

ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Winter 2019

Nadine finds the perfect home

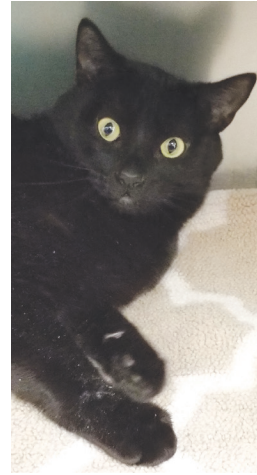
"She's the perfect addition to our family. She's particularly great with our kids," Molly M. says about Nadine, now Bailee, the one-year-old Lab-mix she recently adopted from MCHS.

When Molly and her family arrived at MCHS just before the New Year, they were looking for a full-spectrum dog, one that enjoys long walks and lots of activity, but also one that could relax and cuddle, too. When they met Bailee, it was clear she fit the bill.



"When we met her in the greeting room, she wove her way between my legs, and then leaned her whole body weight against me. She chose us as much as we chose her," says Molly.

When Bailee isn't learning to tolerate baths or going for long walks, she can be found sleeping on the lap of one of her new family members. Sweet dreams, Bailee!



Shadow seeks cat-savvy adopter

When Shadow was first adopted out by MCHS, he was a three-month-old kitten. Sadly, his owner

couldn't keep him, but we gladly took him back, since your support enables us to make a lifetime commitment to all our animals.

"Shadow will be a wonderful pet for a cat savvy person," says MCHS President Cris Bombaugh.

When he first arrived, he was suffering from a respiratory infection, and he spent time recovering in Cris' office. While he was there, Cris and Shadow got acquainted. "He's a very sweet boy and a great lap cat, but he'll need someone who understands cats," she says.

Shadow wants to be an only pet, since he doesn't get along with cats or dogs. He's on a special diet because of skin allergies, and is looking for a quiet home with no young children. If you're cat savvy and want a handsome, new companion, check our website at mchumane.org, then come in to meet him!

Your gift always matters

Our work is 100% funded by private donations, and your gift is **guaranteed** to change the life of a homeless animal. Please give today.

Visit mchumane.org or use the enclosed envelope.



Dear Friends,

We recently reached out to a first-time donor to thank him for the generous gift he made in honor of his brother and sister-in-law. He shared with us that despite their politics (he and his brother are on opposite ends of the political spectrum), they share a deep love of dogs. He made the honorary gift to celebrate what they shared -- their strong commitment to pets and animal welfare.



Living in the Washington, D. C. area, it's easy to get caught up in the partisan rancor of the current political moment (as I write this, we're in the midst of a government shutdown). But animals don't care about these things. They just want to be loved, like these brothers love and respect each other.

It's one of the most wonderful things about working on behalf of animals. Their love is unconditional, and their bonds with us are unbreakable. They are relationships rooted in love, family, and a desire to be there for others when they need us.

The human-animal bond is so special that the states of Illinois, Alaska and California have elevated the legal imperative regarding pet custody when families are facing divorce. The bond is real, compelling, and life-long, and MCHS is dedicated to supporting and promoting this bond with every program we offer and every pet we rescue and adopt into a new home.

This year, I encourage us all to look past whatever differences we may have, and celebrate the wonderful, life-saving priorities we all share -- our love of pets and our desire to help them.

Best wishes for a safe, prosperous and wonderful New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cris'.

Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

Meet the staff

Rachel Rosen

Marketing and events manager Rachel Rosen first learned about MCHS when she moved to Montgomery County after graduating from the University of Maryland, and has been following our work ever since. A passionate proponent of animal rescue, the Ohio native would regularly donate linens, toys and other supplies for the animals. When she was offered the chance to join the MCHS team, she gladly accepted, and joined the team in November.



"I love helping homeless animals find new homes, and watching them leave with their forever families," she says. She particularly enjoys posting our adopter's updates on our Facebook page. Rachel is also excited about planning our upcoming Paws in the Park Dog Walk and Festival, which will be held on Sunday, April 28 in Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.

When she's not at MCHS, Rachel can be found volunteering with Friends of the National Zoo, or spending time with Nessie, her 10-year-old Akita mix.

A missing tail doesn't slow him down

When Newton, a four-month-old kitten, arrived at MCHS, he was missing most of his tail. We believe kids had tied a rope around it, and it had to be amputated. Though some unique animals require extra time to find new homes, Newton was adopted in less than a week.



"We call him the doglet," Newton's new owner Elizabeth K. says, "because he has to be in the middle of everything. On the way to my mother's house for Christmas, he slept calmly in the car, and when we got there he just walked in and took over!"

Newton is particularly close to Elizabeth's 16-year-old son Dylan, who was the first to meet him. "We'd intended to get a female cat, but they bonded within a millisecond of meeting."

Newton loves having his belly rubbed, and can often be found sunning himself on one of his many perches throughout the house. But his favorite hobby is prowling around the family's basement for stray bugs. "It's a win-win!"

Hurricane Florence refugee finally gets her new home

When Hurricane Florence struck the Carolinas in September, your support enabled MCHS to respond, and we took in ten dogs from the region. Most of them went home as soon as they were available, but Princess, a two-year-old Rhodesian ridgeback mix, needed some extra time.

“My wife, Katherine, regularly visits the MCHS website,” adopter John H. says. “She noticed that it was taking Princess a long time to find a home.” The family decided to adopt her last month.

Princess has just finished her first obedience class, and passed with flying colors. She particularly enjoyed learning her new name, “Jess”, because she gets treats every time she comes when called. “She’s started anticipating it, so she walks away [in expectation of being called back and rewarded].” Smart girl!

John also reports that Jess recently buried her first bone. “I’ve never had a dog do that before,” he says. “She began by hiding it in the spare bedroom. After pacing nervously for a while, she took the bone to the back yard and buried it beneath a pile of dirt and leaves. Two hours later, she retrieved it and was seen happily gnawing it.”

When Jess isn’t gnawing on bones, or responding to her new name, she can be found running in her yard, as long as the grass isn’t wet. “It’s really funny to see her prancing around trying to keep her feet dry,” John says. In that sense, he says, Princess was a good name.



photo by Maria Mendez

Monthly gifts sustain the work of MCHS

Recurring gifts are especially important to MCHS, as we can better anticipate our funding each month. This, in turn, makes it easier to manage the care of our animals.

Simply visit www.mchumane.org/support/donate-funds/donate/ and click the “donate” button. Be sure to select the “make this a monthly donation” box after you enter the gift amount.



#ShowLove Fest

When: Sunday, Feb. 10, 6-9 p.m.

Where: The Arts Barn, Gaithersburg

You are invited to help homeless humans and animals during an inspiring evening of compassion hosted by five-year-old activist Austin Perine (shown above). Austin has been featured on CNN, “Access” and Steve Harvey.

The Festival features a screening of Austin’s favorite internet animal videos, a canine kissing booth, and visits by therapy dogs. A special Valentine and pet gift sale of items by local artists begins at 6 p.m.

A portion of all sales and ticket proceeds will benefit MCHS!

World of Beer Charity Raffle

Thursday, Feb. 21, 4:30-8 p.m.
World of Beer in Rockville, MD
196-B E. Montgomery Avenue

Enjoy Black Flag’s “tap take-over” and hang out with MCHS friends and fellow animal lovers. **Get your raffle tickets now** at the World of Beer locations in Bethesda and Rockville.

The lucky raffle winner will work with Black Flag’s brewing staff to create and name his or her original beer, and then actually brew it at the Black Flag Brewing Company!

Raffle drawing held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 21 at World of Beer in Rockville. **100% of the raffle ticket sales benefit MCHS!**



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**HUMANE
SOCIETY**

Let's be humane together®

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photo by Maria Mendez

Blu has transformed a local family

“He’s totally changed everyone’s life for the better,” says Berlin B. about her new dog, Blu (formerly Brute), a six-month-old Pomeranian mix she adopted in November. Berlin wanted a companion for her 14-year-old son, Charles. Charles and Blu are now inseparable, and she follows him around everywhere. Blu also loves the family’s fox terrier, Cathy, who will bring Blu back in after his potty break in the yard, if he’s slow returning to the house.

You sent Gigi home for the holidays

Gigi, a four-year-old brown tabby, was rescued along with several other cats and dogs from an overcrowded public shelter last May. Then, she waited. Though this affectionate, confident cat would instantly curl up in anyone’s lap, she went for months without being adopted. Fortunately, she had friends like you, our donors, whose financial support made sure we could give her everything she needed to stay happy, healthy and ready to go home when her new family arrived.

“I love talking about Gigi,” Jasmine S. says when asked about the cat she adopted in December. “We’re a military family and we moved around a lot, so we’d never had a pet. But now that my husband is retiring from the Marines, we knew the time was right.”

Her teenage son, Charles wanted a cat, and the moment he met Gigi he said, “Mom, she’s the one!” Gigi agrees. When Jasmine’s husband (who is currently stationed in California) came home for Christmas, “Gigi climbed right into his lap. Now this big Marine is totally in love,” she says.

Gigi is particularly energetic in the morning, and enjoys chasing real or imagined prey through the house. And like most cats, “She takes the best naps,” Jasmine says. “I really could learn something from her.”



photo by Maria Mendez

Save the date!

**Sunday,
April 28**

12-4 pm

**Bohrer Park
Gaithersburg, MD**

- 1-mile dog walk
- Agility competition
- Contests, prizes
- Music
- Food, vendors
- Kids’ activities



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