

MAX'S PET CONNECTION

Adoptions Report

MPC has adopted out 50 dogs in the first quarter but 40 new dogs were added to our rolls.

Facebook Update

Our Facebook page shows many of our currently available dogs.

Find us on Facebook and share your stories and photos of your rescue dog. Click on Facebook and then search maxspetconnection to reach us.

MPC Website

Go to our Website for our history, goals, applications, and available dogs.

Click on maxspetconnection.com

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Fostering — When it is time to say good-bye!

Let's say you want to have a dog in your house but, for whatever reason, you can't make the commitment to adopt on a permanent basis. So, you are considering fostering but there is one fear the volunteers at Max's Pet Connection hear frequently "I would never be able to give them up." How do the volunteer fosters do it over and over again? The primary motivation behind fostering is the knowledge that every fostered dog has a chance to live and give us enough time to find it a permanent home. The very survival of a dog, especially if it is in a kill shelter, depends on our availability to place it temporarily in a foster home. We never have enough fosters to place all the dogs we would like to save. So here are some tips to make it easier to say good-bye:

- Pick a dog you would not want to keep on a long-term basis.
- Assist in the adoption process. Keep an account of your foster's behavior and personality. Speak personally to the potential owner about the dog. The more information the adopter has, the better chance the dog will be a "good fit."
- Ask the adopter if you can call for a progress report. Good news on how much the adopter loves the dog and feels the dog has made a material difference to the adopter's life makes your efforts seem so worthwhile.
- Celebrate the adoption; after all, you have saved a life. Document your time with photos and stories of each of your foster dogs. Keep a scrapbook of your successes.

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Max's Pet
Connection
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- Gail Beal
- John Beal
- Mark Handley
- Joan Ramonaitis
- David St. Peter
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Fostering continued

- Most importantly, foster another dog as soon as you can. You can experience the joy of welcoming a new dog who now needs your full attention and can push aside any feelings of loss from your prior foster.
- When you see your foster dog with their new family, take comfort in knowing you were instrumental in giving the dog a future.
- To learn more about fostering a dog with Max's Pet Connection call Jean at (352) 406-7659.

Creator and Editor of MPC Newsletter passes the baton after two years

Mark Handley stepped down as creator and editor for the MPC Newsletter with the December 2016 issue. For two years, he has been forging together in one newsletter the current happenings of our rescue organization, helpful pet care tidbits, awesome pictures of very cute dogs, and explanations of how to help MPC remain successful in placing large numbers of dogs. Although he has received substantial assistance from other volunteers and the Board Members, he deserves our whole hearted thanks and appreciation for being the mastermind and chief engineer for this project. We think the newsletter gives our MPC family and friends valuable information and insight into our operations so we are planning to continue it as you can see with this issue. If there are any subjects you would like covered, please let us know.



Successful Yard Sales

Two annual yard sales (March 3-4 in Umatilla) and at the Continental County Club (March 11-12) brought in a total of \$1027 for MPC. These monies will help to defray the high veterinary fees MPC pays for each dog prior to adoption. Thank you to all the volunteers who took part in this very labor intensive work.

We are looking for a volunteer to lead our fundraising efforts. Please contact Jean Welch (jwelch1@embarqmail.com) if you are interested.

How A Crate Can Be Your Best Friend

The use of a crate can be one of the most misunderstood resources to help keep and train your dog. Many potential adopters see the crate as a “cage” to be avoided whereas most dogs with the right introduction see the crate as their “safe haven.” Some of the advantages of crate use are:

- For a puppy, crates facilitate housetraining and help them get used to spending some time alone.
- When a newly adopted dog comes into your house, it is better if they spend the first week or two at night in a crate, instead of sleeping in your bed. That way, you are not surprised by any “accidents” and you can gauge how well the dog is housetrained.
- Until you know your adopted dog’s habits, a crate can be a safe place for the dog to stay without supervision if you are going to be away for several hours.
- All dogs, for their safety and yours, need to be restrained while riding in any vehicle. A crate can be ideal for this purpose.
- In case of a weather emergency in Florida, such as a hurricane, all shelters that accept animals require the animal be confined in a cage or crate to stay in the shelter. Don’t place yourself in the position of trying to locate a suitable one at the last minute. Include a crate as part of your emergency planning.
- Besides traveling in the car, crates provide a familiar surrounding for spending nights at friends’ homes or pet-friendly motels and hotels.

“In case of a weather emergency ...such as a hurricane, all shelters that accept animals require the animal be confined in a cage or crate...”

Picking the Appropriate Crate

Wire crates stay cooler in hot environments, give more ventilation, allow the dog to see all around them, can be covered with a towel to block out distractions or drafts, and are easily stored.

Hard plastic crates clean easily, have smooth floors that can be easily arranged with bedding and raised sleep area, are lightweight and more portable, and create a more den-like feeling.

Both types of crates should allow the dog to stand, turn around, and lie down but not be so large he can sleep in one end and poop in the other.

Requiem for Zorro

by Mark Handley,
Board Member MPC

Zorro, a nearly ten year old Shih Tzu mix, died this Christmas. As an owner surrenders, he had only been with MPC a year. He was a grumpy dog and did not like having a lot of other dogs around. His sociability decreased even further when he developed blindness in one eye and problems in the other. He was designated as not adoptable and put into our "Forever Foster" program. Since MPC has a *No Kill Policy*, even nonperfect dogs stay on our books and receive loving care. Finally, Zorro contracted cancer and passed away quickly. In spite of a few nips taken out of me, I was surprised how upset I was when he died. Somehow, that little stinker had wormed his way into my heart.



Our newest pups
on the block. Meet
Panzer, Prinze,
Pammie, Pandy,
and Pozie.



These five bedraggled pups were surrendered to us because the owner was being evicted from her home. They were extremely dirty and covered with fleas and ticks. After a thorough bathing, the pups' coats turned from gray and black to a sparkling white and black. These dogs may be a German breed called Lowchen, or "Little Lion Dog." They are 2-3 years old, are very sweet, but need a lot of socialization with people and other dogs. Among other things, they do not know how to walk on a leash. We are looking for fosters for these pups; they will be at Pet Smart on our regular Saturday viewing from 10:00 am—2:00 pm.

Also, new to Pet Smart, are the first of a family of dogs MPC rescued from a bad home environment. There is a Mom and four of her puppies: Krissy, Kenny, Kacy, Kandy, and Kami. Two of them have wavy, fluffy hair, and two have a coat similar to a Maltese. Please come to see us at Pet Smart and help us find a permanent home for all our dogs.

Future Events:

Pet Super Market Adoption Event in Ocala, April 23, from 11:00 am — 4:00 pm.

Pet Smart National Adoption Weekend, May 5,6,7.