

# ANIMAL *lover*

News from the Montgomery County Humane Society

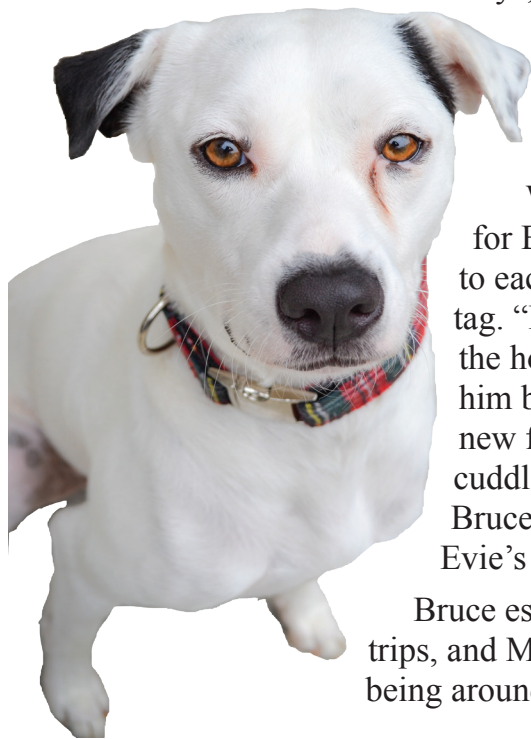
Fall 2020

## Bruce helps a family heal

“Bruce is the sweetest, kindest dog,” adopter Mark B. says about Bruce, the hound mix he adopted in August. His wife, Evie agrees: “We’re so lucky to have him,” she says.

Mark and Evie were grieving the loss of their beloved dog of 15 years, Jordan, who passed away in May. They hoped a new dog would help them heal, and they sensed that Jordan led them to Bruce.

“We’d actually planned to visit a different dog,” Mark says. But, since he and Evie also have a cat, Donald, the adoption staff advised that Bruce would be a better fit. “We were the first ones to meet him – it really seems like it was meant to be.” Evie says, adding, “We were really impressed to see how much [the staff] loved Bruce, and how happy they were to see him go home.”



While it took a couple of days for Bruce and Donald to get used to each other, the two now play tag. “Bruce chases the cat around the house, and then the cat chases him back,” Mark says. The two new friends can often be found cuddled up together, and of course, Bruce and Donald share Mark and Evie’s bed at night.

Bruce especially enjoys taking road trips, and Mark says he really loves being around people.



## MCHS clinic returns!

After a months-long hiatus due to COVID-19 and staffing changes, the MCHS spay/neuter clinic will become operational once again this fall, under the direction of Julia Petrovitch, DVM.

Though there is currently a waiting list of patients for spay/neuter, we expect to be able to schedule new appointments soon. “It’s so exciting to get our clinic back up and running,” says MCHS President & CEO Cris Bombaugh. “Ours is the only clinic in Montgomery County that offers reduced-cost spay and neuter and other services, and we’re very pleased to provide our community with this vital resource.”

Beginning in November, reservations can be made online at [www.mchumane.org/clinic](http://www.mchumane.org/clinic).

## 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](http://mchumane.org) or use the enclosed envelope.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
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## Clinic Redux

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been quite a year, and we're hopeful that you are healthy and safe, and that you remain so as the weather turns colder.

Amid the ever-changing challenges we all face in the world today, I'm happy to report the bright spots here at MCHS.

First, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've been able to hold regular pet food pantry distribution events and help a lot of people with pet food at a really tough time.

Second, we're getting ready to re-open our low-cost spay/neuter clinic – the only one in Montgomery County. Our new medical team is expanding our days of operation to help many more pets get the help they need. During the shutdown, we were reminded, daily, of how many pets need help with this basic, life-saving procedure. We also were surprised to learn how many animals are adopted without first being altered, and we're so thankful that you're helping us provide the solution.

Our clinic will be back up and running in a matter of weeks, and we look forward to offering this and so many other services that do so much to end animal homelessness.

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season,



Cris Bombaugh  
President and CEO



## Maverick is Cocoa's new best friend

At the beginning of March, just before the Covid-19 shutdown, MCHS rescued a litter of King Charles-Havanese puppies. The puppies went home with MCHS staff members when the shutdown began, and by the time we were ready to restart adoptions, the puppies were growing and ready for their new homes. Needless to say, they were adopted immediately.

"I was looking for a companion for my Shi Tzu, Cocoa," adopter Susanne J. says. When she saw Maverick and his siblings on the MCHS website, she sent in her online application, knowing the competition would be fierce, and then left for the beach. "A few days later, I got a call, and they told me that I could come in and meet Maverick." Susanne explained that since she was on vacation, she couldn't get there until the next day. But, she cut her vacation short, and rushed home to meet him.

"He fits right in," says Susanne. Maverick (now "Shaggy") and Cocoa love to play and sleep together," she tells us, but he really enjoys playing with his "cousin" Ollie, Susanne's sister's rescued beagle. "Ollie's three times bigger than Shaggy, but Shaggy refuses to let Ollie get the toy away from him when they play tug-of-war. He's not a quitter!"

Suzanne tells us that Shaggy is very food motivated: "he definitely understands 'feed,' 'hungry,' 'eat' and 'snacks'" she says.

When Shaggy isn't playing with his canine family, he's cuddling with Susanne, enjoying one of his many chew toys, or better yet, chewing on paper. "He's constantly chewing on paper," she laughs. "He's got a strange paper fetish!"



## Let's be humane together®

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## Meeko gets the home he needs

“We saw a picture of Meeko online, and thought he looked like he needed us,” Allison says about the four-month-old Lab mix her family adopted in mid-August. “We were worried that others might not have the patience or the resources to provide him with the home he needs. We knew we could help, so we decided to come meet him.”

And Meeko *did* need extra help – when he was neutered, the veterinarian found a ruptured hernia that needed repaired. Your gifts gave us the means to take care of it.

Meeko, now “Montgomery” (“that’s the only name my three boys could agree on,” Allison says) is thriving in his new home. “He’s just a sweet, loving guy,” and he’s so, so smart. It only took a week for him to learn how to ring a bell to let us know he needs to go [out],” she says. “His coat is super shiny now, and he has gained a little weight.”

Montgomery has benefitted from the COVID-19 shut-down. “Since my kids are home during the day, he gets walked in the morning, after lunch AND before dinner,” Allison says. On weekends, he and his family go for longer hikes. “He’s learning off-leash manners by following our [yellow] Lab, Grace, but he still hesitates to follow her into the water!”

“We’re so lucky to have him,” Allison adds. Sounds like Montgomery’s lucky, too!



## Sokko loves his mouse

“As soon as we saw him, we knew we wanted him. We couldn’t imagine getting another cat,” William B. says about Sokko, now Kirby, the 4-month-old kitten he and his girlfriend adopted in July. They had been looking for a young, male cat. Like his new sister Lulu (adopted from MCHS in 2018), Kirby likes playing in his cardboard house, or curling up on the top of his cat tree.

“Kirby has a toy mouse that he absolutely loves,” William tells us. “And once he was so engrossed in kicking it while lying on his back that he forgot where he was and rolled off the tree!”



## Piccolo found the purrfect lap

Piccolo was three months old and living in an overcrowded South Carolina shelter. But because of your support, we were able to rescue him, along with more than a dozen other cats and dogs. Within two weeks, Piccolo was in a new home.



“We had recently lost both a cat, Weasley, and a dog, Beyla,” adopter Kim S. says about her family’s decision to adopt a new kitten. “We were really feeling their absence. Plus, we knew that our remaining cat, Doah, needed a new friend, too.”

When Kim and her family met Piccolo (now “Rohan”), they knew he would be a great fit for their family: “We have two young boys who needed a cat who would play with them, match their energy level, and wouldn’t be frightened by [noisy children]. The adoption staff recommended Rohan, and when the kids met him, he was great with them.”

Rohan loves the boys. “He likes to jump on their beds during bedtime story time. They’ll wiggle their toes under the blankets in order to entice Rohan to [play]. When he does it, they crack up.” Rohan also enjoys playing with Doah. “Rohan loved her immediately, but it took her a while to adjust. They don’t cuddle yet, but they wrestle and chase each other around the house,” says Kim. Rohan also is a lap cat, and enjoys napping in Kim’s lap while she works from home.

## The Montgomery County Humane Society is grateful to its donors – our lifesaving work is only possible with your support.

Here we recognize Leadership Circle members for Fiscal 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020):

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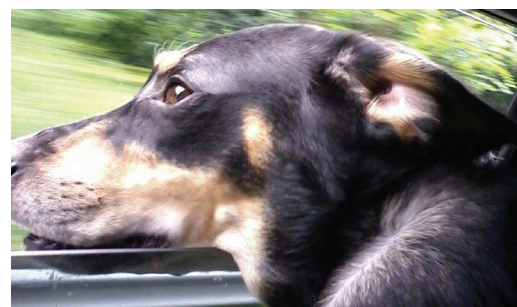
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## Thank you!

## Easy to give from your IRA

Funding for MCHS's programs and services depends almost entirely on private donations from people like you. Did you know that if you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift totaling up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to MCHS. (This gift can be applied to your Required Minimum Distribution).

It's always important to first talk with your financial advisor about whether these options make sense for you. To learn more about these or other ways to give, contact MCHS Director of Development James Nolan at (240) 616-1973, or [JNolan@MCHumane.org](mailto:JNolan@MCHumane.org). He's always happy to help.



***"Cora has settled into our hearts ... you can't have her back!" says Russell W.***

*If you've been following Cora's amazing story, you'll be glad to know she's doing very well in her new home. She has become a lap dog and enjoys riding in the car. We're so proud of you, Cora!*