



the paw print post

Uniting Pets & People Since 1946

March 2016

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You Play With the Animals All Day, Right?

A Day in the Life at the Shelter

We post plenty of pictures on our website and social media of dogs romping, cats lounging, and small critters, well, just being cute. From the outside, it would seem as though our days are all fun and games. But behind the scenes, things are hopping to ensure that each and every animal receives the highest quality of care and the absolute best chance to find a forever home.

7:00am RISE & SHINE

The day begins with our staff finding an animal that's been left at our front gate overnight. Our Animal Care and Tech departments begin a rigorous daily cage and kennel cleaning. Good animal health relies on an environment that is free from bacteria, viruses, and germs. A crew goes to clean the Cattery and Small Critter area and another



group tackles the dog kennels. After scrubbing, we have piles of laundry to tackle each day and fresh bedding to put down.

9:00am CLEANING

Next we prepare every animal's food, following any special dietary needs or restrictions. Of course, these bowls all need to be washed, so doing the dishes is next on the agenda. If we have any barnyard animals, they're given their morning meal too.

On any given day we have lots of animals who need medication. Dr. Zink, HSHC's shelter veterinarian, starts her rounds with a vet tech to address any health concerns and follow up on any sick or injured animals.

HSHC's executive director, Jen, returns from



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Tragedy to Triumph

Shelter's Phoenix Fund Saves the Day

Providing for all the needs of nearly 4,500 animals each year is challenging, so when critically ill or injured animals come in who need life-saving surgeries, it can be a real game-changer. With a budget that's already stretched thin with little wiggle-room, it can be devastating for HSHC to face a potential \$1,500 bill.

That's why we established our Phoenix Fund, a restricted account that is used solely for emergency situations or to provide corrective procedures to improve an animal's chances of being adopted. We'd like you to meet Mitchell and Roo, two animals whose lives were transformed by The Phoenix Fund.

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Executive Director UPDATE

Wow! It's hard to believe it's already been seven months since I started at HSHC...time flies when you're having fun! I want to begin by saying THANK YOU to everyone. Before my first day even began, I received warm welcomes from so many of you. In those first few weeks, my office was full of cards, flowers, and letters to wish me well. I received phone calls and Facebook messages welcoming me to the community and offers of help in every way imaginable. The Harford County community is clearly full of animal lovers and hard-working volunteers, and what more can a shelter director hope for?

As we are preparing to move into our brand new, state of the art shelter, I reflect on the 70-year history of HSHC. Mrs. Elsa Horne Voss founded HSHC in 1946 with the goal of giving a voice to the voiceless, saving precious lives, and helping Harford County become a shining beacon for animal welfare, in a time when animals were not always considered part of the family. Over the years, the staff, volunteers, and the community have worked hard to continue her legacy into the 21st century. I am so very honored to serve the animals and people of Harford County, and am grateful to have the opportunity to build on the many successes of my predecessors.

I hope you will join us at our Grand Opening of the new shelter later this year, and if you spot me out and about, please say hi – I'd love to meet you!

Cheers,
Jen Swanson

Executive Director, Humane Society of Harford County



www.harfordshelter.org

Mission

The Humane Society of Harford County promotes the humane treatment of homeless, stray and abandoned animals by providing shelter, care, adoptions and community education.

Animal Visitation and Adoption Hours

Monday – Friday 11 AM – 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday 12 PM – 4 PM

Administration Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Telephone Contacts

Main number 410-836-1090
Main Fax 410-877-3788
Ext. 101 Executive Director
Ext. 102 Foster & Rescue Coordinator
Ext. 104 Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Ext. 105 Lost and Found
Ext. 106 Marketing Coordinator
Ext. 109 General Information & Client Services
Ext. 111 Office Manager
Ext. 113 Shelter Operations Director

E-Mail Contacts

Adoption Team adopt@harfordshelter.org
Administration erin@harfordshelter.org
Donations cathy@harfordshelter.org
Foster/Rescue foster@harfordshelter.org
Volunteer volunteer@harfordshelter.org

Adoption Fees*

Puppies	8 weeks – 11 months	\$250
Dogs	1 year – 5 years	\$160
Dogs	6 years – 9 years	\$ 95
Dogs	10 years and older	\$ 35
Kittens	8 weeks – 6 months	\$125
Cats	7 months – 5 years	\$ 95
Cats	6 years and older	\$ 45
Rabbits		\$ 25
Guinea Pigs		\$ 20

*Please inquire about the adoption fees for all other animals

**We offer monthly adoption specials



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Shelter Operations Update

Since starting at HSHC last fall, I have been amazed by the dedication of our volunteers and fosters. It has truly been my pleasure to work with them, alongside our Foster and Rescue and Volunteer Coordinators. We are making great strides in increasing communication, organization and overall satisfaction among volunteers and fosters, undoubtedly leading to stronger Foster and Volunteer Programs, which will allow us to make a greater impact on the lives of the animals in our care!

We also have volunteer Dog and Cat Enrichment Teams, whose members are phenomenal! These teams meet monthly and strive to provide animals with the social interaction, mental stimulation, and exercise they need to maintain their behavioral health while at the shelter. By making sure that the animals' sensory and social needs are met, Enrichment Team members also help the animals show better to potential adopters and transition more successfully to an adopter, foster or rescue!

We are beginning to expand the program to ensure that all of the animals' senses are covered, and we would love some help with a wide range of things! If you are interested in anything from making toys to working with more challenging behavioral cases, we'd love to hear from you.

We've also been making great strides in expanding the Rescue program. We were able to get quite a few pets with challenging medical or behavioral needs out to wonderful rescues. In addition, rescues took a few of our less challenging cases to help us free up some much needed space. We are extremely thankful to all

of the rescues who have already stepped up to help HSHC animals. Relationships with rescues are a vital component for any open admissions shelter, and we are looking to expand our rescue database even further!

My first couple of months at HSHC have been amazing and I look forward to our continued work improving our Adoptions,

Foster, Volunteer, Rescue, and Enrichment programs.

Cat Kelly recently joined HSHC as its Shelter Operations Director. Cat was shelter supervisor at Baltimore County Animal Services. Prior to that, she managed a veterinary practice in Timonium where she was also a vet tech for many years. She is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Harvey goes to rescue!



Volunteer Dave Heverin spends time with Trapper

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A Day in the Life

Continued from page 1

an early morning meeting at The Harford County Chamber of Commerce and begins preparing for a presentation that she'll give that evening to a local rotary club.

Vicki, HSHC's foster and rescue coordinator, has already seen a litter of 2-week-old kittens who need to go into a foster home and she's emailed our foster parents for help. She's also talking to a few area groups who are interested in taking a senior German Shepherd into their rescue.

Erin, HSHC's marketing coordinator, posts a lost dog to our Facebook and Twitter pages, then works on a large poster that will sit outside a community event this weekend where we'll have a booth with literature and a few canine ambassadors to work the crowd. Later, she'll update the shelter's website with information about an upcoming fundraising event.

10:30am BEHIND THE SCENES

After a quick morning debriefing with our staff, Cat, HSHC's shelter operations director, sits down to review our current "inventory" of animals to plan for their needs and ensure we have enough people, materials, and resources to meet those needs...without going over budget.

HSHC's office manager, Kim, is reviewing our financials to determine if we're adhering to the tight budget. As a 501(c)(3) organization, keeping all the monies straight and properly accounted for ensures we keep our tax-exempt status. Meanwhile, Cathy, our database coordinator, is reviewing donation receipts, entering new donors into our database and writing thank-you notes.

Everyone is asked to help when a litter of filthy puppies is brought in by Harford County Animal Control. They all need baths, photos and a complete medical exam before being put into our computer system. Vicki sends an email out to our network of foster families to see if someone can foster the puppies until they are old enough to come back to the shelter to be put up for adoption.

11:00am OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are helping customers who wish to adopt a new family member or who have scheduled appointments to surrender their pets. Our adoptions counselors are answering the phones, returning calls and responding to emails that came in overnight.



Continued on page 13

Meet Our New Shelter Veterinary Director!



Hello everyone! I just wanted to let you know how excited I am to be here at the Humane Society of Harford County and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful organization. There is so much that I can do here to positively affect the health and well-being of the shelter animals. The staff here is extremely dedicated and they have been so welcoming to me. I feel very fortunate to help them take this shelter to the next level.

Currently we are implementing some aggressive medical and sanitation protocols so that everyone is ready to move into the new shelter with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and optimism that all of our hard work will produce happier and healthier animals for the communi-

ty to adopt.

I was so excited to find that Cat Kelly, HSHC's new Shelter Operations Director, was someone that I would work well beside. We seem to share the same vision for the shelter and understand how important it is for us to work together to achieve the greatest progress at HSHC. Thanks to the prior leadership, we have both been blessed with wonderful teams to work alongside. Everyone is so excited to learn!

The county's Animal Control Team is also a positive force and valued partner in our animal welfare endeavor. As I look down the hill at the ongoing construction, I see nothing but opportunity for the animals! The new shelter is going to be a fabulous environment to

work and together we're going to make 2016 an amazing year for homeless animals in Harford County.

Dr. Mary Zink joined HSHC in December 2015 after spending the last 7 years working in animal shelters, including The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, Baltimore Humane Society, and the Maryland SPCA. Dr. Zink earned a BS in Biology from The University of MD, College Park and completed her veterinary training at The Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.



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From the Trainer: Understanding Fear Aggression

It was an accident. It was just a 'nip.' It didn't break skin. He just snapped at the air/leash. Sound familiar? Biting—let's call it what it is—happens when we live our lives with animals. It's important to not minimize it, and to understand why it happens so that we can prevent it!

Did you know that most dog bites are a result of fear based aggression? Did you also know that a scared dog can be much more dangerous than a confident dog? The idea that only confident or outwardly aggressive dogs bite, is a common misconception.



What are the signs?

Scared dogs typically give signs of discomfort in a situation before acting in an aggressive manner. Wide eyes, lip licking, removing themselves from a situation, and even growling, are all early warning signs that something is not right with the situation. Respect the dogs space if you see these things. If there are children involved, ensure that the children know to respect the dogs space, as well.

What else can you do?

If you have ever experienced these behaviors with your own dog, it's important to seek professional help. This will not only ensure your safety and the safety of others, it will ensure that your dog is living a happy, comfortable life! With fear aggression, it's important to note that any harsh corrections and physical punishment can make fear problems worse. In turn, this will make the aggression worse. Taking a slow approach to building the dog's tolerance to fear triggers is key.

Leadership from the people in the dog's life is also important! Coddling a fearful dog can make problems worse, as it can force the dog into the leadership position; a role that most fearful dogs are not capable of handling.

How can Mutt Magic help?

What can Mutt Magic do to help? We can schedule an initial in-home evaluation and lesson, to determine what the best course of action will be for your specific situation. From there, our Confidence Course is often a GREAT tool! Held at the Humane Society of Harford County, this is a group training course that is specifically designed to help your shy or fearful dog overcome fear, and build tolerances to key triggers. Upcoming Confidence Courses may be found online at <http://muttmagic.com/training-schedule.html>.



Aja Harris-Brown owns Mutt Magic Training. She enjoys working with dogs of all breeds and sizes and seeing owners develop lasting relationships with their dogs! Contact Aja at info@muttmagic.com.

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The Phoenix Fund

Continued from page 1

MITCHELL

The following was written by Ali Hunsinger

My family went to the Humane Society in December with our "wish list" for the perfect kitten: it had to be young, good with dogs, outgoing and tolerant of our two young children. Inside the Cattery we learned that all the kittens were in foster homes, but before we left, the staff introduced us to Mitchell. He was a kitten at only seven months but had special needs, which is why he was at their facility. When we heard "special needs" my husband and I looked skeptically at each other, not sure if we were up for the challenge. Mitchell required frequent medication from an eye infection, a condition likely to be a chronic problem. The shelter recommended surgery to remove the eye because he wasn't showing signs of improvement.

As soon as we met Mitchell and learned of his condition, I knew it was fate that led us to Mitchell. In the fall I suffered from an eye injury and am currently blind in one eye, which is ironically, the same eye as Mitchell. As I watched my family meet and play with this cat, I was touched by the gentle care they showed him and his friendly loving nature. My two-year-old daughter insisted we be careful of his "boo-

boo" and gave him kisses to make it feel better. At the time I thought "this might be the biggest mistake of our lives" but I was determined to give this cat TLC and a chance at a better life.

We filed the paperwork and waited for Mitchell to recover from surgery. My kids made him get well cards and counted down the days for Mitchell to become part of the family. The staff at the Humane Society was extremely supportive and made the whole surgery process easy for Mitchell and our family. The surgery was performed



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flawlessly at Hickory Vet and the Humane Society generously covered the cost of his veterinary care.

During the adoption process I was surprised by the love the community at the Humane Society showed for my cat. When I called for updates on his progress the conversation ended with "I'm glad he's getting this chance, we love him" or "we are so happy for him".

The holidays brought many visitors excited to meet our new addition and

Mitchell did not disappoint! Instead of hiding from new, noisy visitors he served as a greeter and was held by all. While I answered questions about my own recovery, my kids were quick to show that our cat is so cool because it only has one eye!

We're pleased to report that a month later, Mitchell is doing very well. The stitches are out and he has completely adjusted to life with one eye.

During a tragic event you lean on the people who love you. Those people support your recovery and make it easier to overcome

Continued on page 14



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The following gifts were made in memory of loved ones in 2015. View a complete list of donors at harfordshelter.org.

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- * Paul and Joyce Zachry
- * Paul G. Zachry

Judy May Zanotelli

- * Erwin and Kathleen Cook
- * Linda L. Gillum
- * Alan Spencer and Zachary A. Fell
- * Richard J. Zurcher, Jr.

Don Zantop, DVM

- * Virginia Wood

Donald Ziolkowski

- * Robert and Ursula Pierce

In Memory of Special Pets

Amber Gibson

- * The Stricklin Family

Angel

- * Sandy Nelson

Atticus & Scout

- * Lynn Atkinson Elder

Autumn Penxa

- * Dr. Tanya Lynn Tag

Bailey

- * Lisa Marie Darcey

Bailey Jansen and Mackenzie Jansen

- * Eric and Rhonda Jansen

Beau Incovati

- * Tami Harman

Benji

- * Mary Ann Angelo

Benny

- * Elizabeth H. Hall

Benny Crowl

- * Betty Hill

Boomer and Ziggy

- * Sandra E. Herbert

Boordy

- * Patti Stravinsky

Buddy

- * Edward V. Smith, Jr.

Buddy Schindhelm

- * Lynn Katen

Buster

- * Lisa Marie Darcey
- * Frances Sclafani

Calli

- * Gabriella B. Hoffmann

Callie

- * Patti Stravinsky

Casey, Nikki, Smokey, Ziggy and Mittens

- * Deborah Butler-Sanford

Charlie, Ginger, Tiger and Mommy Cat

- * Suzanne and Eric Lent with Graham, Oliver and Martha

Chauncey

- * Johanna Stengel

Cinderella

- * Judith Pratt

Cody

- * Elizabeth H. Hall

Confetti

- * Conrad J. Gagnon, III

Dancer, my favorite rescue greyhound

- * Lois Hoffer

Dani & Tock-Ker

- * Virginia Wood

Desmond Mulqueen

- * Peggy Liberatore Castagna
- * Lois Phipps

Diego

- * Linda S. Newhard

Digger Abrams

- * Joe Kirk

Dossie

- * Stephanie D'Amico

Duke

- * James Rush

Duke Reynolds

- * Terry Patterson

Dutch Wonderland Master

- * Maureen & Harvey Cohen

Dutchess

- * Michael Como

Ginger

- * John & Erin Long

Ginger

- * John R. Kennedy

Ginger

- * Ruth Bergstrom

Gizmo

- * Roy and Jan Dean

Gus

- * Alan Danish

Gypsy Kupina

- * Beth Freeman

Hoagie

- * The Schroeder Family - Brian, Lindsey, and Atticus

Howard Hughes and the momma cat he lost

- * Victoria Kost-Swinson

Intruder Smetana

- * Margaret Joanne Weller

Jade

- * Mary Cathy Bland

Jilly Geraghty

- * Tina Kahl

Joe

- * Barb Macikas
- * Anna Marie Ohler
- * Jo Ann Pinder
- * Claudia B. Sumler

Karnakie Webb

- * Rudy and Merideth Fischer

Kenya

- * Rudy and Merideth Fischer

Kimmie

- * Antoinette Peterson

Lexus Gray

- * Barbara J. Dickson

Lexy Lou Meirose

- * Sharon Meirose

Lightning & Ms. Kitty

- * Anonymous

Lilah

- * Mark Steven Felmar

Lily Rose Ichniowski

- * Rosemary Rogers

Lucy

- * Anonymous
- * Robert and Andrea Lukowski
- * Maizy
- * Dennis & Marilee Moore

Mara

- * Gabriella B. Hoffmann

Marmalade

- * Lawrence Aiello

Mason Dragunas

- * The Conklin Family
- * The Diamond Family
- * Alison Dragunas

Continued on page 12



2015: The Year in Review



1. Patrick Lomantini's 50 States Tour visited Bella Amici Salon for haircuts. Patrick donated 100% back to our shelter.
2. Oliver won our 2016 calendar contest and appears on the cover.
3. Our friends had a blast at the Bow Wow Boogie. See page 7 for details on this year's bash.
4. The Nelson J. Briggs Demolay held a dog wash in support of homeless animals at Pet Valu in Aberdeen.
5. Friends and family of Tyler Anderson donated proceeds from "Let's Throw for Tyler Together", a disc golf event held in memory of Anderson.
6. Lots of love connections were made at an adoption extravaganza at Hickory Veterinary Complex.
7. Job's Daughters, Bethel #35 held a Rescue Ride & Chili Cook-Off for the animals at Chesapeake Harley Davidson.
8. Some of the yummy homemade treats at one of 2015's Quarter Auctions held around the county.





9. The Art Rooms hosted its annual art competition.
10. Audrey raised \$200 for the animals.
11. The Team from Rock Spring Veterinary Clinic at last year's Bowl-a-Rama.
12. We held our 1st Yappy Hour in Bel Air's Shamrock Park to raise funds for our Open The Doors capital campaign project.
13. PetSmart of Abingdon held a canned pet food drive.
14. Our 1st annual Putts Fore Paws golf tournament at Mountain Branch!
15. We marched with our dogs in the Bel Air Christmas Parade.



Memorials

Continued from page 9

- * The Greathouse Family
- * Mitsy, Guinness, and Molly

Maxie
* Betsy F. Stewart

Maxx
* Shelley Leach

Merlin
* Patricia Meushaw

Miami
* Patricia Sullivan

Mickey Rex
* Tami Ramos

Mickey Rumbaugh
* Amy Harman

Midnight
* Lisa Marie Darcey

Mulligan
* David and Diane Coughlin

Murphy
* Michelle Horner

Murray Brown
* Beth Freeman

Nixon Weber
* Lachelle Scarlato

Noah Eyler
* Louise Hetmanski

Penny
* Maryellen Fyhr

Pepper
* Phillip and Melissa Harmon

Pepper
* Samantha Creutzer

Pepper Beckwith
* John and Peggy Castagna

Prancer Muzii
* Peggy Liberatore Castagna

Prince Davidson
* Jennifer McCamant

Pringles
* Rudy and Merideth Fischer

Priss
* Margaret Pearce

Rae Ann
* John Antal, Jr.
* Theresia Logan

Reba
* John and Linda Essers

Reggie
* Walt and Judith Pratt

Rosie Roberts
* Judi, Jeff & Walt Pratt

Roxy
* Shirley Warren

Rudy
* Stephen Green

Sadie
* Virginia Wood

Sampson Kimble
* Stephanie Stickley

Sandy Mulqueen
* John and Peggy Castagna

Seneca
* Phillip and Melissa Harmon

Shelby
* Scott Businsky

Shiloh Pina
* Lisa Marie Darcey

Sirena
* Jim and Suzanne Allbrook

Sophie Jehnert
* Lawrence A. Jehnert

Sterling
* Gabriella B. Hoffmann

Sugar Bear Hunsinger
* Aaron Hunsinger

Sysco Mulqueen
* John and Peggy Castagna

Taz
* Richard Brinegar

Thelma
* John & Erin Long
* Curt, Anna Marie and
Matthew Ohler

Timmy
* Robert and Andrea Lulkowski

Toby & Bailey Madden
* Peggy Liberatore Castagna

Toto
* Melvin and Gloria George

Zeus
* Betsy F. Stewart

Zoot
* Anonymous



Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank all of The Humane Society of Harford County's Foster Care Volunteers who collectively sheltered 908 cats and kittens, dogs and puppies, bunnies, guinea pigs, iguanas, snakes and more in 2015.

HSHC's foster families convert spare bedrooms, laundry rooms and dens in their own homes into havens for animals in need. They give daily medications, change bandages, drive to veterinary appointments and love their fosters like their own pets. Some of these animals need a few days of foster care while others need more extensive care for several weeks or months. When their stay is over, they give kisses and tearfully wave goodbye to their fosters when they are adopted.

Why Do They Do It?

Yes, fostering is an emotional investment and yes, sometimes despite the foster parent's best efforts, a tiny, vulnerable kitten might pass away. Why put yourself through this emotional rollercoaster? Because our fosters are committed to saving lives and many of them will tell you that the effort they put into caring for a foster pet actually *saved them!*

HSHC provides all veterinary care and medicine for the foster animals and plenty of support to the foster family when needed. The foster family provides time, pet supplies such as food and cat litter, a place in their home and lots of love.

Want to know more about becoming a Foster Care Volunteer? Visit our website at www.harfordshelter.org to complete and submit a foster care application or contact me at vicki@harfordshelter.org or 410-836-1090, x102.

Vicki Rose has been with HSHC for 6 years and is our Foster & Rescue Coordinator. Contact Vicki at foster@harfordshelter.org.



Foster Corner



A Day in the Life

Continued from page 4

Volunteers begin arriving to cuddle with the cats and take our dogs out for walks on the lower trails or quiet time on one of the benches around our property. Members of our volunteer dog enrichment team work with dogs who are extra shy, rambunctious, fearful, etc. to train them, improve socialization skills and teach leash manners.

HSHC's volunteer and outreach coordinator, Becky, is leaving for an appointment to speak to a local school about animal cruelty and she's taking a shelter dog with her.

11:30am A MATCH IS MADE

An adult cat has been selected from the Cattery and is being adopted. By asking a few simple questions, Ashley, one of HSHC's adoptions counselors, has helped this person pick out a pet that will fit her needs and lifestyle. Ashley finalizes the adoption paperwork while one of HSHC's Veterinary Techs perform an exit exam on the cat which includes implanting a microchip for identification purposes.



We wave goodbye and celebrate, but not for long because Animal Control is coming with 6 more stray cats. Our Techs get busy weighing them, taking temperatures, drawing blood to test for disease, and entering them into our computer system.

2:00pm FINAL FEEDING

It's time to feed the dogs and wash their bowls once more. We refill water bowls and scoop any waste soiling their living areas. When it is particularly cold, extra bedding is put down to keep the dogs toasty warm.

HSHC's executive director, is leading a weekly manager's meeting to get updates on projects, review concerns, brainstorm ideas for improvements to our processes, and discuss tasks for our next major fundraiser. HSHC's fundraisers are critically important, and there's an enormous amount of planning and coordinating to create and fun and memorable time. Then Jen provides updates to the Board of Directors for critical issues and prepares for a meeting with a business partner.

4:30pm LOST & FOUND

A dog that was found and picked up by Harford County Animal Control is being returned to his owner. The dog had a microchip and we were able to

locate his owner and contact her. There's a joyful reunion in our lobby.

Jen, one of HSHC's vet techs, is giving final exams to cats who will be transported to satellite adoption centers in the morning to find fur-ever homes.

6:30pm CLOSING TIME

We're closed to customers, but another half hour will be spent wrapping up our day. The floors are all mopped, donations

are put away, and we check all doors and locks and then it's lights out at 6:30pm. In 12 hours, a new day of animal sheltering will begin!



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Volunteer Corner

2015 marked an exciting year for HSHC's vibrant volunteer program. Almost 150 people joined our program last year, and along with our existing volunteer base, gave more than 10,000 hours of their time in support of HSHC's mission. In the second half of 2015 we began to implement some exciting new changes to our program including beginning a mentor program and training our volunteers to serve in new roles at the shelter.

HSHC's mentors are the most experienced and dedicated volunteers, and they welcome each new person who wants to volunteer directly with our animals at the shelter on their first shift. Whether it's learning techniques for walking a high energy dog or understanding how to best match an adopter with their ideal cat, mentors provide an invaluable service by helping our newest volunteers to feel welcome and prepared in their roles at the Humane Society of Harford County.

We also began to train volunteers to assist our adoption staff with administrative tasks and by answering

our always ringing phones. With a small staff, bringing our exceptional volunteers into this

line of work helps our shelter to improve our customer service and continue to reach all people in our community. We have also welcomed a few volunteers to assist our busy tech staff in our exam room. This fast paced and sometimes challenging area rarely sees a quiet day and we are excited to be expanding our program to include this type of work.

In 2015 our volunteers continued to assist us by submitting beautiful photographs of the animals up for adoption, performing maintenance work in our aging facility, transporting donations across the county, and supporting us at events. They raised funds for the shelter, provided foster care to animals in need, and gave a seemingly endless supply of affection and gentle care to the dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, lizards, goats, and yes, even pigs that spent time in the shelter.

In 2015 the Humane Society of Harford County



HSHC's volunteer appreciation party held January 2016 at MaGerks Pub.

saw 3,820 animals in need come through our doors. Providing humane care for these animals is the cornerstone of our mission and it's a herculean task. We simply wouldn't be able to accomplish our work without the support of our volunteers, the backbone and heart of our shelter. This line of work is often messy, sometimes emotionally difficult, and exhausting, but the rewards for those who give their time can be priceless. As we look toward a bright future and a long overdue new facility we remain grateful for our volunteers' efforts and their tireless dedication to this important cause.

Becky Benner is HSHC's Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator. She enjoys visiting local schools, and organizations with an animal ambassador. Contact Becky at volunteer@harfordshelter.org.

The Phoenix Fund

Continued from page 7

the obstacle. Thank you to everyone at the Humane Society of Harford County for being such loving caretakers and allowing Mitchell to become a part of our family.

ROO

When Roo came to the shelter this summer, she was in terrible pain after being hit by a car and we quickly determined that her leg was badly broken. Despite the trauma she had suffered, she wanted to give our staff kisses and wagged her tail, grateful for the help she was getting.

We contacted a local veterinarian and scheduled immediate surgery for sweet Roo. Following her surgery, Roo went into foster care with Sandy H., her angel, who helped mend Roo's body and comfort her through her ordeal.

At about the same time, the Dufel family started their search for a family dog, and when they saw Roo, it was love at first sight. "We adopted Roo (now Ruby Roo) about 2 months ago. She has been the perfect addition to our family, and we are so glad we found her! She is so good with her 3-year-old big sister, and is the per-



fect cuddle bug! She loves going for walks and car rides, and we love to take her anywhere we can. We absolutely love her! We want to say a huge thank you to her foster mom, Sandy, for taking such good care of her during her broken femur recovery before we adopted her, and thank you to the Humane Society for all that you do for all your dogs!"

Editor's Note: If you'd like to make a donation to our Phoenix Fund, visit harfordshelter.org, click on the link to Donate and select "Phoenix Fund" in the list of gift designations.

Maggie

We adopted our "Maggie" in September. She was the adorable 14-year-old baby sitting in the window in the free room area. My mom, kids and I dropped off donations one afternoon then decided to visit and play with all the adoptable cats. We couldn't stop thinking about Maggie after leaving. My husband even felt sad for her that evening and he's not a

"cat person" as he says. He went to see her the next day...fell in love and brought her home to surprise us. She then fell in love with our 11-year-old daughter as well as her cozy and cheery bedroom. We're blessed to have her here to live out her second go around in her new home with her new loving family. Thank you for taking care of her before she found us!!
-Courtnee



Dutch

We adopted a 4-6 year old Dutch Shepherd named Dutch Wonderland Master on 2/28/09. We'll start by saying HE IS A GREAT DOG and a beloved family member. What drew us to Dutch were his brown "dreamy" eyes which exude love. I have many great memories when he was up on the sofa next to me, getting his body rubbed, and he'd just lean into me and look up at me with those eyes. Now he's at least 10 years old and can't make it up on the sofa anymore.

We are so happy to have Dutch in our lives and we truly appreciate all the good work The Humane Society of Harford County does. Keep up the great work!

-Maureen & Harvey Cohen



The Mill of Bel Air adopted George where he will live out the rest of his life as the store cat, surrounded by love and plenty of company! The Mill tells us that George is loving his life. Store employee, Tiffany, says, "We decided to leave George here because customers love him and always were asking for him! His face is priceless!"



George

HappyTails

Rock

Kim wrote to share an update on Rock, who they adopted on Dec. 28, 2014. "He is such a sweet dog and has been a great addition to our family."

Rock is wearing the sunglasses in the picture, and he's "with his brother Chaz on our boat on the river, which he has come to love. Thank you so much for our fur baby, we love him to the moon and back."



Ruxton & Oliver

We adopted brothers Ruxton & Oliver in August. They are just the sweetest, always finding a special spot to snuggle together. I forgot what it was like having kittens around. They have so much energy, but they sure have made us smile after losing our cat Tigger of almost 18 years.

-Missy



The Jackson family adopted Snortemer last March and renamed him Rudy. Patti says, "as you can see he is doing very well. We adore him!! He is now harness trained and is always happy to meet new people. He was even blessed at Norrisville Methodist Church this past September. Thank you for all you do!"

Snortemer

Lady & Shonobi

We adopted Shonobi and Lady a few weeks ago and we are so happy to have them in our family. So loving and affectionate. I think they rescued us, not the other way around. Thank you!
-Judy





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Fallston, MD 21047



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All proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of Harford County's Phoenix Fund to help pay for expensive surgeries, medications and rehabilitation for critically ill or injured animals.

*Drawing May 13, 2016 at Bow Wow Boogie.
Winner does not need to be present to win.*

Purchase tickets at
The Humane Society of Harford County
2208 Connolly Road, Fallston, MD
Online at harfordshelter.org or call 410-836-1090, x106

"The door of human kindness was thrown open recently when about 100 Harford Countians banded together for a common cause and organized the Harford County Humane Society, a group of animal lovers who have pledged themselves to care for pets which are ill or who have no home," reported *The Record* of Havre de Grace in June, 1948.

During World War II, Mrs. Elsa Horne Voss of Atlanta Hall Farm in Monkton set up a temporary shelter for stray dogs on the Albert Hughes farm just outside of Jarrettsville. By 1946, Voss had purchased a 26-acre farm in Fallston and formally established The Humane Society of Harford County.

This year marks an epic milestone in our history.

Not only is it our 70th birthday; we're also opening our brand new shelter facility! Help us celebrate with a \$70 donation. 100% of your gift will be placed in our Phoenix Fund to help pay for expensive surgeries, life-saving medications and rehabilitation for critically ill or injured animals.



Photo courtesy of The Historical Society of Harford County.