

ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Winter 2021

Our clinic helps hundreds

“Do you guys spay pit bulls?” a frantic caller asked, and sighed with relief when she learned that the MCHS clinic could help. “Great!” she said, explaining that her husband was the only family member who worked, and the cost of spaying their dog, Star, was out of their reach. Until she found MCHS.

“This is the third time Star’s been in heat – we have to keep her isolated from the family ... and we hate that. She should have the run of the whole house!” her owner said. Star’s extended family also includes an unaltered male dog, so, “We have to monitor them together – there are too many puppies who need homes!” It was clear they needed our help.

MCHS operates the first and only low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Montgomery County. Since reopening in November after a closure due to COVID-19, MCHS has helped more than 250 cats and dogs, and expects to help another 1,000 or more pets in 2021.

Compared to clinics elsewhere in the region, MCHS wait times are short. To request an appointment, please visit <https://www.mchumane.org/spay-neuter-clinic/>. And, please spread the word – we’re here to help today!



Helping to keep pets at home

In the wake of further economic turmoil, MCHS has stepped up distribution of pet food to those in need. Beginning with food distribution events across the County in June 2020, our pantry now holds events twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.) at our rescue in Rockville.

We have seen an increase in visitors to the pantry in recent weeks, and are proud to be helping hundreds of pets and pet owners who need our help. And, we are grateful to donors of both pet food and financial resources for making this important community support possible.



The MCHS Clinic’s re-opening is off to a great start!

Here’s how we’ve helped the community’s pets and pet owners since our re-opening Nov. 6, 2020. (Numbers are through Jan. 20, 2021.)

104	Dog spays/neuters	102	Patient vaccinations
146	Cat spays/neuters	51	Patient microchips*

*MCHS also provides microchips without a clinic appointment. Call 240-252-2555 for more information. Plus, watch for information on vaccination clinics, coming in 2021!



YOUR GIFT MATTERS EVERY DAY

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](https://www.mchumane.org) or use the enclosed envelope.

It's 2021!

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you and yours healthy and safe. To say

that 2020 was a challenge is such an understatement – thousands in our community lost their health, their jobs, and, sadly, many lost their lives. Many have paid a terrible price during the pandemic and its aftermath. Pets have paid a price, too.

If there's one thing I've taken away from it all, though, it's this:

Thank goodness for you.

Really. You've been there for us, and as a result, we've been here for pets and pet owners. With your donations of food for our pantry, or cash to support our rescue and animal care efforts, or funds for our low-cost spay/neuter clinic, we've been able to carry out our work even during these difficult times.

We're making a real difference, together.

Kiwi and Cowcat are two of the pets we helped when their owner lost her job due to COVID-19 and she couldn't afford pet food. She agonized at the thought of giving them up, but then she found our pet food pantry. And, more than 250 cats and dogs have been spayed and neutered during this crisis because folks in need can get affordable rates on a procedure they need now.

During such a tough time for our community, I can't say enough about how grateful we are for your support.

Thank you again, and Happy 2021!

Cris Bombaugh, President and CEO

**Let's be humane
together®**



Sebastian finds his home and a new best friend

"We renamed him Sebastian," laughs adopter Tonya M., when asked about "Cat Damon," the seven-month-old tabby she adopted in October to be a companion to her calico, Luna. "We're all at home, but while I'm working in my office and my kids are distance learning, she needed someone else to play with, too."

Before adopting Sebastian, Tonya researched how to introduce a new cat: first by keeping them in separate rooms, allowing them to become accustomed to each other's scents, and then to see each other, and finally by letting them meet.



After a few small hisses from Luna ("it was her domain!"), the two have bonded. "They sleep together, play together. I often hear them wrestling and chasing each other around," Tonya says.

"Sebastian loves to cuddle. He likes to crawl on [me], and then roll over on his back and sprawl out. It's great to see how comfortable he is here." Sebastian also enjoys chasing his tail and the many toys he and Luna share. "He'll pretty much play with anything, but his favorite is a ball ... he's adorable!"

Cupid gives comfort to a family in pain

"I saw a photo of her on your website, and I fell in love," adopter Nick O. says when asked about Cupid, the Border Collie mix he rescued in November.

"I saved her life, and she's saved mine," Nick says. He and his father were looking for a dog to help provide comfort and companionship as they dealt with his mother's illness. It seems that Cupid was just what the doctor ordered. She and Nick are now practically inseparable. "She follows me around everywhere."

Cupid loves belly rubs, her Kong chew toy and her bacon bone, but she and the vacuum cleaner are not yet on speaking terms. She also enjoys chasing helicopters as they fly over her yard.

Now, Nick can't imagine life without her. "As soon as I signed the [adoption] papers, I started to cry. Everyone should have a dog," he says. And, of course, every dog should have a home! Thanks to you, Cupid found hers.



Wonder finds his family

Adopter Kim T. was looking for a companion for her six-year-old shepherd, Dutchess. She saw a video of “Wonder” on the MCHS Facebook page as he ran up to the camera to say hello, and she thought, “How could I *not* pick him? I love bigger dogs, and I was intrigued by his size.”

Kim, Dutchess, and Kim’s father met Wonder at MCHS after she applied for him online in August. “It felt like fate – the application process was easy, and the meet-and-greet with Dutchess was flawless. [Wonder] picked us, too! He was warm and inviting, and felt like part of the family,” Kim says.

Dutchess had been lonely since Duke, the family’s other shepherd mix, had passed away 18 months earlier. Now, Dutchess and Wonder (now named “King”) are inseparable playmates. “It really warms my heart,” Kim says. “King has such a fun personality. He LOVES belly rubs ... and when we’re outside, he has learned that the neighborhood kids will rub his belly. He immediately runs up to them and flops over on his back, with his tail wagging.” King also enjoys running alongside Kim’s bicycle and shredding his stuffed toys. “I couldn’t be any happier or blessed to have King,” Kim says.



Create your own legacy for animals in need

You love animals and want to help them. Now, you can make an even bigger difference with a legacy gift through your will or trust. You’ll ensure that precious resources will be available to help vulnerable cats and dogs, and you’ll advance important humane work for years to come.

It’s easy. To learn more, contact James Nolan, MCHS development director at 240-616-1973 or jnolan@mchumane.org.

You may also visit mchumane.org/donate/legacy-gifts.

If MCHS is already in your will, thank you! Please notify us of your plans so we can recognize you as a Legacy Society member.



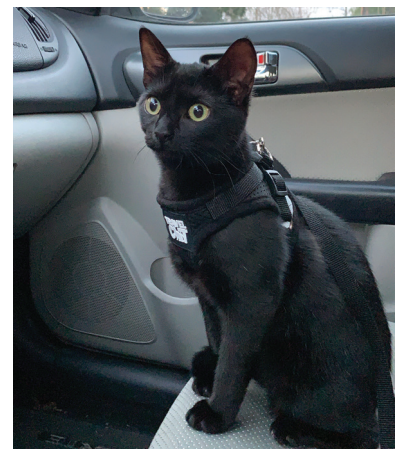
Olive rides into her family’s heart

Taylor H. was still grieving the loss of Billy, her cat of 18 years, (“I’d had him since I was in first grade,” she says), when she saw a four-month old kitten on the MCHS website. “I was looking for a little black cat, because I know that [they] have a harder time finding homes. When I saw her, I knew she was the one for me.”

Unlike many cats, this kitten, now named Olive, LOVES going for car rides. She has a cat backpack and a harness, and since they live on the shore of the Chesapeake, Olive “really likes going for walks, especially on the beach.”

Olive “love, love, loves” playing with her new cat sister, Maizie. When they’ve tired themselves out, “Olive sleeps for hours on my stomach, while Maizie curls up on my shoulder,” she says.

Taylor also says us that Olive “is very mischievous ... she likes [to climb] on the counter, ... stand on the backs of chairs, and ... walk on the wainscoting.” Recently, Olive’s mischief met with Taylor’s love of knitting. “She was running around and tried to sprint through a yarn sleeve, and it got stuck around her. Olive didn’t know how it happened, and I didn’t either.”





Who says kittens sleep?

“He does not leave my side,” Liz S. says about “Brad Kitt,” now named “Poe,” the 10-month-old tabby she adopted right before Halloween. Liz’s adult children had been urging her to adopt a cat since she lost her elderly cat, Tommy, at 23. “Poe gets into everything!” She tells us “He loves chasing springs and balls around the house. He likes sitting in the crow’s nest of his cat tree ... he runs around all the time. I thought kittens were supposed to sleep!”

Our thrift store helps the animals, too!

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Stella’s still growing, but her home fits her just fine

“Stella’s the name of my husband, Michael’s favorite beer,” adopter Kathia E. laughs when she told us about her dog’s new name, “but it fits her perfectly!” Stella, formerly “Tomato,” is a Presa Canario pup who is now six months old, but was a big puppy even back in November, when Kathia and Michael adopted her after an extensive search.

“I’ve always been a fan of big, Mastiff-type dogs,” Kathia says, and when she saw Stella on the website, “her eyes got to me.” After her online application was approved, Kathia, Michael and their Doberman Pinscher, Ace, arrived at MCHS to meet Stella.

“Ace and Stella got along great. They immediately began playing with each other,” Kathia says, adding “the staff was super professional, the place was really clean,” and compared to other organizations she had worked with, “everything was super easy.”

Stella plays with Ace all the time, and loves playing ‘tug of war’ with her humans. “So, we have a good amount of rope [around the house].” She currently weighs 70 lbs. and is still growing. Kathia says she is both clumsy and lazy – “When she wants to get off the couch, she slides off [rather than jumps]!”



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