

# ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Winter 2022

## Ellie's home, and loving it!

When Ellie, a young boxer mix, arrived from a partner shelter in June 2020, we expected this sweet girl to be quickly adopted. We were right – within a month, Ellie was in a new home. But sadly, circumstances forced her adopters to return her only two weeks later.

After her return, Ellie began acting anxious and fearful around would-be adopters. We worked hard to help her with her fear, but progress was slow. A generous donor sponsored her adoption fee, but still, months went by. Then, Andrew of “Good K-9 Academy” spotted Ellie on Facebook and offered to help. Good K-9 Academy specializes in helping dogs overcome fear, and Andrew agreed to foster and work with her.

Stephen R. and his family (clients of Andrew’s) were looking for a companion for their young Staffordshire terrier, Madi, who had been trained by Good K-9 Academy. “Andrew ... thought Ellie would be perfect for [Madi]”, Steven says. When they met her, they “fell in love in five minutes.” Just before the holidays, Ellie went home!

“Ellie loves being chased by Madi” Stephen says, adding that Madi is teaching Ellie to “be a dog again.” Ellie loves all animals and most people (she’s a little afraid of tall men), and loves to give kisses. “I can’t believe she wasn’t adopted before [now],” Stephen says. “She’s so wonderful, and really warms your heart.”



*Ellie (left) loves snuggling with Madi*



## A Wednesday in November

In 2011, Eleni D. adopted a young cat named Mufasa from MCHS. Last year, Mufasa started slowing down, and Eleni thought a kitten would keep him active. In November she adopted Wednesday, a three-month-old kitten, from MCHS.

It was the right decision. “They play together and sleep together. They’re good little companions, and Mufasa is definitely getting more exercise!” says Eleni. Wednesday has two main hobbies: playing and eating. “She makes us laugh when she pounces on things, but her absolute favorite is [the cat tunnel] you sent home with her. She’ll play with that for hours.” As for food? “She goes absolutely crazy at [meal time].”

Wednesday’s also a cuddler. “She wants all the love,” Eleni says. Sounds like she’s getting it!

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Dear friends,

The holiday season has come and gone and the New Year is well underway. I hope it brings you plenty of happiness and good health!



While 2021 brought more of the all-too-familiar challenges associated with COVID-19, your continuing generosity ensured we were able to work through them, and today, thanks to you, we're stronger than ever and making new plans for 2022.

The new year has already brought us joy: Ellie, a long-time resident and staff favorite, found her new home after more than 16 months of waiting and hoping. I'm sure you can imagine that we at MCHS develop a special bond with the animals who are with us longer than most. Ellie was adopted from a foster home, so we hadn't seen her in a few weeks. Her adoption photo appointment just happened to be the same afternoon as the staff holiday party. At the end of the party, as people were cleaning up and some were heading home, someone said, "Don't forget, Ellie's coming at 3:00 with her family!" Everyone stayed, as we all wanted to see Ellie again and meet her new family.

These moments (and every adopted pet has one, regardless of how long they are with us) is why we do what we do, and, of course, why you do it, too.

Thank you for being there for all of them. I look forward to working with you in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Cris Bombaugh,  
President and CEO

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## A Penny for your thoughts

Penny was Feline Leukemia (FeLV) positive when she arrived at MCHS in September of 2019. Because FeLV is contagious, she was isolated from the other cats [in Cris' office] for four months, until she was adopted.

On January 6, Penny celebrated her two-year adoption anniversary. Her family shared this photo, along with some intel on how she's doing: "Penny is very active and loves having conversations all day. She also loves being around people, [playing with] ordinary office supplies (... pens or sticky note flags), playing with running water ... watching birds and squirrels from the window, and daydreaming about hunting."



## Rigby needs a home

When Rigby, an 18-month-old American Bulldog mix, arrived from a partner shelter last August, he was suffering from heartworm. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give him the treatment he needed, and now he's eagerly awaiting his next adventure.

Rigby is looking for an experienced dog owner who can help him burn off his plentiful energy. He loves to play fetch, and he hasn't met a squeaky toy he doesn't love and hasn't destroyed. He's attentive and obedient, and very treat-motivated.

If Rigby seems like a good fit for your family, please visit [www.mchumane.org/adopt](http://www.mchumane.org/adopt) and fill out an application. To learn more, please call 240-252-2555 between 11 and 5, and an adoption counselor will be happy to help!

### YOUR GIFT MATTERS. EVERY DAY.

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.





# Finally, a cuddler in the family

“She’s a wonderful addition to our family,” adopter Melissa A. says about Coco, now named Ellie, the nine-month-old Goldendoodle her family adopted as a playmate for their other young Goldendoodle, Finn.

“We love the breed – they’re great for families – and we knew about their grooming challenges, too. We got Finn from a breeder, but it was important to us to get our second one from a rescue.” When Melissa and her family saw Ellie on the MCHS website, they applied right away.

Ellie is just what Finn (and the rest of the family) needed. The dogs chase each other around and wear themselves out, and at the end of the day, Ellie snuggles with Melissa and goes to sleep: “She lies ... across the ottoman and then leans over and ‘hugs’ me. She’ll fall asleep that way, in my arms. This makes me extremely happy. My kids won’t cuddle, and neither will Finn, but now I finally have a cuddler.”



*Ellie (right) and Finn smile for the camera*



*Manny loves his mouse toys*

## Black cats win the day

“I love black cats, and when I saw that you had two that looked alike, I was thrilled!” says Patti R. about adopting Sweet Potato and Apple Cider, two three-month-old kittens, in October. She had been wanting some kitten energy in her home, and thought her two older cats, Jack and Pesky, would enjoy their company, too.

“The little cats really like Jack and Pesky, and they seem to have paired off. Pesky really likes hanging out with Manny (Sweet Potato) – in fact they’re together right now – and Luke (Apple Cider) likes Jack.”

Like most kittens, Luke and Manny like running, knocking things off of shelves, and generally causing good-natured trouble. “I have a really delicate lamp, and the other night I found one of the kittens’ toy mice in the lamp shade. I have no idea how it even got up there ... I also have a canopy over my bed, and Luke and Manny are always pulling it down. It’s got lots of fringes they can grab onto ... I laugh at [their antics] all the time. They’re sweet and affectionate, and a positive addition to my home.”



**It's Back!**  
After a two-year hiatus,  
**Paws in the Park**  
is scheduled to return!

Please save the date:

**Sunday, April 24**

**Stay tuned to Facebook, Instagram,  
and our website for updates**





## New digs, and a new name, for our thrift store

Our spacious, treasure-filled thrift store, previously known as Wagging Tails Thrifts & Gifts, has moved to new space at 1328 E. Gude Drive, just down the sidewalk from our previous location in Gude Plaza.

The store also has a new name, **Humane Together Thrift & Gift**, which reflects the store's ties to MCHS and its mission to end animal homelessness.

We hope you'll visit soon!

### Save Now!

**\$5 off purchase of \$25,  
\$10 off purchase of \$50**  
with this coupon thru 3/15/22

Visit [mchumane.org](http://mchumane.org) for current shopping and donation hours.



**HumaneTogether™**  
THRIFT & GIFT

1328 E. Gude Dr., Rockville, MD  
301-279-0345



MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
**HUMANE SOCIETY**

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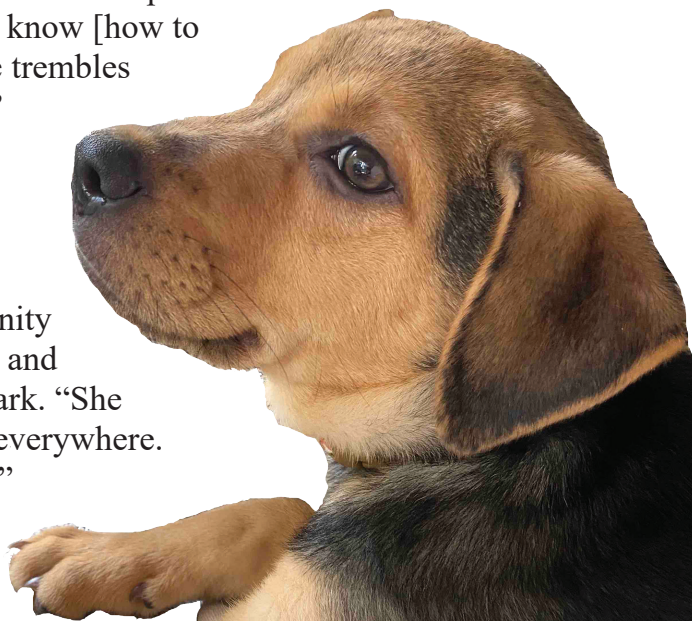
## A first puppy in the family

"This was our first time adopting a puppy, so we were a little hesitant about getting one, but we wanted our kids to have the puppy experience," says Corrina L. about Daphne, the three-month-old pit-retriever mix her family adopted in August. While Daphne, like all puppies, has gotten into some puppy trouble, they're so glad they chose her. "She's super smart and amazing!"

It helps that their older dog, Mosley, has become a mentor to the newest member of his pack. Daphne learned how to "sit" by watching Mosley. "She saw him sit whenever we gave the hand signal, and now she's started doing it too." Daphne's also trying to make friends with the family's three cats, Cookie, Tag and Storm. Cookie and Tag still aren't sure about Daphne, but Storm has begun to warm up to her.

"Daphne doesn't know [how to respond], but she trembles with excitement" whenever Storm brushes against her.

Daphne will take any opportunity to climb in a lap, and enjoys the dog park. "She just zips around everywhere. She's really fast!"



## Thank you, neighbors!

A representative of the Shaaare Tefila Congregation in Olney drops off supplies collected in celebration of *Good Neighbor Day*. Donations like these truly help make a life-saving difference.

To learn how you can help too, visit [www.MCHumane.org/wish-list](http://www.MCHumane.org/wish-list)