

TAIL WAGGIN' TIMES

Monthly Newsletter for NHA Fosters



🎆🐾 Celebrate Safely on July 4! 🐾🎆

While the Fourth of July may be a fun time for family and friends, many animals find the holiday scary and stressful due to fireworks and other loud, celebratory sounds. In the days leading up to the holiday, many fosters worry about how their dogs and cats will handle the noise, flashing lights, and social gatherings. In fact, more pets run away around July 4 than any other time of year.

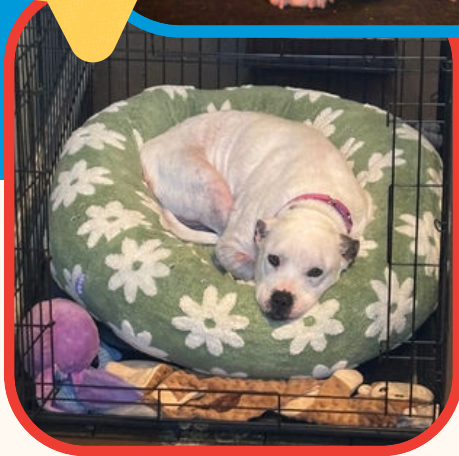
Fireworks pose numerous risks to dogs and cats. The loud booms and flashing lights are overwhelming for animals, and they may shake, hide, pace, bark, or try to escape. Others may panic and injure themselves or react aggressively out of fear. Some curious pets may chew on or ingest fireworks, which may cause vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and, in severe cases, bloody stools or dehydration due to the chemicals. Used fireworks can still contain hazardous chemicals, so be sure to thoroughly clean up all debris before allowing pets back into the area.

To keep your animals safe during Fourth of July celebrations, create a secure, quiet indoor space away from windows and doors where they will feel calm and protected. Use familiar bedding, toys, and hiding spots, and use white noise, a fan, or soft music to mask loud sounds. Keep all dogs and cats indoors for the entire evening,

Joan!!



Lola!!



While it may be tempting to share a few bites from your Fourth of July cookout, it's best to keep your foster animals on their normal diet. Even a single meal of unfamiliar food can cause stomach upset, indigestion, vomiting, or diarrhea. This is especially important for senior pets and animals with sensitive digestive systems. Foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes, raisins, excessive salt, and raw yeast dough can be toxic and may require emergency vet care. Cooked bones are another common hazard, as they can splinter and cause serious injuries.

It's also important to watch risky outdoor items. Citronella candles, insect coils, and tiki torch oils should always be kept out of reach of animals. If ingested, these items may cause stomach irritation, including vomiting, drooling, and discomfort. In more severe cases, exposure may lead to central nervous system depression, resulting in symptoms such as lethargy, weakness, or disorientation.

The good news? A little planning can go a long way. Make sure your foster animals have a comfortable place indoors during fireworks, keep them away from grills and party foods, and ensure all dogs are wearing their collars and tags. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Madeline!!



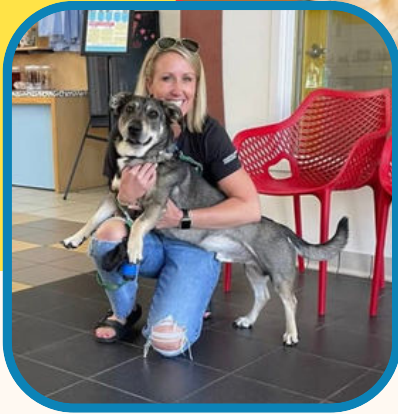
Fiona!!



Foster Wins, Love Begins: Fospice Graduates!



FOSTER
FEATURE
Poe!!



🐾❤️ Poe: From Fospice to Furever ❤️🐾

When Poe arrived at NHA in June 2022 as a young puppy, it was clear that his journey would be challenging. A heart murmur led to further testing, and an echocardiogram revealed congenital heart defects. We enrolled Poe in our Fospice program, focusing on providing a high quality of life rather than aggressive interventions. The goal of Fospice is to maximize comfort, care, and happiness for animals living with serious medical conditions, allowing them to enjoy life to the fullest in foster homes while receiving ongoing medical support.

Carley C. stepped forward to become Poe's foster, and he quickly settled into home life. NHA monitored his condition with regular bloodwork, echocardiograms, and monthly checkups to track changes and adjust his care plan as needed. About 7 months after his initial diagnosis, Poe showed no significant symptoms.

Poe focused on being happy. Carley C., stated "He is doing so great. He loves spring weather and playing outside and eating sticks... that he sneaks into the house! He's my little shadow pup."

Poe thrived, filling his days with companionship and love.

As the months turned into years, Poe continued to defy expectations. Carley C. fell in love with the resilient dog, and she made him a permanent member of her family. Poe's story is a beautiful reminder that even when the future is uncertain, love, dedication, and compassionate care make every day count. ❤️

🐾❤️ From Uncertain future to Love ❤️🐾 Celebrating Panthea's Happy New Beginning

When Panthea first came to us, her future was uncertain. She arrived with significant dental disease, a heart murmur, and suspected GI lymphoma, making her a candidate for our Fospice program, which provides loving foster homes for animals needing special medical care. Knowing she would thrive in a home environment, we reached out to Michael J., a dedicated foster who had previously cared for medically complex cats. As Panthea received treatment and monitoring, she surprised us all by remaining consistently stable. Once Panthea was deemed medically sound, Michael and the vet team decided to take the next step and talk about her pathway to adoption! What began as a long term foster placement soon turned into something more, and we're thrilled to share that Michael J. officially adopted Panthea! Her journey is a wonderful reminder that sometimes the most uncertain cases can have the happiest endings.



FOSTER
FEATURE
Panthea!!





PAWPARAZZI PICS

From the Month of May



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Want your foster photo featured? Email us at foster@nashvillehumane.org with photos or send them to our foster phone number mentioned in your guide.



TAIL WAGGIN' TIMES



Summer Heat Safety for Cats and Dogs



As temperatures climb, protecting pets from extreme heat isn't just important - it's lifesaving. Cats and dogs can overheat quickly, and what starts as a warm day can turn into dehydration, heat exhaustion, or even heatstroke in minutes.

Hot Weather Safety Tips

- Keep fresh, clean water available at all times and refill bowls frequently to help pets stay hydrated.
- Limit outdoor activities to early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.
- Never leave pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes. Temperatures inside a car can rise to dangerous levels in less than 10 minutes, even when the weather feels mild or the windows are cracked.
- Before walks, check pavement temperatures to prevent burns on sensitive paw pads. Asphalt and concrete can become dangerously hot even when the air feels manageable.
- Provide shade and cool indoor spaces during the hottest parts of the day so pets can rest and regulate their body temperature.
- Avoid strenuous exercise when temperatures are high.



Signs of Heatstroke

- Excessive panting
- Drooling
- Weakness or lethargy
- Vomiting
- Bright red gums
- Staggering or collapse



If your pet shows signs of heatstroke, move them to a cool area, offer water, and contact your vet immediately.

Enjoy a Safe Summer

Simple steps like providing plenty of water, limiting heat exposure, and monitoring for signs of overheating can help keep your pets healthy and comfortable all summer long. Remember - if it's hot for you, it's even hotter for your furry friends!

