

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Director .....	3
Spay/Neuter Clinic.....	3

In the Mail .....	4-5
Holiday Promotions .....	6-7
Tribute Gifts.....	8-9

Shop-a-Paw-Looza .....	10
Animal Success Stories .....	11
Adoption Showcase .....	12

## Helping Lost Pets Find Their Way Home

By Deborah Land, Public Relations Coordinator

Many of the animals who arrive at the Maryland SPCA are lost pets. Last year, we received 1,200 displaced animals, which includes abandoned ones. We estimate that about a third of our displaced animals were lost pets whose owners wanted them back. We help reunite lost pets with their owners, and we have witnessed some heartwarming reunions. Sadly, most of the lost pets who enter shelters are never reclaimed by their owners.

A pet getting lost is not a rare event. Even

a responsible pet owner can have a pet slip through an open door or out of a collar. Below are simple precautions that we recommend to pet owners to increase the likelihood of a happy reunion, as well as some tips for searching for a lost pet.

**PRECAUTIONS FOR PET OWNERS:** Pets, even those who live indoors, should always wear a collar or harness with an ID tag attached. The ID should list your current phone number. Also, make sure you have recent photos of your pet available and can give a detailed description of him or her if lost.



Jeanne Yuspa and her son are happily reunited with their dog, Pal, at the MD SPCA after filing a lost dog report.

Microchipping offers an additional, more permanent, way to identify your pet. A microchip containing a unique code is implanted under your pet's skin. Animal shelters, including the MD SPCA, veterinarians and others

have scanners that can read the code and link it to contact info you place on file when you register the microchip. Unfortunately, all scanners don't read all microchips, which limits their effectiveness. The MD SPCA offers microchipping for \$25 on Animal Wellness Days (for an appointment call 410-235-8826, ext. 122

or e-mail [wellnessclinic@mdspca.org](mailto:wellnessclinic@mdspca.org)). We also offer to microchip pets when adopted.

**TIPS FOR FINDING A LOST PET:** If your pet is lost, don't delay. First, search your home carefully, checking possible hiding places. Scared, sick and hurt animals may hide. Putting out food, treats or toys can sometimes lure pets out. Then expand your search to your neighborhood. Talk to neighbors, delivery people and maintenance workers. When possible, leave a flyer with a photo and description of your pet and your contact info. Next, call local animal shelters, animal (continued p. 11)



AFTER

## Kahana Gets a Shave

Kahana, a two-year-old Seal Point Persian cat, arrived at the Maryland SPCA on August 10, 2009. We transferred him from the BARCS city shelter. He had been a stray so he weighed only eight pounds and had severely matted fur. This blue-eyed cat was certainly not looking his gorgeous best. We gave him a proper shave and dressed him in a green and white sweater to make him feel comfortable while his hair grew out. He was adopted to a good home less than two weeks after arrival at the MD SPCA. 🐾



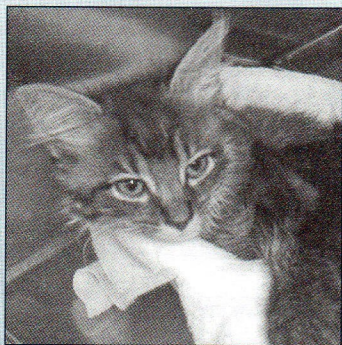
BEFORE



# Animal Success Stories

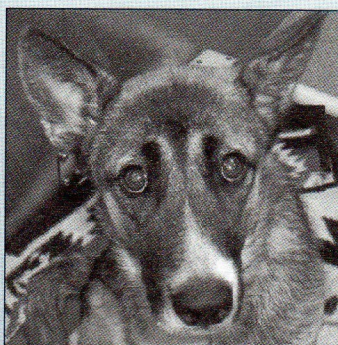
Below are just a few of our recent success stories, made possible through donations from our generous supporters. While every animal in our adoption program isn't adopted as quickly as those below, **once an animal enters our adoption program, he or she stays in the program until adopted** or placed with a rescue group. The Maryland SPCA is an independent nonprofit organization. We are not funded by the ASPCA. We depend on donations to make a difference in the lives of animals.

**SAVED 10/10/09**



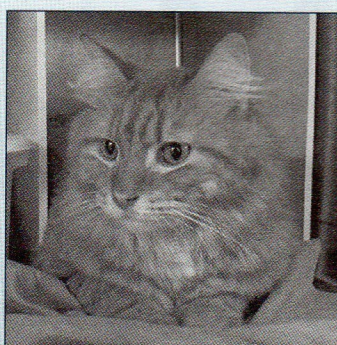
**Winston** was turned in to the MD SPCA on 9/8/09. This brown tabby went into foster care because of his young age. He became available for adoption on 10/8/09 and was adopted two days later.

**SAVED 10/5/09**



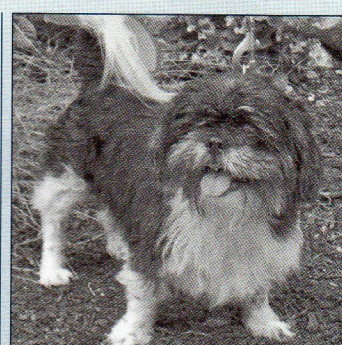
We transported **Lady** to the MD SPCA from another facility. She is a one-year-old tri-color German Shepherd. She became available for adoption on 10/4/09 and met her new owner the next day.

**SAVED 10/3/09**



**Morris** was turned in to the MD SPCA by his former owner. This five-year-old orange tabby entered our adoption program on 9/29/09 and found his new home in less than a week.

**SAVED 10/5/09**



A good Samaritan found **Zoe** and brought her to the MD SPCA. She is about four years old and a Lhasa Apso/Shih Tzu mix. Zoe went up for adoption on 10/4/09 and found her forever home the next day.

## Helping Lost Pets Find their Way Home *(continued from p. 1)*

control and veterinarians to see if they have your pet and to leave info about your lost companion. A list of agencies to call is provided on our website ([www.mdspca.org](http://www.mdspca.org)) under Adoption Center > Lost & Found.

The MD SPCA holds animals who appear lost for three days before spaying/neutering them if needed and making them available for adoption. Lost, as well as found, pet reports can be completed and submitted to the MD SPCA online or in person. We review all reports and see if they match any found animals who come into our facility. Reports remain on file for up to two months.

Leave a flyer about your lost pet in local stores, gas stations, laundromats, etc. Consider advertising online at sites such as [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) and [www.pets911.com](http://www.pets911.com). Also post a message to local animal forums and message boards. You could enlist [www.findtoto.com](http://www.findtoto.com) to send a robocall to your neighbors notifying them about your lost pet. Be wary of pet-recovery scams, though, especially if you offer a reward.

Another option is to hire a pet recovery group such as Dogs Finding Dogs, a local outfit that uses trained dogs and handlers to find lost pets. Carol Dennis, an MD SPCA volunteer, observed a Dogs Finding Dogs demonstration at the MD SPCA and hired the group to track her Cocker Spaniel who had disappeared from her backyard. Carol adopted Sasha from the MD SPCA

and desperately wanted to find her. Dogs Finding Dogs tracked Sasha to a neighbor's house, where Carol was thrilled to retrieve her!

**MORE REUNIONS:** The more time passes, the less likely you are to recover your pet. Yet, reunions can occur after months or even years. Recently, we helped reunite a Dalmation named Chance with his

owner in North Carolina, who told us that Chance had been stolen four years prior. We scanned Chance's microchip, but the contact information the microchipping company had on file was out of date. Natalie Kaszak (Adoption Counselor) did some detective work and located the owner, who was elated to find her dog.

Another dramatic reunion took place at the MD SPCA in August. Amy Gaffney lost her dog, Jojo, an 11-pound, one-year-old Lhasa Apso/Poodle mix, in a carjacking incident in Baltimore. The next day, she called us and filed a lost dog report. Meanwhile, Melissa Garland found Jojo soaking wet, running in the street. He had an ID tag listing his name but no phone number. She let him sleep in her garage that night and took him to the MD SPCA the next day. Ian Gilmore (Front Office Supervisor) and Celeste Nader



Amy Gaffney is reunited with her dog, Jojo, at the MD SPCA after the dog was taken in a carjacking incident.

(Adoption Counselor) matched the lost and found reports and contacted Amy who eagerly came to get Jojo. They had a tearful reunion, complete with happy tail wagging. 