

ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Spring 2023

Nita's one happy cat!

Shyrley H. and her family adopted Nita, a seven-month-old gray tabby, after hearing about MCHS from her brother, who adopted two brown tabbies, Wish-Wash and Kixx, in November.

"I'd always had cats, and we'd just moved into a new place," she says. "The whole family felt that the one thing missing was a cat's companionship."

Nita, now Khalessi (from *A Game of Thrones*) is indeed a wonderful companion. "My two sons (ages four and six) absolutely love her. Khalessi follows them around everywhere," she says. "We've never had a cat who likes kisses as much as she does."

Like most kittens, Khalessi loves to play. Her favorite toys are little coiled springs "She carries them around everywhere, and bats them under the refrigerator. For some reason, the yellow ones are her favorites."

She also enjoys playing on her new cat tree, and ambushing her human family members at they pass: "She'll just swat at us as we walk by", Shyrley laughs.

"We're really enjoying having her. She makes us happy, and I know we do the same!"



Meet Spud – Is he your next dog?

Spud is an 18-month-old Pit Bull mix who arrived at MCHS in September. He's still waiting for his family to arrive. Spud loves to snuggle with his humans, and is great with other dogs, but he's very high energy and needs more training. He'll do best in an adults-only home or one with older children.

If you can provide him with stability, routine and training, along with lots of chew toys and bones (his favorite!), Spud would love to meet you! To learn more call (240) 252-2555 and ask to speak to one of our adoption counselors. They'll be happy to help.

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.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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Dear friends,

I'm so excited. Spring is finally here, and that means, for the first time in *three years*, we're hosting Paws in the Park, the dog walk and festival we present with the City of Gaithersburg. It's so much fun, and not just for dog owners!



I'll always remember the young couple who adopted their first dog, Ringo, from MCHS a few years back, and took him to Paws in the Park a few months later. Ringo's extended family – aunts, uncles, friends – all showed up wearing "Team Ringo" t-shirts, and in appreciation for their support, Ringo proceeded to enter and win several contests and take second place in the Agility Competition! Team Ringo was so excited at his successes – and, we were too! What a perfect example of the difference we're all making together: a life saved, a family expanded, and a lifetime of joy and memories in the making.

Your donations of funds for our daily operations, food for our pet food pantry, supplies from our wish list, support for Hanna's Clinic, and patronage of Humane Together Thrift & Gift make moments like these possible every day. I continue to be humbled by your generosity, and honored to have you as friends of MCHS.

Thank you for all you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cris'.

Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

P.S. **Paws in the Park is Sunday, April 30** at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg – I hope you'll join us! We're planning other fun events this year, too, so please stay posted for details.

Lennon surveys his neighborhood

"I love hound dogs," adopter Maddie J. says, "so when my boyfriend and I saw Lennon on the MCHS website, we wanted to meet him. He just looked so adorable!" The couple applied online, made an appointment to meet him, and they took him home that day.

"Lennon is very active, and plays with his toys all day long," Maddie tells us. "His favorite – or, it used to be! – is a stuffed reindeer that he took with him from MCHS. He destroys all his stuffed toys, but we kept the 'carcass' of that one because he likes to cuddle with it. He loves his reindeer."

Lennon also enjoys watching people. "He likes to lounge on our balcony and watch the people pass by. He finds it fascinating," Maddie says, adding, "He gets really excited when he sees kids lining up with their backpacks to wait for the bus, and he asks to go outside. He's still little shy when he meets them though, so they haven't petted him yet."

When Lennon ("we call him Lenny most of the time") isn't playing with his toys, or people watching, he can be found cuddling in Maddie's lap. "He's convinced he's a five-pound dog, and he just isn't!"



Suki's happy at home

"This dog has so many!" Ana Maria P. says when asked about her new dog, Suki's, favorite things. Suki, now named Trixy, is a one-year-old schnauzer mix who was adopted from MCHS at the end of last year.

Ana Maria says that "[When Trixy's] outside, she likes meeting other dogs and getting them to play... she likes looking out the car window and staging sneak lick attacks on the driver...and she likes playing with her squeak toys in the house. She chomps them so hard, I almost feel bad for them!"



Ana also said that the "most wonderful thing" happened recently. Her six-year-old grandson hasn't had much exposure to dogs, but when he met Trixy, the two quickly hit it off. "By the end of the afternoon, [they] were inseparable, laughing and wrestling and playing about. Grandpa even got into the mix. It was fun seeing them play on the bedroom floor. We love this happy little dog, and just as importantly, she loves us!"

Kirby's purrfect new home

Kirby was first rescued from an MCHS partner shelter in 2022, and was adopted soon after. In February, his family moved and couldn't take Kirby with them, so we warmly welcomed him back.

After learning they were grieving from the loss of a beloved cat, a friend of April T. and her husband suggested they visit the MCHS website. "We weren't planning to get a cat right away," said April, "but when we saw Kirby, we knew he belonged with us."

They were right. "Kirby is the sweetest cat I've ever owned," April says. "I'm at home with him during the day and he follows me around everywhere! My husband feeds him in the morning, and after Kirby eats, he follows him around everywhere, too!"

When he first went home, he spent all day hiding, so April said, "we were surprised when we woke up ... to find him sleeping on our heads!" Kirby now sleeps with them every night – usually tucked between them or behind April's legs – and he's not shy about waking them up in the morning. "We call it the 'morning pounce'. One minute you're sleeping, and the next this nine-pound cat startles you awake by jumping on your chest," she said.

When Kirby isn't following his family around or waking them up, he enjoys playing fetch. "His favorite thing to chase is the feathered end of a broken wand toy. We'll throw it, and he'll bring it back for us to throw it again. His second favorite toy is a different wand. We'll play with it on the bed, and he'll do back flips. He's very acrobatic!"



Abel shines for new dog owner

Last November, Abel, a year-old blue heeler mix, found himself in a shelter in Georgia. MCHS rescued him, and in December he was adopted.

Now named Pebbles, his new owner, Claire Y. says "he didn't really respond to Abel, and the markings on his back reminded me of [pebbles]. Many people ... tell me it's the perfect name for him."

Claire said she decided to adopt Pebbles after losing her beloved, 14-year-old cat, Kaboodle. "I didn't want my new pet to be compared with Kaboodle in my mind. I decided to get a dog because I wanted whomever I adopted to shine on [their] own terms," Claire said. And shine he does. "The people at his doggy day care tell me that he's a 'social butterfly'! He plays chase and wrestles with the other dogs who are his size," Claire says.

"Pebbles has such a great, happy-go-lucky personality. He loves every person and dog he meets." That's probably why he enjoys taking walks and visiting the dog park.



YAPPY HOUR

Our season starts soon!

We're planning for some furry FUN at locations across Montgomery County this year with drink specials, dog activities, and raffle drawings for our attendees. It all benefits MCHS!

Events will be announced soon.

We look forward to seeing you at Yappy Hour!



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Kittens make a big splash

Splash and Green, two four-month-old kittens, arrived at MCHS from a partner shelter in November. A month later, both were in a new home together, just in time for the holidays.

“I’ve had cats ever since I was a baby,” adopter Sherry D. says. “But my son never had a pet, and I wanted him to have the chance ... [he’s learning] about all the things you need to do to take care of cats, like how to change the litter and feed them. At first, they’d run away from him, and he was a little afraid of them, too, but now they play all the time, they even sleep with him. Green (now named Dream) even watches TV with him. It’s so cute.”

Although Splash (now named Diamond) and Dream weren’t littermates, they’ve definitely formed a special bond. “They chase each other around and engage in lots of horseplay ... they love each other and are very in sync. Whenever we come home, the cats run to the door to greet us,” Sherry says. “They just fill our home with an overwhelming sense of love.”

Beckley is everyone’s buddy

When adopter Paul K. lost Sara Boo, his dog of 17 years, he was heartbroken, and his young Australian shepherd-mix, Tufar, seemed to take it even harder. “I adopted Tufar when she was three months old, and Sara Boo was her surrogate mother,” he explained. When Tufar started chewing the furniture after Sara Boo’s death, Paul decided to find her a new buddy.

“I brought her [to MCHS] a few times to meet a few dogs, and while she got along with them, nothing really clicked,” Paul said. But when she met Beckley, a one-year-old Lab-mix with an easy going personality, “They immediately began running around and playing with each other.” They went home together later that day.



“The first thing Beckley (now Buddy) did when we got home was jump on the couch. You could tell that he was really excited to have [a couch] again,” Paul says. “He enjoys curling up and watching TV with me. His favorite seems to be National Geographic.”

“Buddy’s such a loveable, goofball of a dog,” says Paul. He has won the whole neighborhood over ... he’s definitely helped heal my heart, and Tufar’s, too.”

An alumnus gives back

Donations of food for our pantry and clean sheets and towels are always needed, and when adopter Amanda K. donated some supplies recently, she brought in Guster (formerly Angus, adopted in 2016) to say hello. They adopted Guster as a buddy for their poodle, Bear [also a rescue dog]. “Bear died a few years ago,” Amanda said, “but Guster helped a lot. They had a great bond ... Guster is super-smart and very quirky. He’s just the best.”

