



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Humane Society
adoption · education · sheltering

2011: The Year in Review

July 1 – June 30, 2011



Montgomery County Humane Society, Inc.
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Helping Homeless Animals Today and Every Day

Our Vital Role in Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Humane Society (MCHS), the premier animal welfare and care organization in Montgomery County, handled nearly 9,000 animals in need in FY 2011. Founded in 1958 as a private, 501(c)(3) organization, MCHS is dedicated to improving the lives of homeless animals and the people they touch. MCHS has operated Montgomery County's public animal shelter since the early 1960s, and works every day to ensure that thousands of homeless animals receive care and find new homes every year.

What Sets MCHS Apart

MCHS helps animals 24 hours a day, each day of the year. The animals that come to us may have been relinquished by their owners, found as strays, or rescued when in distress by our field team. We accept every animal that comes to us, regardless of age, health, condition or temperament, and work diligently to provide safety, comfort, medical attention, enrichment, loving care, and a new lease on life.

Helping Homeless Animals Today and Every Day

In addition to funds from Montgomery County for daily operation of the animal shelter, MCHS nearly doubles its budget with private donations to fund important programs including:

Preventive medicine: MCHS helps ensure the well-being of animals in its care by providing preventive treatments for every shelter animal. These include vaccines, flea treatments, de-worming and screening tests to help keep animals healthy during their stay with us.

Medical treatments: Medical attention for treatable conditions makes a big difference in an animal's comfort, well-being and adoptability. MCHS regularly covers treatment for eye defects, fractures, lumps of unknown origin as well as for dental care, grooming, ear cleanings and more.

Foster homes: MCHS recruits and supports a network of nearly 200 families who provide temporary loving homes for hundreds of homeless animals every year. This program has allowed MCHS to nearly double the number of animals it helps every year.

Humane education: MCHS education programs help raise awareness of animal welfare in the community. Its programs are designed to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent abuse and manage pet-related issues so families can keep their beloved companions for their lifetimes.

Rescue services: MCHS works closely with nearly 200 rescue groups locally, regionally and nationwide to transfer all types of animals out of the shelter environment and one step closer to their new adoptive homes.

Adoption counseling: MCHS works diligently to ensure successful adoptions. Our counselors interview adopters to match animals with adopters' lifestyles, and offer post-adoption assistance as needed.

Volunteers: MCHS recruits, trains and coordinates the work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who give their time to work with animals, assist with adoptions, staff special events, and provide clerical and other assistance. More animals are helped every day thanks to these important volunteer efforts.



Highlights of Fiscal 2011

All Shelter Animals Are Now Altered Before Adoption

In April 2011, MCHS rolled out a new pre-adoption spay/neuter program in which all animals adopted from the Montgomery County Animal Shelter are spayed or neutered before they go home. This program replaces a decades-old, post-adoption voucher system, and was created with the assistance of the Montgomery County veterinary community. Today, veterinarians perform the surgeries for a flat rate for cats and dogs. In turn, MCHS offers a flat, reduced rate to patrons. The adoption process is now simplified, and the program will help reduce animal homelessness in Montgomery County and beyond.



Community Outreach Is Expanded

In July 2010, MCHS introduced the *Animal Lover* special section in cooperation with *The Gazette*, to provide timely and useful information for 175,000 pet owners and other County residents. In June 2011, new graphics were added to three of the MCHS field service vans to promote adoption, spay/neuter, lost and found services, and wildlife welfare to help educate the community about MCHS services. Also in June, MCHS updated its logo to reflect its forward-looking approach and feature its core services.

Training and Enrichment Programs Benefit Shelter Animals

In May, MCHS added new dog training and evaluation expertise to enhance basic dog training, create more enrichment activities, train kennel staff in these techniques, and help with evaluations. The program promotes dog training among patrons, helps dogs remain more engaged and content, and helps improve adoptability.

Animal Sheltering and Care: MCHS handled 8,685 animals this year, including wildlife. This is a decrease of 6%, nearly all of which was from a reduction in the number of wildlife handled this year.

Adoptions and Reunions: 2,811 animals were adopted to new, loving homes or transferred to foster homes or private rescues in FY 2011, a slight increase over 2010. An additional 1,163 animals were reunited with their owners.

Foster Program: The MCHS foster program took in 524 animals this year. The program supports MCHS's mission to help as many animals as possible find new, loving homes, and helps hundreds of animals prepare for adoption in a home setting.

Volunteer Program: MCHS recruited, trained and supported 200 volunteers this year, an increase of 17% over 2010. These dedicated individuals provided 7,874 hours of time, up from 6,200 hours in 2010 and 4,800 hours in 2009.

Humane Education: Requests for humane education programs increased by 14% in FY11. MCHS worked with approximately 2,000 children and youth, offering close-up introductions to companion animals and emphasizing the responsibilities of pet ownership, safety around animals, the importance of spay/neuter, and more.

Community Outreach and Support: MCHS participated in 26 community events this year, including speaking engagements, community-based events and educational programs, and charitable giving events. MCHS also supports the community and adopters with grief counseling, animal behavior services, new dog adopter sessions, and more.

Media Outreach: Outreach to local media resulted in 55 articles and TV news clips in FY 2011, up 41% over 2010, including a live morning segment with Fox 5. Comcast, Access Montgomery, Fox 5 and WUSA 9 coverage continues on a regular schedule.

Community Animal Response Team: MCHS continues to provide leadership in the Montgomery County Animal Response Team (CART), which shelters companion animals for people who move to public shelter during emergencies. MCHS helped lead several volunteer training sessions in 2011, and staffed the first shelter activation in August 2011, during Hurricane Irene.

Financial Summary July 1 - June 30

| <i>Support & Revenue</i> | <i>2011</i> | <i>2010</i> | <i>2009</i> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| County Contract | \$1,602,370 | \$1,558,730 | \$1,447,030 |
| Contributions/Grants | 707,088 | 747,348 | 587,916 |
| Retail/Taxable Sales | 537,284 | 473,733 | 476,179 |
| Bequests | 265,201 | 185,629 | 503,683 |
| Program Income | 174,392 | 186,878 | 261,576 |
| Special Events | 146,836 | 125,079 | 88,020 |
| Member Dues | 53,525 | 55,451 | 83,840 |
| Investments | 62,030 | 25,533 | (43,940) |
| Other | <u>82,677</u> | <u>2,015</u> | <u>1,812</u> |
| Total Support & Revenue | \$3,631,203 | \$3,360,396 | \$3,406,116 |
| Expenses | | | |
| County Contract | 1,656,710 | \$1,592,595 | \$1,735,674 |
| Society Programs | 548,409 | 540,399 | 644,891 |
| Wagging Tails | 463,665 | 424,291 | 408,180 |
| Foster/Rescue | 212,191 | 268,256 | 574,491 |
| Fundraising | 275,731 | 210,742 | 220,028 |
| Mgt. & General | 79,623 | 205,365 | 205,350 |
| Aspin Hill | <u>92,944</u> | <u>62,873</u> | 62,751 |
| Ark Retail Sales | -- | -- | <u>125,563</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$3,329,273 | \$3,304,521 | \$3,976,928 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$ 301,930 | \$ 55,875 | \$ (570,812) |
| Net Assets - Beginning | \$3,485,425 | \$3,429,550 | \$4,000,362 |
| Net Assets - Ending | \$3,787,355 | \$3,485,425 | \$3,429,550 |

And, So Far in FY 2012:

Better Efficiencies and Faster Adoptions

In August 2011, MCHS took advantage of upgraded shelter software to increase automation and data consolidation, which has streamlined animal inventory, medical and adoption records, and the adoption process. MCHS computerized much of its paperwork and conducted week-long staff training. The result is more accurate, efficient operations and a reduction in the adoption take-home process to a matter of minutes.

Pet Licensing Now Offered by MCHS

In October 2011, MCHS began providing pet licensing services for Montgomery County. MCHS now offers faster, more accurate licensing services for County residents, and promotes compliance with mandatory pet licensing through its mailings, Web site, social media and community outreach efforts.

Aspin Hill Memorial Park Moves Forward

The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved Zoning Text Amendment 11-02 in July 2011, which provides that owners of historic properties can re-establish previous uses on their properties. Now, MCHS is able to move forward with plans to refurbish the property's buildings and cemetery. A local architectural firm has been retained to prepare master planning, illustrative renderings and preliminary budgets, the critical first steps in planning the project and raising necessary funds.

