

# ANIMAL *lover*

News for you from the Montgomery County Humane Society

Spring 2017

## A bucketful of gratitude

These adorable puppies arrived at MCHS in the middle of February (shown here, they're about one month old). Your financial support provided them with the care they needed – daily baths, life-saving vaccinations, lots of love, plenty of playtime, and of course, spay and neuter.

We're happy to report that as soon as they were old enough, and large enough, they bounced into their new homes.

Spring is here, and that means our partner shelters start to become overcrowded with puppies and kittens, cats and dogs, who arrive daily on their doorsteps. Thanks to your generosity, MCHS continues to be able to answer the call, and to save as many as we can – more than 600 every year.



Hannah and her sisters (Madeline and Colleen) play in a bucket after a daily bath.



Aidan and Alexa frolic on the new floor.

**A new, shiny floor!  
Oh boy! Oh boy!**  
*Thanks to Drs. Jay & Esther Ocuin*

The dog and cat areas at MCHS just got a wonderful facelift at the end of January, thanks to the generosity of Drs. Jay and Esther Ocuin. The Ocuin's are committed dog lovers, and told us that they wanted to do something to help our animals. So they bought them a brand new floor!

The new floor is made of epoxy for long wear and easy cleaning. In the dog kennels, it extends up the back walls to protect our dogs and puppies, and it makes it a snap to clean up doggie messes. Plus, it looks fantastic! We love the new floors, and the animals do too. Thank you so much, Jay and Esther!

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



## Welcome, warm weather!



Dear friends,  
Aaaahh, warm  
weather at last. I  
think. I hope.

While I thoroughly enjoy fresh air and singing birds, I almost enjoy them more for my cats. For them, being able to hear and see and smell the world outside has been off-limits all winter. Now, at last, they can enjoy it all once again from the safety of their beloved screened porch. (It's their porch, of course, not mine. I know you understand.)

I get a kick out of seeing my gang determinedly running through the house towards the door when I announce, "the porch is open!" And finding them later lined up along the window, heads moving in unison as they watch birds and squirrels, or enjoying the smell of the lilac bush, or monopolizing the sunniest spots on the sofa.

Dogs, of course, get more options, including fun events like Paws in the Park. It's a great event, where dogs and people can walk, compete for prizes, or just relax while they raise funds for homeless animals.

So, friends and fellow animal lovers, here's to spring, fragrant breezes, spots of sunshine, and squirrels on tree limbs. And I hope to see you at Paws in the Park on Sunday, April 23!

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

Cris Bombaugh  
President and CEO



**PUPS and PINTS**  
*An outdoor party to help homeless animals*

Live music by  
The 19th  
Street Band!

Our first Yappy Hour of the season!

Wednesday, May 31, 2017  
6 - 9 p.m.

The Irish Inn at Glen Echo

proceeds benefit  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Humane Society  
*adoption · education · compassion*  
and Second Chance Wildlife Rescue

The poster features a silhouette of people sitting at tables outdoors with dogs, under a large umbrella. The text is in purple and white on a yellow background.

## Cats join cat lovers for yoga at MCHS

On March 10, three of our feline rescues – “Dale,” an energetic 2-year-old gray tabby; “Sonny Boy,” a friendly 2-year-old orange-and-white tabby; and “Shelly,” a laid back, 2-year-old gray shorthair joined eleven yoga enthusiasts for the first MCHS Cat Yoga practice.

“We wanted to do an event that allowed us to showcase some of our adoptable cats,” says MCHS Volunteer and Event Manager Kathy Dillon. “There are a lot of events to strengthen the bond between dogs and people. This was an opportunity to do something fun for the cats and the cat lovers in our community.”

While the practice was a great success – with a waiting list for human participants – not everything went entirely according to plan. Dale attempted (and failed) to escape the room at the end of the session.

MCHS plans to offer more cat yoga sessions in the future. Check our website, [www.mchumane.org](http://www.mchumane.org) for details.



## Meet your Board of Directors

MCHS Board Member Jo Ann Hoffman has had a long successful career in association and business management, golf tournament management and fundraising, and was once selected as one of the “25 Most Influential People in the Meeting Industry” by *Meeting News*. It was a discussion with the wife of a colleague about a shared love of animals that first drew her to MCHS.



Jo Ann Hoffman

“My colleague’s wife was the number two person at MCHS. She offered to give me a tour, and soon after, I began volunteering in a cat room – this was in 1990.”

Jo Ann has been volunteering with MCHS ever since. In 2004, she was named “MCHS Humanitarian of the Year” and was asked by then MCHS President, Margaret Zanville to serve on the Board.

Jo Ann has also been involved in many MCHS fundraisers, including golf outings, galas, Paws in the Park and many others.

Jo Ann was elected Board Chair in January, 2009, and served in that capacity until January, 2015. She’s most excited about plans for MCHS rescue and education programs, and has faith that MCHS will continue to be talked about among others in animal welfare as being “among the best of the best.”

## Rescued from woods after mother’s death, puppies are thankful for safety, new homes

*Puppies tell MCHS donors “Thank you for helping us!”*

Three two-month-old shepherd mix puppies, Alvin, Simon, and Theodore arrived at MCHS at the end of March after surviving a harrowing ordeal. “The puppies were born in the woods. They were caught by one of our partner shelters after their mother was hit by a car,” says Brian Glover, MCHS Director of Rescue Operations and Outreach. Sadly, their mother died of her injuries, and the pups were orphaned.

But, the three littermates could count on you to help them. Our rescue team brought them to MCHS, and quickly got them ready for adoption. Thanks to you, all three are now healthy, growing and loving their new homes.



Alvin, Simon and Theodore shortly after their arrival at MCHS.

## “Smart Alec” one year later

Border Collie Alec was six months old when he arrived at MCHS in January, 2016, and when MCHS volunteer Diane S. met him, she fell in love.

“I’d had Border Collies when I was a kid, and when I took Alec for a walk I thought, ‘this really is a fine dog’, she tells us. She walked him twice more, and when she came the fourth time, he could barely contain his excitement. “I brought my husband in to meet him, and that sealed the deal.”

“We call him ‘Smart Alec’”, she tells us. “The first week we had him, my husband was making a submarine sandwich. He turned away for a moment, and when he looked back, half the sandwich was gone. Alec wasn’t even chewing. He’d managed to quickly grab and eat it without making any noise.”

Alec loves playing with other dogs – his best friend is the neighbor’s standard poodle. He particularly enjoys belly rubs and games of Frisbee. And, he will soon graduate from a year-long group training program. Congratulations, Alec!



Alec



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United Way #8330 • CFC #54823

## Barney Alexander, reporting for duty!

MCHS Ambassador Barney prepares to meet with a Scout troop here at our Stonestreet Avenue headquarters. Rescued by MCHS in 2016, Barney now volunteers with our humane education team. Barney and his colleagues meet with more than a thousand Montgomery County children each year to teach them compassion, respect and proper care of companion animals. Barney's co-workers include Lenny and Squiggy, two Guinea pigs who also accompany our education team.



Barney

## Flora, once discarded, finds new love

Flora is a tortie/tabby who was rescued from a partner shelter because her original owners had “too many animals” and didn’t want her anymore.

But we knew we could find someone who did.

When Flora arrived, it was clear she had some trust issues – and who can blame her? – but little by little, with the encouragement of our dedicated staff and volunteers, she came out of her shell.

In the middle of February, Mabel D. arrived looking for a cat who would do well with her young sons – ages two and seven. Flora came right up to her – it was clear she’d found her person.

Flora, now known as “Cara Puma Thurman,” is loving life in her home. She sleeps in Mabel’s bed, and immediately meows when Mabel comes home from work. And she has really opened up to Mabel’s older son. When her toddler goes to bed, Cara meows again, and everyone knows it’s playtime.



Flora

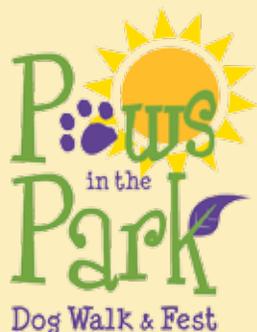
Visit <http://www.mchumane.org/support/events/paws-in-the-park-2017/> to register and start fundraising



# Oh boy, Oh boy, Oh boy!

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

- Canine Good Citizen testing
- Agility competitions
- Contests, music, prizes, food, vendors
- 1 mile dog walk
- Kids’ activities
- **NEW!** lower admission fee



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Humane Society  
adoption • education • compassion

in partnership with



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