

# ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

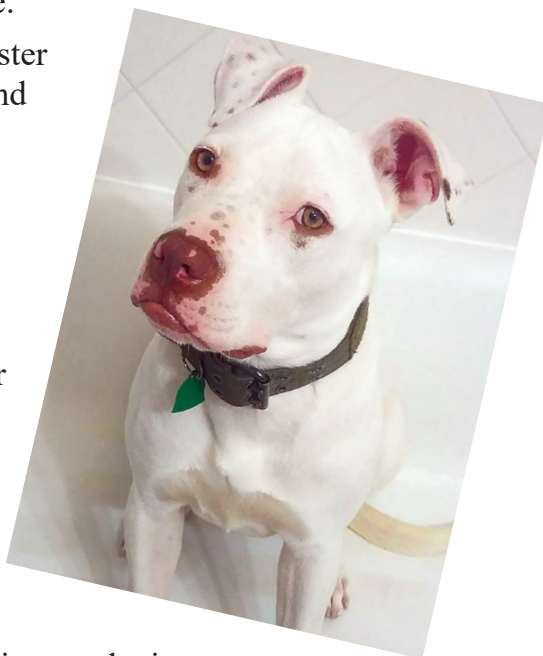
Winter 2020

## A miracle puppy loves her new home

“She’s marvelous...more so than we ever expected,” Jason P. says about Miracle, now ‘Maggie,’ the six-month-old pit bull puppy he adopted in September. A few weeks before, one of our partner shelters had found her abandoned on the side of the road with an injured paw and covered in fleas. Our partner treated the paw and the fleas, MCHS treated her for a related skin infection, and then found her new home.

“We were looking for a sister for our boxer puppy, Bella, and when we introduced them at MCHS, they got along great, and were very playful with each other.” Jason says that Maggie (short for Magnolia) and Bella love to cuddle, as well as rough-house, but their favorite game involves a stick. “There’s a stick that they love. They’ll grab it, and then sprint around the back yard together with it in both of their mouths.”

When Maggie’s not cuddling or playing, she enjoys spinning around the room for no apparent reason, playing in mud puddles, taking baths (really!) and sunning herself while lying on the back of the couch as if she were a cat! Jason says that he tells her “dogs aren’t supposed to do that,” but like cats everywhere, she ignores him and keeps on sunning.



## Jasmine made a new cat lover

“I’ve never been a cat person, but Jasmine has made me one,” says Anna W. about the two-year-old cat she adopted from MCHS in November. “When I met Jasmine, we fell in love. I feel like I’ve found my best friend.”

When Anna comes home from work, Jasmine rushes to greet her at the door and follow her around the house. “She’s like my little shadow. She sits on the counter and watches me cook, and then cuddles on the couch with me while we watch TV.”

Jasmine has a big personality, and seems she hasn’t met a person she doesn’t like. She’s also very talkative, says Anna, and is quick to let you know exactly what she wants. “She’s kind of spoiled, so she usually gets it.”



## 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](http://mchumane.org) or use the enclosed envelope.



## Starting the year with a miracle

Dear friends,

This holiday season, I asked you and all our supporters to make miracles happen with a year-end gift to MCHS. Your response was fabulous! I'm always humbled by your generosity, especially because I witness the miracles every day.

The miracle dearest to me this season is Penny's story. When she arrived at MCHS in October, she tested positive for feline leukemia, a contagious disease that meant she must be kept away from other cats. It also meant that her adoption would be more challenging. Penny kept me company for four months while she waited for her family (read her story in this issue), and as I write this, I'm missing her chattering and her warmth on my lap. That's because Penny was adopted yesterday. She has a wonderful new family with no other cats, that wanted to help an animal who especially needed them.

That's the kind of miracle you're making happen every day. Penny's adoption was a great way for me to start the new year, and to be reminded that together we'll keep making miracles all year long.

Thank you so much, and Happy New Year!



Cris Bombaugh  
President and CEO



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## Meet the staff: Kathy Dillon

Volunteer manager Kathy Dillon's first introduction to MCHS was back in the early 1990s, when she adopted her cat, Cruise. A few years later, she began volunteering every Saturday in the cat rooms, caring for the cats and helping with adoptions.



Kathy's love of animals led her to a second career with several veterinary hospitals (after 25 years with the American Federation of Teachers), and by 2007, she had joined MCHS. Kathy has filled several roles here, first as assistant to the CEO, then helping with animal medical issues, then as shelter manager, and then as special events manager. "Now I'm excited to be working with the volunteers – it's what I always wanted to do here," she says. She also assists with research and grant writing.

Kathy lives in Silver Spring with her four cats, Tom Tom, Timmy, Samantha and Jake. To learn about volunteering at MCHS, visit [www.mchumane.org/volunteer](http://www.mchumane.org/volunteer).



## From homeless to therapist

"I really feel Nowlin and Murphy were guiding me to him," adopter Cheryl W. says. Nowlin and Murphy were her two dearly departed dogs who she believes led her to Dasher, the two-year-old Cockapoo she adopted from MCHS in December. "I've known about

MCHS for a long time – that's where I got Murphy. I decided to adopt from [MCHS] again because of the excellent care you provide for all your animals."

Many public shelters lack the funds to test dogs for common illnesses. But thanks to you, every MCHS dog is given a four-way test to detect Heartworm and Lyme Disease, Ehrlichia and Anaplasia. The tests identify which animals we can help, start treatments right away, and alert the shelters to health issues in their facilities. Dasher – now named Teddy – had Anaplasia, which we treated with antibiotics.

Cheryl says Teddy's doing great, and now is working on certification to become a therapy dog at Children's National Hospital. "He's really smart. He loves to learn, and he's going to be great at [therapy]," she says. "For instance, we went to visit my 94-year-old mother-in-law. As soon as Teddy met her, he climbed into her lap and went to sleep. She absolutely loved it!"

## You'll find it here!

Amazing thrift store supports MCHS's work for animals



Walk in the front door of MCHS's **Wagging Tails Thrifts & Gifts**, and you think you're in a small, vintage furniture store. But keep walking, and it opens into a much larger space filled with amazing finds, from vinyl records to toys and games, rows and rows of clothing, small appliances and electronics, pet supplies, framed posters and a lot more. "It's huge!" new customers say on their first visit. Actually, the store occupies nearly 12,000 square feet, and its entire inventory is donated.

"This thrift store makes a huge difference for homeless animals – the revenue is a mainstay of our operations, and all proceeds fund our life-saving programs" says MCHS president Cris Bombaugh. "It's also great because you can find really cool stuff, and the inventory changes every day!"

Younger shoppers love it for vintage clothing and furniture, vinyl records and great prices. Others love the books and the huge collection of glassware. Collectors can find mint-condition dolls, unusual decorator items or even the original release of George Harrison's triple-album solo debut, *All Things Must Pass*.

Wagging Tails manager Joy Dixon is thrilled that younger customers have discovered the store. "A lot of brides shop for glassware and china for their reception, instead of renting it from a caterer. It's less expensive, and it's prettier!" she says. "They also love the great deals on furniture."

Donations are the heart of what makes Wagging Tails successful. WT accepts donations at the rear loading dock every day but Monday, and offers free pick-ups of large furniture twice a month. To reserve a pick-up time, call the store at (301) 279-0345.

The store is located at 1310 E. Gude Drive, Rockville.

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5.

**Donation drop-off hours:** Tues-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-4; Sun 11-4.

For a complete list of items we can accept, please visit

<https://www.mchumane.org/wagging-tails-2/>

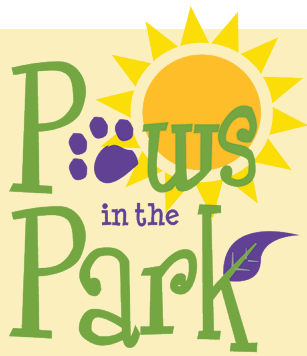
## Gigi needs a new home. Again.

Gigi was first rescued by MCHS as a kitten in 2016. When she was returned in June 2018, she was overweight, and had developed health problems that required surgery. She was adopted again in November 2018, but Gigi was having difficulty breathing, and her owner couldn't afford her care.

Thanks to your support, we got the breathing issue resolved, and she's once again healthy and ready for a new home.

Gigi's a lap cat who loves people and enjoys head- and chin-scratches and her window perch, where she keeps track of everyone who comes and goes. She'll thrive in a quiet, cat-savvy home, with a family that will commit to her diet. If Gigi seems like your next cat, come in and meet her! She'll be watching from her window.





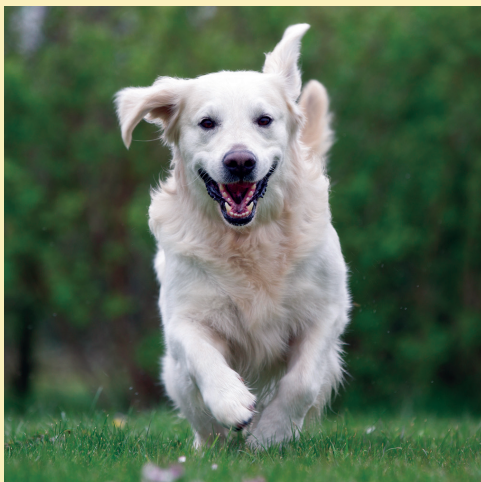
Dog Walk & Fest

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, April 26**  
**12-4 pm**

**Bohrer Park**  
**Gaithersburg, MD**

- 1-mile dog walk
- Agility competition
- Contests • Prizes
- Music • Fun zone
- Food • Vendors
- Kids' activities



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## Office companion has found a home

Your support provides special care for animals who need extra help. This is how you helped Penny, a three-year-old Bengal who arrived at MCHS in October testing positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV). Though she has no signs of illness, Penny's status means that she must be kept separate from other cats. And because Penny craved companionship from the start, it was clear she would do best as the office mate of MCHS president, Cris Bombaugh.

After just a couple of days of adjustment, Penny took over. The staff chuckled to see her tucked behind Cris in her office chair, or chattering at the window to anyone who would listen.

"She's a really smart kitty, and it took some effort to keep her entertained all day,"

says Cris. "I tried You Tube videos of birds for

a while, but when she figured out that the birds weren't real, she ignored them. I switched to fish videos, but I was running out of options to feed her curiosity. Nonetheless, she was a great office mate – respectful of my desk, and always thrilled to see me, even if I had just left to make a copy!"



Penny watches birds on Cris' computer

Just after the New Year, David L. visited MCHS wanting to meet Penny. A lifelong cat lover, he knew how to approach her and quickly create a bond. The same afternoon, he brought the rest of his family to finalize her adoption.

"Penny is a really pretty cat, is very sociable and loves people, but my family wanted to make a difference in an animal's life. We knew that her Leukemia might be a barrier to her adoption, but we thought, 'why should that prevent her from having a good home?', so we decided to [adopt her]." The next day, David told us that "She's still a little shy, but she's already started 'meowing' to me." Cris says that's Penny's way of saying all is well. We're so happy for her.

**Save 10% at**  
**Wagging Tails**  
**our amazing thrift store!**

**Wagging Tails Thrifts and Gifts**

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**10% off** your entire purchase (excluding furniture). Coupon may not be combined with any other sale or offer. No item below \$1.00. **Coupon expires Feb. 29, 2020**