

A Note From Mary

Thank You. It's just two small words, but they express our profound gratitude for your support.



To our donors: Your support makes it possible for us to continue to feed and care for seriously ill or injured animals. Because of your generosity, we now have a space at Harford Mall for cats to be seen and adopted.

To our volunteers: You brave bad weather, traffic jams and the dirty looks from your own pets just so you can make sure all the HSHC dogs went out for one last walk and to make sure all the cats and small critters received some extra snuggles. The animals at HSHC are blessed with your companionship, attention and love.

To our staff: You care for thousands of pets as if they were your own – you worry when they are sick, laugh when they do silly things, and both rejoice and feel sad when they leave us for a better life with their new families. You work long hours doing emotionally draining work, but you do it every day knowing that you are making a huge difference in the lives of the animals in our care.

Thank you for everything you do for the animals of HSHC. Because of each and every one of you, these pets have received the greatest gift of all—a **second chance at love.**

Mary Leavens,
Executive Director



this issue

Cedar's Story **P.4**

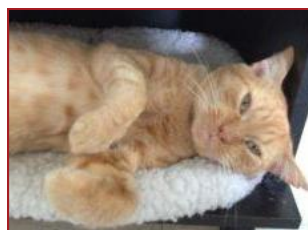
Happy Tails **P.5**

Calendar Contest **P.6**

Pet Insurance **P.7**

Cat Adoption Center Opens in Harford Mall

On September 21st from 11am – 2pm, The Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC) hosted the Grand Opening of *Rescue Me! at Harford Mall*, the region's first deluxe cat adoption center and boutique located in a shopping mall. HSHC is sharing space with Baron's K-9 Country Store, which will be offering numerous health oriented pet foods, products and gifts for dogs and cats.



TinTin is the first cat adopted from Rescue Me! at Harford Mall on 9/12/13.

Rescue Me! at Harford Mall was conceived due to the sheer number of cats and kittens entering the shelter each year. Last year, HSHC took in over 3,000 cats and kittens, and this year has been just as busy. The spring and summer months are especially challenging because of the increased numbers of kittens and pregnant mothers entering the shelter.

"Some people may be reluctant to visit an animal shelter or they simply aren't aware that we have

(continued on page 4)

Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair: Fun for All

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 12th from 1-6pm at the Harford County Equestrian Center!** You're invited to Harford County's premier pet event - the Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair, sponsored by Animal Emergency Hospital. We've got lots of exciting things planned this year. In addition to the popular vendor fair, pet contests, microchipping for \$20, pet photos, a mobile adoption unit, raffles and more, we have some **NEW** activities. Tempt your taste buds with **The Gathering**, a coalition of Baltimore's fabulous food trucks. They're bringing music,

beer & wine, and activities for children. Plus, help make history as we attempt to set a **Guinness World Record** for "Most Dogs Wearing the Same Bandana in One Place!"

(continued on page 3)



Photos courtesy of Heppner Imaging

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 Since 1947*

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410-836-1090

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www.harfordshelter.org



THE PAW PRINT POST

Adoption is the Only Option

Pictured are just a few of the many wonderful animals who found fur-ever homes this summer!



www.photovisi.com

Animal Visitation and Adoption Hours

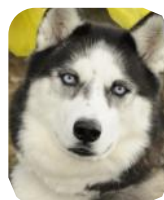
Monday – Friday 11 AM – 6 PM
 Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM
 Sunday 12 PM – 4 PM

Administrative Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9 AM – 5 PM

Rescue Me! at Harford Mall Hours

Monday – Saturday 11 AM – 7 PM
 Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM



Telephone Contacts

Main number 410-836-1090
Rescue Me! 410-838-2300
 Ext. 102 Foster Care & Rescue
 Ext. 104 Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
 Ext. 105 Lost and Found
 Ext. 106 Marketing Coordinator
 Ext. 109 General Information & Client Services
 Ext. 111 Office Manager & Human Resources
 Ext. 113 Shelter Manager

Adoption Fees*

Puppies	8 weeks – 11 months	\$250
Dogs	1 year – 5 years	\$160
Dogs	6 years and older	\$ 95

Kittens	8 weeks – 6 months	\$125
Cats	7 months – 5 years	\$ 95
Cats	6 years and older	\$ 45

Rabbits \$ 25

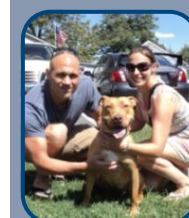
*Please inquire about the adoption fees for all other animals



shelterchallenge.com

**Vote every day
 to help HSHC win!**

*Our pets would love
 to have \$1,000
 or many other
 fabulous prizes.*



ON THE COVER

July 29, 2013 was adoption day for Gabby, after spending over 6 months at the shelter!

Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair, continued from cover

We're challenging folks of all ages to get out now and collect as many pledges as possible to support the animals. Students can challenge their classmates, employees can compete against other departments, neighbors can challenge each other! Go to www.harfordshelter.org now to download and print copies of the **PLEDGE SHEET**.

You can also **FUNDRAISE ONLINE**. Click the link to set up your own personalized fundraising page, and email the link to everyone you know so they can donate quickly and easily online.

Get as many people as you can to sponsor you. Ask family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to donate for the animals. Seek donations early and often! Remember—the biggest reason people don't donate is because they aren't asked!

Also at www.harfordshelter.org, print the **EVENT POSTER** and hang it at work and in your community.

Are you part of a business that wants to get involved? HSHC has a variety of **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** that provide recognition on promotional materials, inside the program, online and more.

HSHC also has **VENDOR SPACE** inside the pavilion for businesses to showcase their goods and services to hundreds of participants. Vendors can participate for a minimal \$40 fee.

So lace up your tennis shoes, put a leash on Fido and head out to the Harford County Equestrian Center in Bel Air for a fun-filled afternoon – all in support of a great cause! We look forward to walking and wagging with you!

Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair Schedule of Events

- 1:00 Walk Registration / Vendor Pavilion Open / Register for Contests / Enjoy The Gathering's Food Trucks & Music
- 1:45 *Best Trick Contest
Showcase your dog's best trick for prizes!
- 2:15 *Costume Contest
Bring your own costume and strut your stuff for a chance to win a great prize!
- 3:00 Walk Steps Off / Ribbon Cutting / Blessing of the Animals
- 3:30 Help Set a Guinness World Record for "Most Dogs Wearing the Same Bandana in One Place"
- 4:30 *Best Kisser Contest
Pucker up and enter your dog to win a fabulous prize!
- 5:00 *Musical Tails Contest
The last dog sitting when the music stops is out!
- 6:00 Conclusion of Event

*\$1 donation requested per contest entry



Thank You!



Girl Scout Troop 5953 donated \$107 in July



The Boys & Girls Club of Harford County visited in August and donated supplies.



Sabrina collected supplies from her neighbors!



The Pet Valu in Aberdeen donated \$128 in June



Reese & Sabine raised \$35 at their lemonade stand!

Cat Adoption Center, continued from cover

a shelter on Connolly Road in Harford County,” says Mary Leavens, Executive Director. “Our primary goal with this new endeavor is to offer a convenient adoption location and to find forever homes for as many adoptable cats and kittens as possible.”

Rescue Me! at Harford Mall will have a large selection of cats available for adoption, and the right one may just be waiting for you. Cats make wonderful companions:

- Unconditional love
- Boundless affection
- Hours of entertainment
- Undeniable cuteness
- Excellent snuggle buddy
- Initiator of smiles and laughter
- Looks of adoration



- Lots of purring
 - Comfortable silences
 - Great lap warmer on cold nights
 - Loving support when times are tough
- Plus, cats make you healthier and happier. For example, studies have shown that companion animals can help lower your blood pressure, reduce the risks of heart attacks and strokes, improve your mood and help fight depression.

Adoption fees are as follows: \$125 for kittens aged 8 weeks through 6 months; \$95 for cats aged 7 months through 5 years; and \$45 for cats 6 years and older. All cats and kittens adopted from *Rescue Me! at Harford Mall* and the shelter in Fallston include:

- a rabies vaccination (if the pet is at least 4 months old)
- the first set of distemper shots
- feline leukemia and AIDS testing
- de-wormer
- flea & tick preventative
- a microchip for identification purposes
- the spay or neuter procedure
- a general health exam



If the cat is not yet spayed or neutered, there is a \$50 deposit for a HASP (Harford Animal Sterilization Program) certificate. That fee is refunded upon completion of the procedure within 60 days (or 60 days after the animal reaches six months of age).

HSHC's *Rescue Me! at Harford Mall* adoption center is down the hallway near Sears and between Visionworks and Men's Wearhouse & Tuxedo. Our hours will be Monday through Saturday, 11 am - 7 pm and Sunday, 11 am - 5 pm. Holiday hours may vary. Harford Mall is located at 696 Bel Air Road, Bel Air, MD 21014.

To view the cats that are currently up for adoption at *Rescue Me! at Harford Mall* and HSHC's main location, visit www.harfordshelter.org or visit HSHC at 2208 Connolly Road in Fallston, MD.

True Love is in the Eyes of a Rescued Animal: Cedar's Story

It was a chilly December day, with temperatures hovering around 50 degrees when a Harford County Animal Control officer received a call about a stray Beagle mix in Abingdon. That was me, Cedar, and this is my story.

I guess I wandered away from my original home. A postal worker found me on Cedar Lane, and the name "Cedar" stuck. After picking me up, the officer brought me to the Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC) where I was diagnosed with a severe case of Sarcoptic mange, a skin condition that tends to cause intense itching, hair loss, reddened skin, body sores and scabs. Unfortunately,

my case of mange had spread over most of my body. I want to thank all the staff and doctors for taking care of me and helping to cure my mange. The treatment took more than a month, but slowly my skin and coat started to heal.

I went to live with a foster family for a while and appreciated my temporary home. My foster parents, Melissa and Phillip, said, "when we got Cedar (which was weeks after treatment at the shelter),

he was a mess! He had practically no hair, scabs all over his body, and he was very uncomfortable." Melissa continues to say that "with TLC from the shelter and some more in foster care, it is amazing how great he looks now! We are so glad that we could bring Cedar into our house and help get him get better and, best of all, get adopted!"

Yes, I was lucky to be adopted by a new couple on February 13, 2013 and now I have another start. I love to put my nose to the ground and chase rabbits and squirrels. I can't help it. It's in my



(continued on page 5)

Cedar's Story, continued from page 4

genes. Mom and Dad never let me get close enough to hurt any animals, but I sure like the chase. I go on morning and evening walks and get to sniff my surroundings. If I am really good, they take me on trails through the woods so I can make new discoveries.

I am two years old and still act like a puppy. I love to chew things: slippers, the toilet bowl plunger, hair scrunchies, magazines etc. I love being chased while my mom and dad try to get me to drop things. I am not trying to be bad. I just want

some attention. Since that time, they have bought me new toys, bones, and stuffed animals. I even have hip sweaters, tee shirts and a raincoat to wear. If I get a good bath and am a really clean, they let me jump on the bed and get under the covers. I am proud of my new coat of fur and want to thank everyone for not giving up on me.

Love,



Cedar relaxing in his foster home.



Cedar



Adoption Day!

So many heart-warming adoption stories happen every day at the shelter. If you've adopted your best pal from the Humane Society of Harford County, we'd LOVE to add your story! Email kim@harfordshelter.org to share your story and remember to include a recent photo.

P.S. Before I left the shelter I made lots of new friends. They wanted me to tell you how much they are looking forward to a new home as well. Give them a chance. They are a great bunch of animals. Tell them Cedar sent you. Show them my pictures. They will never recognize the new me!



I am the person who adopted McCloud (or she adopted us). She is a wonderful, perfect cat. She gets along well

with my other cat and is the boss now. If the person who gave her up is still around, please let them know she is greatly loved. And I can tell she was greatly loved before I got her. Thank you!

-Ann

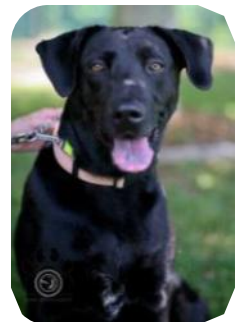


We were at your shelter looking for a dog, and we adopted Casey, a 7-year-old female black Lab. As I type this email, she is quietly sleeping at my son's feet upstairs while he is playing on his computer. She is a lovely dog and we are glad that she is ours. I can hardly wait to take her on walks, to the beach, and on vacation with us.

I want to commend your staff on working with us to find the right dog. Mr. David Truitt (Adoptions Counselor) discussed several dogs with us as did other members of your staff. They also shared their perspectives on their temperaments and allowed us to spend a lot of time with Casey while we made our decision. Casey needed the longer interaction as she is a quiet dog and it takes her a while to warm up. They also listened to what we wanted in a dog (size, age, temperament, breed, etc.) to help us find the right fit.

I will be recommending your shelter to my friends. Thank you for all you do for displaced pets.

-Catherine



Patches is the best dog I've ever owned. He has brought me more happiness than I ever imagined. I COULD NOT be happier. All of the dogs I looked at, while visiting your shelter, were great dogs but Patches was the PERFECT fit. In this picture, Patches is napping on top of me. The personnel at your shelter do a great job with the animals...and it shows!!!! LOVE MY NEW BABY,

-Dave



Do you have room for a temporary house guest? We need your help with fostering cats, kittens, dogs and puppies.

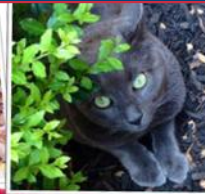
For more information, contact Vicki at 410-836-1090 or foster@harfordshelter.org.



Pets & People United Through Adoption



THE PAW PRINT POST



"Make Your Pet a Pin-Up" Calendar Contest
2014

www.360photocontest.com/227

Peeking out from underneath a shrub, the winner of last year's Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC) calendar contest, Max, could be mistaken for a statue. But this stately cat had a less than noble beginning. "Max was six-months old when I adopted him and his brother Chip from a local rescue after someone poisoned their mother," said Doris Browning Walker. Now, five years later, Browning Walker reports that Max "is a very loving cat, who likes to talk a lot!"

HSHC recently launched its 4th annual "Make Your Pet a Pin-Up" calendar contest, and the search is on to find a pet for the cover of the 2014 calendar. The contest is not just open to dogs and cats – pets of any kind are welcomed and encouraged. The contest officially began on September 15, and will conclude on November 10th at 11:59 p.m. EST.

The first, second and third place top fundraisers, as determined by the highest number of votes, will receive the following prizes:

- **1st Place:** Pet's Photo on Calendar Cover and 2 tickets to the 2014 Bow Wow Boogie, Harford County's largest gala for homeless and neglected animals.
- **2nd Place:** Pet's Photo on the Month of January and 5 printed calendars.
- **3rd Place:** Pet's Photo on the Month of February and 2 printed calendars.

The 4th through 13th place winners will each be featured as a pet of the month. Entries that do not win will be featured in a collage page inside the 2014 calendar.

To enter pet photo(s) online, visit www.360photocontest.com/227. A minimum \$10 donation is required per photo. Enter as many photos as you like, but photos must contain animals only, please. Entries may

also be submitted through the U.S. mail to HSHC's Calendar Contest, 2208 Connolly Road, Fallston, MD 21047 with the appropriate donation amount. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 2013 and will appear online within 48 hours of receipt. A complete list of contest rules is available at www.360photocontest.com/227.

After submitting a photo, entrants have the opportunity to send an email with a unique URL to friends and family members to vote for their photo. Votes are \$1 per vote with a minimum of five votes. Voters can apply all of their votes to one image or divide them across any number of pets' entries.

Votes can also be sent through the U.S. mail to HSHC's Calendar Contest, 2208 Connolly Road, Fallston, MD 21047 with the appropriate donation amount. Include a note with the check stating the pet's name, the owner's name, your phone number and how you want your votes distributed. Votes must be postmarked by November 1, 2013 and will be reflected online within 48 hours of receipt.

Businesses are invited to sponsor the calendar contest. The 12 month sponsorships are available for \$250 each. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.360photocontest.com/227.

Pre-order the 2014 calendar now for just \$10 each or ten for \$75. Calendars will be ready for pick-up by the end of November. Order forms are available at www.360photocontest.com/227.

The contest is a major fundraiser, with all proceeds benefitting the thousands of animals HSHC shelters each year. Entry fees as well as votes are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



The Case for Pet Health Insurance

By David Truitt, Manager, Rescue Me! at Harford Mall

A cat arrives at the emergency veterinary clinic. He hasn't urinated in 24 hours and is howling in severe pain. He has a urinary tract blockage and will die unless the blockage is relieved very soon. The good news in this scenario is that this is a treatable condition. The bad news? The cost of treatment can easily exceed \$1,000.

This type of scenario plays itself out in vet clinics across the country every single day. Animals arrive with serious and life threatening (but treatable) conditions. Sadly, some are not treated due to financial considerations. It's a nightmare situation that many pet guardians have to deal with. But it doesn't have to come down to deciding whether to have your companion animal treated for a serious illness/injury or paying your rent or mortgage. Planning is the key.

Every animal, at some point during his or her life, will become sick or injured. It's a fact. Rather than deny this fact, pet guardians would be best advised to plan for it. And that's where pet insurance comes in. Back in the early 80s, health insurance policies for animals began to pop up. Companies realized that more people considered their companion animals to be members of their families and were willing to pay to insure their health. The number of companies offering pet insurance has grown over the last three decades...there are now dozens that exist solely by insuring dogs and cats.

The types of policies that are offered vary. You can purchase very basic policies for as little as \$10-\$15/month in some cases. These policies tend to exclude preventative and "routine" care and focus more on medical emergencies. Other policies are much more com-

prehensive and cover check-ups, vaccines, spay/neuter costs, dental cleanings, etc. In my experience, the key is to know what your goals are and then make sure the policy you're signing up for meets those goals.

Always read the fine print! Know what is and isn't covered. One important difference between pet insurance and human health insurance is that with pet insurance, you are required to pay your bill in full and then submit paperwork to your insurance company. The insurance underwriters will then compare your policy to the itemized bill provided by your vet and determine if the illness/injury is covered under the terms of your plan. If it

is, you will be sent a reimbursement check. Keep in mind, that if you disagree with your insurance company's decision, you have the right to appeal. This means the insurance company must reexamine your claim to determine if any errors were made. And errors do occur! I have experienced numerous errors in the processing of claims for my cats.

I believe pet health insurance is a good idea. It has saved me thousands of dollars over the years. It's best to enroll your animal companion early in their life. Getting insurance on a two month old, healthy kitten is easy. Getting insurance on a 15 year old cat with a myriad of medical issues is next to impossible. My point here is that by getting your dog or cat enrolled at an early age and keeping that enrollment continuous means you can't be denied coverage as the animal ages and begins to develop



diseases that are part and parcel of the aging process.

Another strategy that I use to combat the high cost of veterinary care is the use of a savings account specifically for veterinary expenses. I put money aside each week for my cats. It's done via automated withdraws from my paycheck. I never even see the money, nor do I miss it. This technique requires a lot of personal discipline. You have to resist the temptation to dip into this account to cover other expenditures. But just think: if you put a mere ten dollars a week into a pet savings account, after a year you would have over \$500. After ten years (right about the time your animal companion may start to show signs of diseases that are common in senior dogs and cats), you would have over five thousand dollars!

Unfortunately, none of us can prevent disease or injury from striking our beloved animal companions. But, by planning for it, we can manage it and finance it more effectively. You and your animal friend will be glad that you that you had the presence of mind to think ahead.





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Our First Basket Bingo Was a Night to Remember

The Humane Society's first Basket Bingo fundraiser was held on August 16, 2013 at the Level Volunteer Fire Company in Havre de Grace. Net proceeds from this event benefit the almost 4,500 animals we shelter each year. *Photos courtesy of Blake & Linda Napfel.*

