

ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Spring 2021

Ruthie loves to cuddle

When Sandy K.'s family saw Brandi on the MCHS website, they knew right away that she was the one. "We saw that friendly face." When they called and learned they weren't the first applicant, they applied to adopt her anyway. Fortunately, the other family didn't choose Brandi, so they were next in line. "As soon as we heard this, we rushed in and scooped her up!" she said.

Sandy and her husband, Albert, renamed Brandi "Ruthie" after the late Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "Ruthie's definitely a Democrat!" Sandy says laughing. "When we take her to the dog park, she runs and runs, and the other dogs follow. She's definitely the leader of the pack."

When Ruthie first arrived at her new home, "She was so, so scared," Sandy said. "She just shook and shook, but after about three days she was really comfortable. Now all she wants to do is cuddle. Ruthie also has a stubborn streak. "She wants what she wants...she just gets this look on her face." But they find themselves laughing at her antics, and have enrolled her in an obedience class.

Ruthie also enjoys the dog park, playing catch with a tennis ball and destroying her toys, even the ones marked 'indestructible.' "When people congratulate us on getting a rescue dog, we tell them that 'no, she rescued us'," Sandy says. "We love, love, love her!"



Pez has won their hearts

Adopter Michelle had been looking for a companion for her cat, Little Dipper. In November, she found 'Bob Meowly', a young tabby, on the MCHS website, and thought he'd be a good fit.

"I wanted someone who was rambunctious, loved to play ... and could hold his own around Little Dipper." Michelle says.

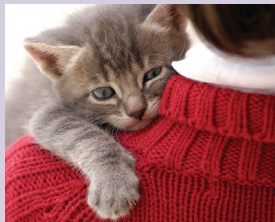
As Michelle hoped, Bob Meowly (now "Pez") fit right in, and the cats are now "practically a bonded pair," sleeping and playing together all the time. Pez also enjoys stashing his mouse toys in an undisclosed location. "I have no idea where he's hiding them," she says. "We're going through them like crazy!"



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,

At last, spring is here! And, finally, it appears we may be turning a corner on the pandemic that has ravaged the world for more than a year.



The past year has been interesting, to say the least. The temporary shutdown of our thrift store, spay/neuter clinic and adoption program last spring; the move to an online adoption application process in June; and the reopening of our clinic in November brought challenges at every turn. But, thanks to your generosity, we've emerged stronger than ever, and are ready to help pets and pet owners face their own challenges in a changed world.

So, what are some of these challenges?

A big one is the increased need for veterinary care. As the pandemic raged, shelters around the country were cleared out as people sought the companionship of a pet. Many other rescues leave spays and neuters up to the adopters, which means our clinic has been busy, altering nearly 600 cats and dogs just since November! There's also an increased need for basic wellness care in our community, and we plan to increase these services in 2021.

Many wonder whether, after the rash of pandemic adoptions, there will be a flood of animals dumped in shelters as people return to their offices. Fortunately, we haven't seen that yet, and I hope we don't. But if it happens, I promise that together, we'll be there to help, just as we were for the animals you'll read about in this newsletter. Thank you for being there, right along with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

Let's be humane together®

Dani has found her spot

"I call her Dani the Ditz," Summer E. says about the six-month-old brown tabby she and her husband, David, adopted in March. They chose her because her photo reminded them of their late cat, Michelangelo.

"She's not very graceful, and she seems to forget that humans need to walk!" David explains. "She's always in front of our feet."

David and Summer tell us that they also often question Dani's sanity, especially when she jumps in the wet shower, and starts spinning around for no apparent reason. "When she comes out, her tail is soaked!"

Dani enjoys sitting on the couch while the couple watches television, and lives for human interaction. She enjoys being picked up and held, and will often climb up on a shoulder for a better view. "She's like a kitty parrot!"

One of Dani's favorite activities is carrying around her blue pompom toy. She also enjoys games involving candy wrappers, or anything that crinkles, and chasing after the lure on her kitty fishing pole. In fact, Dani enjoys playing with the pole so much that she'll drag it off the shelf and play with it by herself if no one is available.

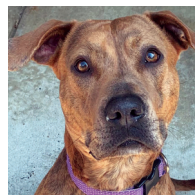


Bubbles, also a tabby, is Dani's new sister. At first, they didn't get along very well, since "Dani started taking all the favorite napping spots and eating Bubbles' food," but now they've learned how to live together. "They're opposites in every way," David says.

You're helping them all



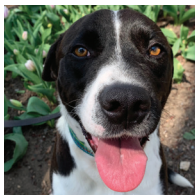
Dalton



Angelica Pickles



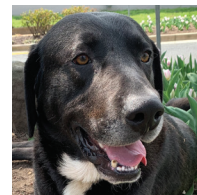
Gretel



Barky Lee



Dixon



Johnny

These are some of the cats and dogs you've helped recently. **Thank you!**

Finn the 'Flying Torpedo'

"We have a soft spot for beagles, and there was something in his eyes that made us want to meet him," adopter Phoung H. says when asked why she and her family adopted Bagel, a six-month-old beagle, in March. "My daughters had been pressing us to get a second dog. We knew that Jesse (a Border Collie-Whippet mix they adopted from MCHS in 2017) is a really social dog, and would take to getting a new one easily."

The two MCHS rescues love each other. Phoung says that Bagel, who is now named Finn, "loves to wrestle with Jesse. He'll launch himself off the furniture [to tackle Jesse]. We call him the flying torpedo. He goes really far! He's about a quarter of the size of Jesse, but you'd never know it."

Finn also loves taking walks with the family. "We forgot how much beagles are guided by their noses," Phoung says. "The first time we took him for a walk, it took more than an hour to get around the block...now we walk him and Jesse at the same time, and Finn keeps up."

When Finn isn't wrestling with Jesse or going for walks, he likes running in his new back yard, chewing on his Nyla bones, and playing with any toys that Jesse likes. "He's just sweet natured," Phoung says.



Pet Food Pantry helps Max and hundreds more

Max, a two-year-old Maltese mix, loves taking walks with his owners and playing with his ball. He loves kids, and to him, strangers are just friends he hasn't met yet. But he's a little afraid of huskies.



When COVID-19 hit, Max's owner lost her job, and needed a little help to make sure her beloved boy got the food he needed. "Pet food can be expensive," she said.

She learned about the MCHS pet food pantry, and was "blown away with gratitude" when she learned that the pantry is mostly supplied by generous individuals and families: "Wow. Thank you! That's so great!" she says, and pledged to return their generosity once she's back on her feet.



YAPPY HOUR

Returning soon! Hope to see you there!

After a year with no doggie get-togethers, the first MCHS Yappy Hour of the season is coming up soon. We can't wait to see you again! Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 9, 5-8 p.m. at Caddies in Bethesda. Bring your pups and join us for a fun evening on the patio, with great happy hour drink specials!

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And kitty makes three!

Newlyweds Esther S. and her husband, Halim, had just moved into a new home, and decided that now was the perfect time to get a cat. When they visited the MCHS website, they fell in love with Zoe, a brown tabby kitten. “We really liked her stripes,” Esther says.

Zoe has now settled into her new home. “She’s really considerate,” Esther tells us. “Her ‘meow’ is quiet and sweet,” and adds that Zoe is especially fond of a playing fetch with a spiral toy. Considerate she may be, but Zoe isn’t afraid to demand attention. “Zoe jumps on the desk and walks in between us and our computer screens. [She gets] away with it for a while before we get back to work!”

Helping each other heal

Ruby, a four-month-old hound mix, was severely underweight and suffering from a skin infection when she was discovered outside a South Carolina Waffle House.

She arrived at MCHS, along with several of her shelter mates, in February. Your generosity enabled us to treat Ruby’s skin condition and get her weight up, and soon she was ready to go to her new home.

Adopter Tammy W.’s adult children had been encouraging her to adopt a pet, knowing that the companionship of an animal would help her as she grieved the recent loss of two close friends. When she saw Ruby, who shares a name with her beloved mother-in-law, she took it as a sign.

“When they told me [my application was approved], I rushed to meet her,” Tammy says. “She just came over to me ... she licked on me for more than an hour ... when they brought me the adoption papers, I said ‘hold on ... I’m playing with my dog!’”

Tammy spends hours each week cooking gourmet food for Ruby, who has already gained four much-needed pounds. When she’s not chowing down on a home-cooked meal, Ruby enjoys hogging the bed, cuddling on the couch, and playing with her squeak toys. Her current favorite is a “pizza toy,” a gift from MCHS. “She’s such good company,” Tammy tells us. “I love her to death!”



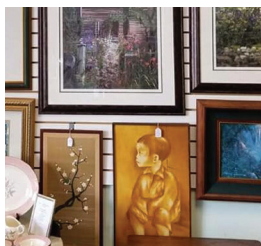
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