Mom and seven puppies are safe, thanks to you!

Seven spaniel-mix puppies and their mother were found abandoned in a Virginia post office parking lot and rescued by the Montgomery County Humane Society in September.

“Sadly, this situation happens too often,” says MCHS humane educator Adelaide Soares. “I don’t think the people who abandoned the dogs meant any harm. Too often, people don’t know what to do when they have a pet situation they can’t handle.”

Thanks to your generosity, Addie and her humane education team are able to meet with people of all ages – from small children to adults – to discuss important topics such as compassion, proper pet care, spaying and neutering, and how to best help pets if they can no longer care for them. Their messages reach thousands each year, and are part of our work to end animal homelessness.

Kim and her puppies, shown below, were lucky. They were vaccinated, spayed and neutered, and prepared for adoption here at MCHS. All will soon be in their new homes.

Lending a loving paw

Lesley has struggled for years with social anxiety and depression. She visited MCHS in mid-June in hopes of finding a companion who would provide emotional support and help her gain the confidence she needed as she starts college this fall. She came to MCHS and met Potter (now ‘Bruno’), a 10-month-old Pug mix.

“I’d grown up with a dog and knew the impact a dog can make on a person’s life. When I met Bruno, we bonded immediately. I knew he could help me come out of my shell,” Lesley tells us.

“The other day, Bruno and I were out together. A person walking by said ‘it’s so nice to see such a happy dog with a happy person with a huge smile on her face.’ ”

A key part of our mission at MCHS is to help people through the adoption of pets, and to promote the all-important human-animal bond. Lesley and Bruno show us how important this is.

Your gifts always matter

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.
You’re building something great

Since April of 2014, when MCHS became an independent, privately funded no-kill rescue, you’ve helped save hundreds of lives. Every week, our team travels throughout the region to rescue at-risk animals. And, of course, we place them in new loving homes.

You’re truly making a meaningful difference – I watch it happen every day. Thank you.

But, there are thousands more who still need our help. That’s why last spring, our Board of Directors met to envision the future of MCHS, and charged us with developing a plan to greatly increase our impact on ending animal homelessness in our community.

It’s been a wonderful experience, with plenty of good ideas and great opportunities specially suited for an independent organization like ours.

We’re now working out some important details, so stay tuned for more about what we have in store for the future.

It’s an exciting time for MCHS, and for the homeless animals we help every day. I’m so glad to have you as our friend and supporter as we move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

You save hundreds of lives each year

Each year, the MCHS rescue team travels thousands of miles across Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, working with our partner shelters to save animals who are at risk in overcrowded shelters.

Lindsey Huffman, Director of the Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center raves about the life-saving difference your donations to MCHS are making: “We’re an open-admission shelter in a rural area. We get a lot of animals, so we’re always at risk of having to make decisions about euthanasia,” she tells us. “By working with MCHS, we’re able to save more lives. Every animal you take lets us give the others more time to find the perfect home.”

The animals pulled from these shelters quickly find homes in our local community, where they can begin their new lives.

On behalf of all of the animals who are helped through our partnerships, thank you.

From hiding in fear to happy at home

Jamie was one of three semi-feral Entlebucher Mountain Dog puppies found living under an abandoned trailer at the beginning of June. When they arrived at MCHS, they were absolutely terrified. Your generosity provided them with the intense socialization and special care they needed, and in July they were adopted by three loving families.

We spoke recently with Jamie’s (now Finn’s) new owner, who tells us that Finn is absolutely thriving. He enjoys playing soccer and hide-and-seek with his new human siblings, and LOVES to hunt bugs. In fact, he learned to swim so he could chase them across the water!

Finn has accomplished a lot since July. He graduated from “Basic Plus” obedience training, and has recently earned his Novice Trick dog certification.

“We are very thankful for the wonderful staff at MCHS who took care of Finn until we could bring him home,” says his new family.
Meet Board member Lynda Gargan

MCHS Board member Lynda Gargan is the Executive Director of the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. She received her PhD from the University of Madison, and has extensive experience in a range of management disciplines, including organizational development and operations, program management, and financial and strategic management.

“I became involved with MCHS because I love animals, of course, but I joined the Board after meeting [MCHS President] Cris [Bombaugh] at Paws in the Park. I was really impressed with her leadership and her vision for the organization, and I wanted to help her achieve it.” Lynda says she is excited about the plans currently under consideration for MCHS in the coming year, and that with the enthusiasm of Cris and the MCHS team, she’s confident that the organization has a promising future.

Fun events that celebrate pets
Check out these upcoming events, and help homeless animals at the same time!

Dining for the Animals
Saturday, October 22, 11 am - 9 pm
Zoe’s Kitchen
177 Kentlands Blvd., Gaithersburg and
19865 Century Blvd., Germantown
Dine at Zoe’s Kitchen (either location) and mention MCHS to your server. 15% of your food & beverage purchase will be donated to us.

Howl-O-Ween Party
Saturday, October 29, 1 - 4 pm
Montgomery County Humane Society
601 S. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville
Pet costume party, parade, photos, prizes, friends and fun. Your pet can’t wait to show off his/her costume!

Pet Photos with Santa
Saturday, December 3
Montgomery County Humane Society
601 S. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville
An annual tradition! Get your 2016 pet photos and share with friends and family. Watch our Facebook page and website for updates and details.

Help homeless animals with a tax-free gift from your IRA

Did you know? If you’re 70½ or older, you can donate your Required Minimum Distribution (up to $100,000), directly from your IRA to MCHS, tax-free.

It’s a great way to reduce your tax burden, while at the same time making a difference in the crucial work of MCHS.

As always, please speak with your financial advisor to learn whether this option is right for you.

If you’d like to learn more, please contact James Nolan, MCHS’s director of development, at JNolan@mchumane.org or at 240/616-1973.

MCHS membership program is expanded and streamlined

This fall, MCHS is streamlining its membership program to offer member benefits to more supporters and provide more ways for supporters to connect with MCHS. Membership levels are based on levels of annual contribution, and benefits include this newsletter (for all members) as well as briefings and special event invitations for higher levels of membership. More details about the expanded program are available on our web site at mchumane.org/support/membership-info/.
You gave Lucky and Mowgli the time they needed

Two long-time MCHS residents find their forever homes.

Many of you will remember Lucky and Mowgli, the two “stars” of the MCHS spring fundraising campaign.

Lucky, a two-year-old Shar Pei/Lab mix, was returned to MCHS last December because his owner could no longer care for him. He had demodex mange and also suffers from Cushing’s disease and hypothyroidism. Your generosity provided him with the intensive medical care needed to get him back to health and ready for adoption.

Mowgli arrived at MCHS at the beginning of March. The trauma of losing his home caused him to lash out at people, and he spent his first six weeks with us hiding under a towel. For better socialization, we moved him into our President’s office, where he could have daily companionship, meet new people, and learn to relax.

This took five months, but it worked. Mowgli became a purring, affectionate kitty who loves belly rubs.

We’re happy to report that Lucky went home at the end of June and Mowgli went home in August. Thank you for giving them the time and the special care they needed!