

ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Spring 2020

Hot Rod lives up to his name

Gordon and Jane were on an extended search for a dog. These experienced lab owners say they met many wonderful dogs, but none of them were quite the one. Then, they met Hot Rod, a lab/coon hound mix, at MCHS, and they knew this dog was different. "He was so gentle and pleasant-seeming" Jane says about their meeting, but "now that he's home (the couple adopted him in February), I see why someone named him Hot Rod. He's like a jack rabbit, or even a kangaroo!" Gordon adds, "He's a fun dog, and he's going to have a lot of fun here."

Hot Rod loves his morning and evening walks. "He knows every dog on the route. When he sees one, he starts jumping and carrying on, not because he's aggressive, but because he wants to visit with them, nose-to-nose or at their fences," Jane tells us.

Hot Rod also enjoys playing fetch and running on a local beach.

"If we call his name, he comes right away and sits, because he wants a treat. The MCHS adoption team said he'd be very easy to train because he loves food, and they were right," Gordon says.

Hot Rod also loves his fenced yard, and enjoys sitting on an end table and watching out the window, or chewing on his goose toy, which went home with him from MCHS. "It's his favorite – he loves it!" Gordon says, adding "Being retired, we'll be able to spend a lot of time with him." Sounds like the life, Hot Rod!



Life under lockdown



Jerry G. Pig, a member of the MCHS humane education team, enjoys the morning sun at the home of MCHS President, Cris Bombaugh.

When MCHS temporarily closed to the public on March 17, Jerry, his Guinea pig colleagues, Ben and Lenny, and a number of other animals who needed special socialization went home with MCHS staff members. Others are receiving loving care at MCHS regularly during the day. When the current crisis passes, the cats and dogs will again become ready for adoption into new homes.

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.



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Dear friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. To say these are challenging times is an understatement, to be sure. But times like this can help to clarify what matters in life. I'm sure you'll agree that one of the things that truly matters is the importance of our bonds with our pets.

As the shutdown escalated, my colleague, Rachel, answered a call from a woman who lives with her cat. She told Rachel that she was afraid of the growing social isolation she faced. She said that normally she's a very outgoing person who loves to hug others, and was dreading the loss of these interactions. Then she said, "At least I can hug my cat."

What a beautiful reminder of why we have pets. They are family members, companions, and in their own unique ways, they transform our lives. My husband and I are comforted every day by our four pets (and now, also, Guinea pigs Ben and Jerry). At a time like this, it's hard to imagine life without their steady, loving companionship.

Though MCHS is currently closed to the public, our team works hard every day to provide TLC and socialization for the 16 animals in our care. We're also staffing the MCHS phones from home to help our community navigate this transformed world, and we're watching for other ways we can help.

Thanks to all of you – including those who continue to send financial donations during this crisis – for helping us keep our team together and keep MCHS on track. With you, we'll be ready to meet the needs that lay ahead.



Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

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After a year in a public shelter, Gordon is home

When we met Gordon, a two-year-old brindle pit-mix, he'd been living in a public shelter for a year! When he approached our rescue team holding a tennis ball, they fell in love and knew we could help him. He came to MCHS in early February, and by the end of the month he was in his new home.

"He's basically got two speeds" adopter Annie Y. laughs, "napping on the couch while we watch TV, or chasing tennis balls. He needs a ball in every part of the house, and he's figured out how to throw them to himself if we aren't playing with him."

Gordon, (now named Pete, after tennis great Pete Sampras) barked like crazy when Annie and her husband first met him at MCHS. But "now he's a perfect little angel," she says. "He's really well behaved, and almost never barks at anyone – unless you're another dog trying to steal his ball! He's a great dog. We love him."



He's a special puddy-tat

"This is the nicest cat we've ever had" says Karen M. about 'Chipper,' a two-year-old black cat she adopted in March. Karen and her husband, Harry, wanted to adopt a new pet after recently losing both a cat and a dog. "We missed having a pet at home," she said.

Chipper, (now named 'Puddy' – "an undignified name for a very dignified cat," Karen admits) loves to sit in laps. In fact, his love of laps led to his adoption. "The moment he met my husband, Puddy jumped right in his lap. We were sold," said Karen.

Puddy enjoys exploring his new house, and especially loves running up and down the stairs. "He loves to eat, but he gets so much exercise, he hasn't gained any weight!" Karen tells us. "This cat has won us over, and has taken over our house. We're incredibly happy and grateful to have him."

We know Puddy is grateful too. When he's not in a lap, or running up and down the stairs, he sits inside the screen door chattering at the birds and squirrels.



After a long search, Crocky was the one!

Crocky needed help. His owners had taken this four-year-old Cocker Spaniel to a local veterinarian's office seeking treatment for an ear infection. When they learned how much the treatment and ongoing care would cost, they left him with the veterinarian, who kept Crocky for a few months, and then contacted MCHS. Because of your support, we knew we could help him.

"My partner and I both grew up with dogs," says Alanna S. "We were at a point in our lives and careers where we knew we were ready to add to our family. For two months ... we visited the web sites of local shelters and rescues. We must have seen a thousand dogs. But when I saw Crocky (now named Quinn), I knew he was the one. I rushed right in to meet him." Alanna's partner met Quinn later that afternoon, and they took him home the same day.

"He's an absolute love. He could be the cuddliest dog I've ever had." Alanna tells us, "He loves being with his people. If we're watching TV, he'll watch it with us.

If we're doing yoga on the patio, he'll lie on the end of the mat."

Alanna says that Quinn has a little bit of separation anxiety, and to help him with this, they make sure he can always see them, which has helped.

When Quinn isn't cuddling with (and sleeping on) his people, he enjoys playing with stuffed animals – "the fluffier the better. He plays with them and then falls asleep on them. He's just learned that he can make them 'squeak' on his own," Alanna laughs.

Sounds like Quinn's got it made!



You helped make the perfect pack

"They're just so wonderful together," Caryn S. says about her dogs, Pushka, Sammy and Oreo. "I couldn't ask for three better dogs."

Caryn adopted Annie (now named Pushka), a young, chocolate Lab-mix, in September as a companion for their dog, Oreo, also part-Lab. After a rough few days of adjustment, the two have become inseparable. "It's a great love story," Caryn says, though Pushka is the "queen of the house" and is "definitely the leader of the pack."

Then, Caryn met Samson (now Sammy), an eight-month-old Golden-Lab mix, while dropping off food donations at MCHS in February. She hadn't planned to adopt a third dog, but she and her son fell in love. Sammy soon fit right in with Pushka and Oreo, and the three of them cuddle together in a big, furry ball. "Sammy's like my shadow," Caryn says. "He follows me everywhere. I'm so grateful to have them all!"

**All of us at MCHS hope that you
and your family stay safe and
healthy during this difficult time.**



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A great time to learn a new trick!

While COVID-19 and the resulting shut-downs are preventing many of us from visiting the dog park with our canine companions, it does present a great opportunity to strengthen our bonds with our pets.

“Dogs respond well to repetition and consistency,” says MCHS Director of Operations and Outreach Brian Glover. “Now that you’re at home with your dog all day, it’s a great opportunity to reinforce your dog’s good behavior, as well as to break them of some of the bad habits they may have developed.

It’s also a great time to teach your dog new tricks.”



There are a lot of great web sites to help you and your dog learn new tricks. To get started, visit this site to see the American

Kennel Club’s

Jennifer Michaelis

demonstrating how to teach your dog to “Play Dead”: www.tinyurl.com/mchsdogs.

If you have a video of you and your dog (or your cat, or any other pet) doing a trick that you’d like to share with the MCHS community, you can share it with us on Facebook. If you don’t have a Facebook account, email the video to MCHS Marketing and Events Manager Rachel Rosen at RRosen@MCHumane.org and she will post it.

And, sign up for our *Virtual Paws in the Park* contests this spring, open to all pets!

Two adult cats find love and a home together

“I loved Parker and Kane right away,” adopter Sabrina N. tells us about Kane, (a nine-year-old orange tabby), and Parker, (a five-year-old domestic shorthair) she adopted in late February. Kane was very friendly, but Parker was quieter. Sabrina says she loves older cats, and she knew they needed her love, too.

Kane and Parker both arrived at MCHS early in February. Kane had been living with an older woman, but when her son moved in to care for her, he discovered he was horribly allergic to the cat. He tried his best to keep Kane, but when it became unbearable, he sought help from MCHS. Around the same time, Parker was pulled from one of our partner shelters by the MCHS rescue team.

Both cats won the hearts of Sabrina and her husband, and they adopted them together. But since they weren’t a bonded pair, Parker and Kane were introduced over the course of a week at their new home. Now, they’re best pals. They chase each other around the house and enjoy sitting together watching out the patio door. They’re getting closer every day,” Sabrina says.



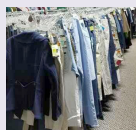
Kane likes napping in sunny places, and Parker enjoys clamoring for attention, climbing on things and sprinting around the house. “Kane makes me laugh because he seems bewildered by Parker sometimes. I can tell he’s thinking, ‘What’s with this guy? Why does he run around like crazy?’”

We’re so glad these two found a home with each other.

Cleaning while social distancing?

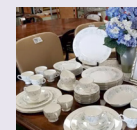
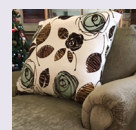
Please save your donations for MCHS. When we re-open, we’ll need them more than ever to help our community and homeless animals!

Clothing, jewelry, housewares, books, records, toys, furniture and more.



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