescued Max! You rescued her and she rescued him!



Max and Nikki

It is hard to believe it has been 8 years since we adopted Nikki from you. We happened to be in Chantilly and were told about some white German Shepherd puppies up for adoption. While we were looking at them a little mixed Shepherd/Border Collie puppy was in a playpen begging for us to pick her up. Well, that did it. We couldn't put her down.

Two years ago I went outside with Nikki for her morning "business." She made a b-dive down to our beach on the river and came back howling and crying for me to follow her. Something was moving and covered in sand and mud. It turned out it was a Yorkie Poo that belonged to an un-caring neighbor (that is putting it nicely). We cleaned him up and fed him. He was less than 5 pounds. I made an offer his owner couldn't refuse and he became ours and the pride and joy of Nikki. They are inseparable. Max is now 15 pounds and quite a spunky little guy.

I have seen your story on the Valentine Rescue and the many adorable dogs you have once again saved from deplorable conditions. Over the years we have sent many friends to your adoptions and truly admire all you have done.

I hope in some way the enclosed check will help you in helping these adorable babies. I send you my love and the love of Nikki and Max.

Truly yours,  
Gina

## A Fond Farewell: Julie Kearns

Our good friend and volunteer Julie Kearns is leaving us. Her family is moving to Belgium in July because of her husband's job.

Julie has been with us for almost 7 years. We quickly realized Julie's potential and her dedication to animals, and put her in charge of screening and onboarding new foster homes, She was also doing adopter interviews, fostering dogs, and performing home checks.

Julie was also in charge of our puppy paloozas. These events consist of AFH volunteers taking puppies and dogs to local universities and colleges to interact with students during exam time. During such a busy time in their lives, hugging a dog who wants to snuggle and kiss you helps reduce stress. The students are overjoyed to take a break from their work to sit on the floor and play with our lovable dogs.

There are no words to describe how much Julie will be missed - and not just for her organizational skills and hard work. She is

truly a champion for the animals. We appreciate her ethics, her ability to get things done, her willingness to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done (even the grunt work!), her cheerful attitude, and her competent handling of any situation. She never complains and she produces the highest quality work.

**Editor's Note:** I have been to puppy paloozas and have seen how popular these events are. At one event, almost 1,000 students attended. It is no small feat to arrange these events and Julie makes it look easy. Some time ago Julie told me that she had no idea that she had some of the skills needed to perform all of the duties she took on until she actually had to use them, and that she was able to develop them through her association with AFH. I was lucky enough to be the person who took Julie on her first rescue road trip. It was our visit to Long Island after Superstorm Sandy. She performed like an old pro. All I can say is that we are so grateful to Julie, and her departure will leave a huge hole in our organization. Thank you Julie.

“If you want the best seat in the house, move the dog.”

— Unknown

## Social Media Volunteer

We are in need of a volunteer who is social media savvy. You will be responsible for updating/maintaining our official Facebook page, monitoring our open Facebook page to ensure that content entered by others is appropriate, and handling our Twitter account. At some point, it may also include helping with our Youtube channel. We expect that this will take 2-3 hours of time per week. If you are interested in helping, please email [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org).



Please note that AFH sends a receipt for all donations. We are putting a new system in place that will generate receipts in a timely manner. All receipts will be sent via email if we have your email address. If not, they will be sent via U.S. Mail. Our goal is to reduce costs and go green by generating less paper. If we have your email address and you do not receive a receipt, please be sure to check your spam folder.

## Meet Elliana

Elliana M is only 8 years old but she already knows how important it is to help homeless animals. She has been working very hard to gather donations for the dogs in AFH's care. She is also trying to prove to her parents that she is responsible enough to help care for a puppy. She has raised money for AFH by running a lemonade stand, and in lieu of presents for her birthday, she asked for donations for our animals!

We at AFH love to hear about great kids like Elliana. She is obviously being taught compassion toward animals by her parents. Kids like Elliana are the future of rescue groups like AFH. Hopefully, someday in the future, everyone will spay and neuter their pets to prevent overpopulation, but until that time, it's kids like Elliana who will take over our work someday.

Way to go Elliana! You rock!



## How you can help...

**AMAZON:** There is a new way to help AFH. Just visit <http://amzn.to/12FohPq>, select an item on our wish list, pay for it, and it will be shipped directly to us!

**RECURRING DONATIONS:** As mentioned previously, we have set a course to our end goal of having a forever home of our own. No one likes asking for money, but if we are to expand our operations to grow our business, we have to ask for your financial support. If you are reading this newsletter, you have already shown that you care about animals and have faith in our ability to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome them. We do not take your support lightly. We value your trust in us. We know that there are hundreds of charities that need help and we are grateful that you have chosen us, particularly in these tough economic times. We run our business ethically, honestly, and responsibly. As a 501(c)(3) charity, our tax returns are public information.

We are renewing our commitment to save more animals. We are willing to do our part to save them from shelters, transport them to us, take care of their medical needs, care for them, provide basic training, assess their needs/preferences, and place them into the perfect home - yours. Won't you please consider making a recurring monthly donation to help us? Having a set amount of donations coming in every month will help us tremendously. It will allow us to say yes to animals with special or extensive medical needs more easily and it will allow us to budget more effectively. Your donation of \$10, \$20, or even \$30 a month will allow us to save more lives.

Please consider going to <http://tinyurl.com/JustGive-AFH> and signing up for recurring donations. Your donations will be processed automatically, saving you the time and trouble of writing and mailing a check, digging out your credit card, or making a one-time donation on multiple occasions.

Remember that 100% of your donations go directly to the animals and donations are tax deductible. It's fast, it's easy, and most importantly, it will make a huge difference to the animals whose lives we can save.

**MACYS:** We are very happy to be participating in Macy's Shop for a Cause fundraiser again this year. For a \$5 donation, you can shop all day at Macy's (in-store or online) and save 10% - 25% on your purchases! Even better, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's shopping spree!! This event is inexpensive and fun, and best of all, your entire \$5 donation benefits AFH! With over 8,500 people receiving our newsletter and thousands of potential Facebook supporters, this could raise a significant amount of money for us. Please visit <http://www.aforeverhome.org/macys-shop-for-a-cause/> to purchase your savings coupon and be sure to spread the word to friends, family, and co-workers via voice, email, and/or social media. After you make your \$5 donation you will be taken to a page where you can print your savings coupon. We also have hard-copy coupons that we can mail to you if you prefer to pay by check. Please email us at [info@aforeverhome.org](mailto:info@aforeverhome.org) with any questions and let's get shopping! Over the past eight years, Macy's annual Shop For A Cause has raised more than \$46 million for charity!! This is just another example of how many people making a small donation can make a huge difference.

You may also stop by any of our adoption events to purchase a coupon.

### DONATE

#### ★ DONATE ITEMS ON OUR AMAZON WISHLIST

DONATE A PORTION OF YOUR EBAY SALES  
SEARCH & SHOP WITH GOODSEARCH.COM

SHOP USING IGIVE.COM

RECYCLE TONER CARTRIDGES

ESTATE PLANNING

DONATE CLEAN USED TOWELS

VOLUNTEER – FOSTER

VOLUNTEER – ADOPTION FAIR HELPERS

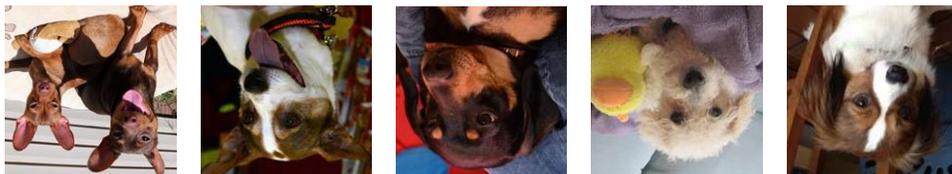
VOLUNTEER – ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

VOLUNTEER – DO HOME VISITS

VOLUNTEER – FUNDRAISING

DONATE YOUR USED CAR

Remember that you can receive your AFH newsletter electronically if you prefer. Please email us at [info@foreverhome.org](mailto:info@foreverhome.org) to switch to an e-newsletter.



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# Forever Tails

June 2013

*Finding Forever Homes  
For Dogs In Need*

A Forever Home  
RESCUE FOUNDATION

