

ANIMAL *lover*

News for you from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Winter 2017

Neo is now safe, thanks to your generosity

Neo, the featured dog in the MCHS holiday appeal, is currently playing with his new brother Teddy, thanks to the generosity of MCHS supporters like you.

Neo is a two-year old exotic bulldog who arrived at MCHS at the beginning of September. He'd been living alone and neglected in a basement, and his ordeal caused him to develop significant skin problems. MCHS provided him with the medical care and time he needed to heal and prepare for his new home.

Right after Christmas, Jamie and Bob P. came in and asked to meet Neo. They'd seen him on our website and thought he would be the perfect playmate for their Bantam Bulldog, Teddy.

"Neo really filled a void in all our lives, including Teddy's," Neo's new owner, Jamie, tells us. "Neo and Teddy play like they've known each other forever. The first thing Neo does when he gets up in the morning is greet Teddy – then the two of them come and sit together while they wait to be fed."

When Neo isn't playing with Teddy, he can be found snuggling on the chest of one of his human family members.



Who can resist these faces? Neo (left) and Teddy are now best friends. Thank you.

Your gifts always save lives

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.



Strong stewards of your generous gifts

In 2016, MCHS was pleased to once again earn Charity Navigator's coveted four-star rating. Charity Navigator is the nation's premier charity watchdog, which rates thousands of charities on two factors – transparency/accountability and financial health. We are very pleased to receive this recognition for the hard work we do to make sure your donations are protected. To learn more about our four-star rating, visit www.CharityNavigator.org, and search for the Montgomery County Humane Society. Thank you for putting your trust in MCHS!



In this issue:

Three rescue stories
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MCHS had a fantastic 2016. Thank you!



(And 2017 is off to a great start!)

698. This might look like just a number. But what it represents here is truly awesome: it's the number of adoptions you made possible in 2016 with your financial support! (It was 591 in 2015.) You gave them the care, love, medical attention and time they needed. On behalf of all them: Thank You.

Friends, there are hundreds more cats and dogs who are counting on us, together, to save them in the weeks and months ahead.

With your continued support, MCHS will answer the call, bring them to safety, and find them loving homes. On behalf of all of the animals we'll help in 2017, thank you again. I look forward to continuing our partnership in 2017 as we work together to end animal homelessness.

My best wishes to you and yours – furry, feathered, finned and otherwise – for a happy and prosperous 2017.

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

Cris Bombaugh
President and CEO

Animals you helped in 2016:

Total adoptions	698
Dogs	408
Cats	290

Meet your Board of Directors

MCHS Board member Abe Birch spent 21 years in the Air Force, and the leadership experience he gained there, along with his love of animals (he and his wife Sam have five pets) drew him to serve on the MCHS Board of Directors.



Abe Birch

“I became involved with MCHS two years ago because I wanted to help end animal homelessness. I thought it was a great organization, and when I learned that it had become fully independent of Montgomery County [in April of 2014], I knew my leadership skills would be helpful in the transition to an independent organization,” he tells us.

Abe frequently sings the praises of MCHS to clients of his real estate business. He is excited about the new strategic direction the organization is taking, and is looking forward to helping it succeed.

Micro-chips save lives every day

One of the most reliable ways to reduce animal homelessness is to make sure pets can be identified if they become lost. Tags can come off, but these very small chips, inserted under the skin, are permanent identifiers that can be read by shelters, veterinarians and other animal welfare groups to positively identify a stray pet. The micro-chip identifies the pet's owner or the original adopting agency, meaning the pet can be returned home much more quickly than it could be otherwise. MCHS administers easy and affordable micro-chips for the public (\$35 each) at our Stonestreet rescue 11 a.m to 5 p.m. daily, as part of its mission to end animal homelessness.



“What happens next, Matteo?”

Ears perked, Boogie, a one-year old shepherd mix, listens as Matteo B. reads her a story. In 2016, MCHS launched a new reading program to help socialize dogs who are waiting for adoption. The program also builds confidence in young readers and helps strengthen the human-animal bond.

Senior cat is grateful for second chance

Chloe is a beautiful, 9-year-old Himalayan mix who was surrendered to one of our partner shelters in November because her owner could no longer take care of her. Chloe had a lot of love left to give, but sadly, senior animals like Chloe are at particular risk in overcrowded public shelters. Our rescue gladly took her, knowing we could find her a loving home.

When she arrived at MCHS, we quickly became aware that she had been incubating what became a major respiratory infection, which is more serious in older animals. Your financial support ensured that we had the means to provide the special medical care and treatments she needed. And of course, she got A LOT of attention while she recovered – she even spent two weeks in our President’s office, so she’d have companionship during the day and a lap to sit in.

In January, Bridgette B. came to MCHS looking for a senior cat. “I’ve got a real soft spot for seniors,” she says. “Since I work during the day, I knew I needed one who would be OK at home alone while I was working.”

When she met Chloe, she fell in love. “Chloe loves to snuggle,” she tells us. I’ve never had a cat that loved cuddling as much as she does. And when I get home from work she follows me everywhere.”

When Chloe’s not following Bridgette around, she spends her time charming Bridgette’s friends and family, and hamming it up for the camera (see above). Congratulations, Chloe!



Chloe's in her element, and clearly loves the camera! She says, "Thank you!"

Help from a friend sends cats home for the holidays

Callie, Panther and Mae Mae are just three of the 30 very lucky cats that went “Home for the Holidays” thanks to a very special friend. Suzanne Beckner wanted to help some cats get home quickly, and generously donated the cost of 30 adoptions during the holiday season. The gift was made in memory of her late husband, Bill.

“Bill had a black cat that was just his buddy, and in 2008 we decided to pay for the adoption



Bill Beckner

of a number of black cats during the month of August. We did this every August for several years after that too. For the past three years, I’ve been sponsoring ‘Home for the Holidays’ for adult cats,” says Suzanne.

All of MCHS’s adult cats, not just the black ones, were eligible to be “Home for the Holidays.” To honor Bill Beckner’s love of black cats, however, each black cat adopted as part of “Home for the Holidays” went home with a special goody bag filled with treats, toys and a blanket made by Rachel Maslan, another long-time volunteer.

Thank you, Suzanne, for helping so many cats find homes, and Rachel, for your blankets!

Love wine? You’ll really love Wagging for Wines!

Sunday, March 19, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

The Olney Winery

18127 Town Center Drive, Olney



601 S. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

mchumane.org • (240) 252-2555

mchs@mchumane.org

Federal Tax ID# 52-6044968

United Way #8330 • CFC #54823



Sometimes a second try is best.

Ellie is a two-year-old German shepherd mix who was rescued by MCHS last February. Energetic, beautiful, and friendly, Ellie was quickly adopted at the beginning of March.

Every animal is unique, and sometimes, until they can be observed in a home environment, their needs can't always be fully assessed. It soon became clear Ellie had severe "abandonment issues." Whenever she was left alone, she destroyed things.

Her new family tried for months to make the adoption work, but ultimately realized they couldn't give her the attention she needed. In October, they returned her to MCHS, heartbroken.

MCHS is fully committed to every animal we rescue, and we will always take back any of our adopted animals if the adoption doesn't work out. Your support covers the costs to care for them if they do return, and the information provided by the first adopter gives us valuable insight that will help us place the pet again.

At the beginning of January, Susan K. and her family arrived at MCHS to meet Ellie. Her kids had been monitoring the MCHS website, and were convinced she'd be a good fit for their family. "We adopted Ellie because my kids absolutely loved her, but also because I knew that I'd be able to be home with her all day," Susan says. "Ellie is a wonderful dog, and a smart dog, though her nose makes her a stubborn dog: she tries to follow it everywhere!"

Today, Ellie has settled into her new home, and even has an Instagram account! Follow her adventures at [_Elliedog_](#).

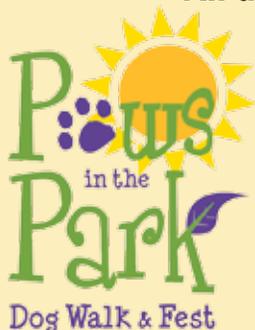
Registration information coming soon!



Oh boy, Oh boy, Oh boy!

All dogs look forward to **Sunday, April 23, 2017** at Bohrer Park

- Games for canines
- Kids' activities
- Agility competitions
- Music, prizes, food, vendors
- Contests for dogs and their people
- And much more!
- 1 mile dog walk



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