

# Paw Prints



*"The best shelter is...a humane community."*

## There's No Place Like Home

*By Jo Vita, Freelance Writer/MHS Volunteer, Spofford, NH*


Jane was heartbroken. Given her physical limitations, she was no longer able to properly care for Ruby, her beloved feline companion of nine years. Jane had made the decision to surrender Ruby to MHS in hopes that she would find a home where she could be better cared for.

Jane worked with Rachel Podgurski, MHS Adoption and Customer Service Coordinator when she brought Ruby to MHS. Rachel facilitated Ruby's intake and spent much time listening to Jane's reasons for surrendering her beloved cat. Most of the problem centered around the heavy weight of Ruby's cat litter and Jane's limited mobility in her multi-story home. Rachel could see the heartache on her face and suggested alternatives, however Jane remained unconvinced that she could provide the best care for Ruby and so decided to put her up for adoption.



MHS volunteer Lianne holding Ruby in front of her 100 Valentine hearts.

Rachel worked with Jane so that she could find new ways to adequately care for Ruby. With the new lighter-weight litter and containers to carry smaller quantities of litter up and down the stairs, Jane was now confident she could continue to properly care for Ruby.

Thanks to Rachel and MHS, Ruby is back home. Turns out her journey to find the best home brought her right back to her forever home and the woman who loved her so much that she was willing to let her go. 

But Ruby's story doesn't end there...Jane continued to visit Ruby at the shelter. During our Valentine Heart Vote promotion, Jane bought 100 hearts in hopes that Ruby would be selected as Pet of the Week and find a new caring home quickly.

Seeing the love and devotion that Jane had for her cat, Rachel was even more determined to find a way to keep them together. She researched the new lighter weight brand of litters, even purchasing them and trying them out on her own cats first. Rachel knew in her heart that one way or another, these two had to stay together.

In the end, with compassion and real solutions,



## Greetings from the menagerie...

Late last summer, without a lot of fanfare, Monadnock Humane Society adopted a new mission:

### *Fostering a Compassionate Community by Promoting and Providing for the Well-Being of Animals.*

The second half of our mission is obvious—we are an animal welfare organization, after all. But I want to draw your attention to the first half—“Fostering a Compassionate Community”... that’s a lot more than simply sheltering and rehoming homeless animals. It’s about the people whose lives we touch every day. The hospital patient visited by a Monadnock Therapy pet, the family in housing transition with nowhere to go with their pets, the new puppy parent who is in over their heads, the 7-year-old who celebrated his birthday by donating to MHS (pictured here with Michele), the jail inmates caring for one of our cats, the volunteers who come every week to scoop litter and pet dogs...these people are woven into the fabric of compassion in this community.

What does “compassionate community” look like in the Monadnock region? At this year’s annual meeting we’ll be delving into that question a bit and I look forward to our ongoing discussion.

On behalf of the animals,

*Michelle*

Michelle Thevenin, MHS Executive Director



**Christopher Truman presents his birthday gift donations to Michele.**

## MHS 2014 Annual Meeting

*You are invited to our Annual Meeting on  
Sunday, May 18th, 2014 from 3:00–5:00 pm.  
Refreshments will be served. Our special guest speaker will  
be Melinda Mosier of the NH Charitable Foundation.*

*At an awards ceremony, we will announce  
The MHS Compassionate Citizen of the Year*

## MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

101 West Swanze Road, Swanze, NH 03446  
603.352.9011 • [www.monadnockhumanesociety.org](http://www.monadnockhumanesociety.org)

### Adoption Center Hours:

Wednesday – Friday, noon – 6:00 pm  
Saturday – Sunday – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Closed Monday and Tuesday

### Administrative Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 5:00 pm



### STAFF

Michelle Thevenin, Executive Director

Amee Abel, Trainer, MHS Training Center  
Katherine Achilli, Shelter Technician  
Margaret Atkinson, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator  
Rachel Brostrom, Training Center Manager, Trainer  
Duke Champney, Trainer, MHS Training Center  
Galina Cornelius, Boarding/Daycare Technician  
Kerri Cuevas, Small Animal Coordinator  
Beth Doyle, Canine Coordinator  
Stephanie Frommer, Sr. Director of Shelter Operations/Field Services  
Diane Gibbons, Trainer, MHS Training Center  
Alanna Johnson, Shelter Technician  
Emily Kerylow, Shelter Manager  
Eric Knowles, Shelter Technician  
Ashley Lang, Trainer, MHS Training Center  
Carol Laughner, Director of Development & Marketing  
Michelle Maillet, Vet Technician  
Ashley Okola, Feline Coordinator, Shelter Technician  
Rachel Podgurski, Customer Service Coordinator  
Alice Sears, Administrative Assistant  
Peter Smith, Facilities Coordinator  
Cynthia Stewart, Trainer, MHS Training Center  
Linda Thompson, Boarding/Daycare Manager  
Kris van Wezel, Director of Finance and Administration  
Debra Watson, Sr. Daycare Technician  
Dr. Jennifer York, Shelter Veterinarian

### VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christopher Bowen	Hallie LaRock
Jodie Holmquist	Dr. Kathy Reilly, Chair
Dr. Ashton Kane	Jennifer Shepardson
Adam Kossayda	Joyce Tilton

### LIFETIME VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Carla Folkert	Linda Guinane
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## OUR MISSION

To foster a compassionate community by promoting and providing for the well-being of animals.



# HAPPY TAILS

## TIMMY the blonde Lab mix

has found his new forever family! His new family tells us that they are grateful they found him and that he's a very sweet boy. 🐾



## ERNIE the Bunny

was adopted during our Home for the Holidays

Adoption Event. He is doing wonderful

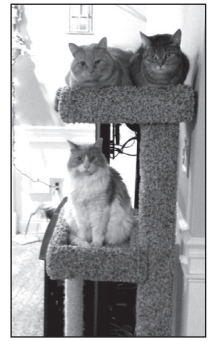
in his new home. Here is a picture of him on his new adventure with his kids —Katie and Luke 🐾



## SUZIE

We adopted Suzie the kitten from you guys in Nov 2011. Just wanted to let you know she is doing well since coming home with us. She and our two other cats have become fast friends. She spends her days sleeping in front of the fireplace, and eating and playing with her two brothers. We are taking good care of her!

—Kendall & Kevin Dunn 🐾



## From REBEL (aka Kemmit)

*"Hi! I just wanted to drop a note and tell you how much I love my new home. You all knew me as Kemmit, but my new people named me Rebel. I love playing with my sister Ruckus! I think she really likes having a little brother. My little people are always playing and*

*snuggling me. I go everyday to drop them off at school and pick them up. Thank you for taking care of me when I was there and thank you for finding me a new home!* —Rebel 🐾



## BRUCE the Kitty

*"He's great—we love him!"*

—John and Lyn 🐾

## RASCAL & SMOKEY

were adopted together in the summer of 2013. They are enjoying life with their new mom, Robin! 🐾



## COOPMAN (aka Cooper)

is enjoying his new home and loves playing in the snow! 🐾

## LADY

*"My Mother and I were in last Saturday to get her a companion and she fell in love with Marmalade. We brought her home and after doing a lot of exploring around the house she has settled in beautifully. Ma has taken to calling her Lady and she is a wonderful companion for her. She lost her last cat after having her (from your shelter) for about 18 years. Just wanted to let you know that Lady is doing well and has settled into her new home. Thanks for everything. Keep up the good work and may all your tenants find forever homes."* —Coral Grout 🐾



## PANCAKE

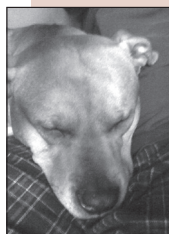
We are the owners of Pancake (aka, Elizabeth) and just wanted to let you know that she is a very happy little kitty and fits perfectly into our family. She loves sleeping on her owners, and also sleeping with our other cat. She took command of the couch and my favorite blanket, but I am so happy to share. I don't think our other cat knows what she did without Pancake in her life, and neither do we. She is the most precious little critter we've ever seen and want to thank you for being such a good foster mommy!

— Steph and Brooke 🐾



## ENZO

is having a happy life with Elsie! —Peter Poanessa 🐾



## RANSOM

We want to take the time to thank you for all the effort in assisting us with the adoption of Ransom. He seems to have settled quite quickly in our home. Thank you again. We feel we won the lottery with him. — Steven & Jana Blake 🐾



## MORENA

has settled right into her home. The first night she was there—burrowing under the blankets on the bed and claiming one of the bedrooms as her own. Josh and his family love her! 🐾

# community connection making a difference together

## PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**“A Year of Giving” – Becca Cope-land** made a New Year’s resolution to pick a local non-profit each month and collect donations from the community. She kicked the year off with MHS and brought us in a truckload of stuff as well as a cash gift! Thank you so much, Becca! (pictured here with her dad, Rod Richmond).

**Libby Coster** set up a table with a poster of our wishlist items at **Kulick’s Supermarket** and **Aubuchons** (both in Winchester) and collected donations for MHS as part of their community service project. Her dog Chevey, and friend Trisha Whitney helped her. (Libby and Trisha are pictured here with Jade the dog and MHS staffers Kerri and Alanna).



**Hannah Cackowski and her friend Kianna** of Keene High School also decided to help MHS for their Community Service project. They organized a fundraising drive for our wishlist items. Thank you, Hannah and Kianna!

**Gavin Rigby** asked for donations from friends and family to help the animals of MHS. Thank you so much, Gavin—we’ll be able to feed many critters with this donation!

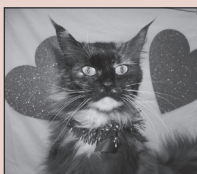


Birthday Girl **Makenna Knapp** brought a donation of dog and cat food, treats and toys—and cash – all from her 7th birthday party. She asked for donations instead of birthday gifts. Thank you Makenna and friends – you are the cat’s meow!

## BUSINESSES AND THE COMMUNITY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Thank you all for supporting us, and special thanks to the businesses that hosted fundraisers.*

**Margarita’s Full Moon Madness** on Feb.20th. We raised \$165 together!



**One Stop Country Pet Supply’s Valentine’s Day Weekend Fundraiser** raised \$375 and tons of supplies!



**Waterhouse Restaurant** in Peterborough – **Community Giving Tuesdays: \$500!!** (Pictured, L-R: Keith Herrick: Waterhouse GM, Michelle Thevenin, Cy Gregg, and (seated) Eileen Boyer: Waterhouse Owner, and, Carol Laughner, MHS Dir.of Marketing & Development.)



**Nature’s Green Grocer** The Green Giving Program brought in \$377! (Pictured are Eva from NGG and Carol Laughner holding MHS alum Luna.)

**Rindge Tractor Supply Store** invited MHS to their **Adoption Weekend Event** on Feb. 15th. MHS’s Kerri Cuevas, and MHS volunteers Yvonne and Keegan Ball, and Kerri’s daughter Isabel joined us to help out. TSC donated two flatbed carriages of dog food, a large box of canned cat food, and a small box of canned dog food. THANK YOU! Two guinea pigs, Neo and Naila, a mother and daughter pair were adopted during the Event. Here they are (right) with their new family!



**MHS VD Fundraising – Heart Vote and Love-a-Pooch Booth** raised almost \$400! (Pictured: MHS staffer Kate gives Ace a kiss.)

**Michelle Davis of Laughing Spirit Yoga** raised \$300 at her **Holiday Yoga Giving Saturday** in December.



**Sarah Allen of Spoiled Dog Barkery** donated a bunch of bags of her homemade biscuits to the homeless dogs here at MHS. 🐾





**Ranger Stone and his buddies** came in with a donation for his birthday. They had some quality time socializing the cats while delivering the gifts!



### Madeline Goldberg

collected a whole bunch of coins for the animals—Thanks so much Madeline! That was one BIG bag ‘o’ money!!!

**Harrisville Preschoolers** collected a bunch of stuff for us from our Wishlist for the holidays! Ernie the bunny went with Margaret to collect the goodies. A good time was had by all! Thank you!



The **5th graders at the Charles-town School** did a fundraiser for MHS and they collected a whole bunch of wish list items for us! Thank you all for thinking of the animals during the holidays, kids!

Special thanks to the kids from the **Cutler School** in Swanze for raising money for us! (Pictured here presenting a check to MHS staffer Katie) 🐾



### Monadnock Radio Group

Let's hear it for Greg Pregent (holding Luna, MHS alum) and Carolyn Smith at MRG who help us record and then run the public service announcements that you hear on the radio. They do so much to get the word out about what MHS is doing. You guys are AWESOME!!!! Be sure to tune in and hear our new PSAs!



For radio stations and more info:

[www.monadnockradiogroup.com](http://www.monadnockradiogroup.com)

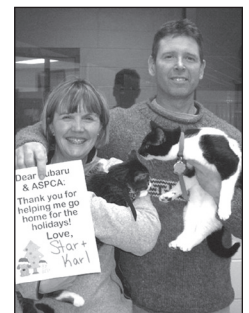
The **Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair** was a huge success. Hundreds of visitors came, and we made almost \$3,000—surpassing all previous years' profits! Special thanks go to our volunteers, everyone who donated a bake sale or raffle item, to the committed committee, Terri Malloy (photographer), and to our business sponsors: Target, Starbucks, Walmart (Rindge and Keene), Hannaford, Panera Bread, Park Ave. Deli, Kulick's Market, UNFI, KIPCO, The Greenfield Spirit, The Town of Swanze, and Monadnock Radio Group.

## Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair



## Home for the Holidays Adoption Event

During the **Home for the Holidays Adoption Event**, 50 animals found their new forever families! Thank you to ASPCA and Subaru of Keene for funding this event with a \$2,500 grant, and to our business sponsors: Petco, One Stop Country Pet Supply, Waterhouse Restaurant, Horse and Buggy Feeds and PetEdge.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: new faces at MHS

### **RACHEL PODGURSKI, MHS**

**Customer Service Coordinator**, moved from NJ to New England to pursue her Masters Degree in historic preservation. She moved to NH to work at an architecture firm, and after five years in that field decided to make a change and volunteer in equine therapy programs at local horse farms. She then expanded her career into animal welfare, and accepted a position as Adoption Counselor at the Animal Rescue League of NH in Bedford prior to joining MHS. Rachel is very artistic and creative and was the driving force behind our recent Valentine's Day fundraisers. She shares her life with seven rescue pets, all from NH shelters. We are delighted that Rachel has joined the MHS Family!



**KRIS VAN WEZEL, Director of Finance and Administration**, graduated from UVM with a BS in Business and began her career in a public accounting firm in Maine. After two years, she moved closer to home here in Keene and worked in a variety of different roles with smaller, regional public accounting firms and local businesses. After her kids were born she decided to focus on her most beloved role of all: being a mom. During that time she slowly built her own accounting, tax and consulting business. Now that her kids are older, she has decided that it's time to begin a new direction as the Director of Finance and Administration here at MHS. Kris is a lifelong animal lover and currently has a Golden and a kitty. Welcome, Kris!

### **MHS HAS A NEW SHELTER VETERINARIAN!**

**DR. JENNIFER YORK, Shelter Veterinarian**, grew up in eastern Pennsylvania and graduated from Penn State University. After graduating, she spent time as a field biologist banding birds of prey, worked as an environmental educator and worked with farm animals doing animal-assisted therapy with children. She spent time with the US Peace Corps at an Eastern Russian Zoo and then went on to pursue a degree at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 2004. After completing an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Angell Animal Medical Center in MA, she then spent nine years working in private small animal practices before joining MHS. Dr. York shares her home with several humans, a German short-haired pointer, a Siamese-cross kitty and a couple of guinea pigs. In her spare time she enjoys running races, gardening and bird-watching. Welcome, Dr. York!



## MHS BOARD: welcome new members Hallie and Chris!

**Hallie LaRock** is originally from just outside of Syracuse, NY. She attended SUNY Oswego and studied business management and then moved to Keene in search of a place to expand her career in dentistry. She fell in love with the area and decided to make Keene her home. Hallie is currently the General Practice Manager of Raynor Dental—a multi-doctor dental practice in Keene—and has been there since its inception. She has made a positive and inspiring impact on the community through her commitment to both her work and to various volunteer efforts. Most recently, she served on the Hair Ball committee and helped to raise over \$35K for MHS. She spends her down time with her fiancé and their dog, along with friends and family.



**Christopher L. Bowen** spent more than 25 years in the insurance business. He moved to the Monadnock region in 1990 to work at NGM Insurance Company where he stayed until 2011 and began working from home for an insurance company headquartered in Louisiana. He left the insurance business in 2013 to pursue a new career that was more meaningful and has been working with the Keene Farmers Market and Cheshire County Conservation District to implement a grant program. He has masters Degree study at Purdue University focused on Ecology and Animal Behavior. Chris and his family have been a part of MHS for many years, and we are delighted to have him "on Board!" Animals have always been a very important part of Chris' life—he currently shares a home with 8 dogs, 17 sheep, a goat, a rabbit and a parrot.





## VOLUNTEER NEWS

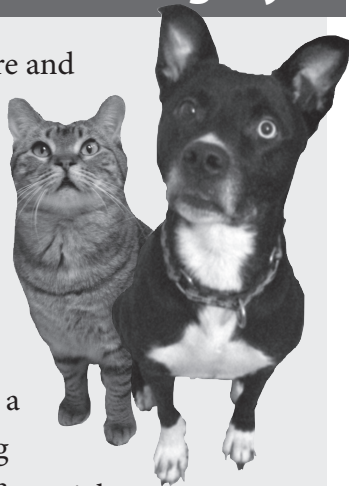
The **Compassionate Volunteer of the Year Award**, to be presented at the MHS Annual Meeting on Sunday May 18, 2014, is given to a volunteer who has made a significant difference in the lives of animals and our community through his or her involvement with MHS.

The nominee should be a current volunteer who exemplifies our mission to build a compassionate community by promoting and providing for the well being of animals.

*For a nomination form and guidelines, visit:*  
**monadnockhumanesociety.org**

## Save a Life: Leave a Legacy

Help MHS provide care and shelter to homeless animals in our region after you are no longer around to do so with a bequest. It's easy! Consult your attorney about adding a codicil to your existing will or talk with your financial advisor about naming MHS as a beneficiary of your retirement investments. For sample bequest language, or for more information and options on leaving a legacy gift, contact Carol Laughner at 603.352.9011, ext .115 or [caroll@humanecommunity.org](mailto:caroll@humanecommunity.org).



**JOIN  
THE  
WALK**  
and help us  
raise money  
for the homeless  
animals of MHS!



**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>  
10 am – 2 pm**

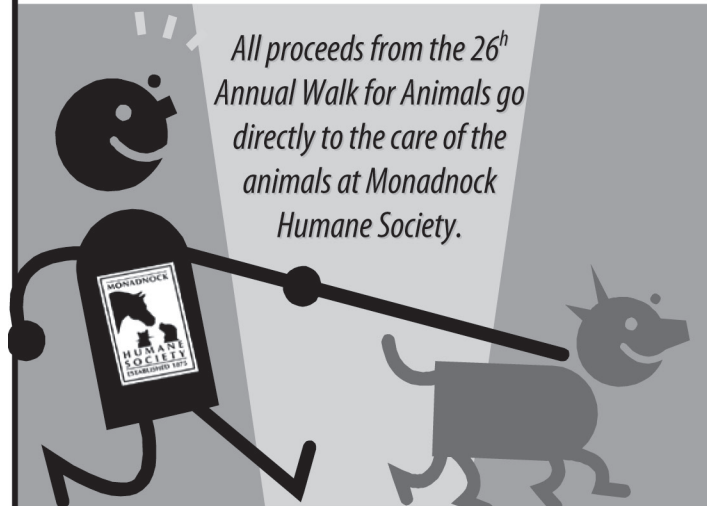
at the Keene Dillant-Hopkins  
Airport in Swanzey, NH

Prizes for top fundraisers!  
Lunch, music, fun!

**NOTE:** Business sponsorships are available!  
Contact Carol Laughner for more information:  
[caroll@humanecommunity.org](mailto:caroll@humanecommunity.org)



All proceeds from the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Walk for Animals go  
directly to the care of the  
animals at Monadnock  
Humane Society.



More information will be posted on our website:  
**[www.monadnockhumanesociety.org](http://www.monadnockhumanesociety.org)**

## MHS CALENDAR

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

► **Paws to Read to a Dog** – Kids, bring your own book or borrow one of ours to read to a dog. Admission is free. No reservations needed, open to everyone. Saturdays, April 12, May 10, and June 14 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

► **Live Pets at the Vet at the Cheshire Children's Museum**  
Come and meet a furry friend and find out all about them. Open to the public, free admission. An ongoing program held every second Thursday of the month from 10:30 – 11:00 am.

► **Public Spay/Neuter Clinics for Cats** – Affordable sterilization services for cat guardians. Upcoming dates for S/N Clinics: Mar. 27, Apr. 10 & 24, May 8 & 22, Jun. 12 & 19. For more information and to schedule, visit our website.

► **Rabies Clinic** – MHS offers a cat/dog rabies vaccination service on Sat., April 19 from 10 am–2 pm. All paperwork and tags will be provided, on a first-come, first-serve basis. (see our website)

### EVENTS

► **Noche Fundraising Nights** – Join the community for a fundraiser at Margarita's of Keene. 15% of all pre-tax food and beverage costs will be donated to MHS! May 1 (special cinco de mayo celebration!), Jul. 8 and Aug. 19.

► **MHS Annual Meeting** – This year's meeting will include a program about "Fostering a Compassionate Community," with guest speaker Melinda Mosier of NH Charitable Foundation. Food and beverage will be served. Open to the public. Sunday, May 18, 3-5 pm.

► **SAVE THE DATE! The Walk for Animals – Saturday, June 21, 10 am – 2 pm** (registration begins at 8:30am). The biggest fundraiser of the year for MHS. Join the community in helping to raise funds, and then come and show your support by walking with (or without) your dog.

► **SAVE THE DATE! MHS Open House – Saturday July 26.**  
See and hear all about the wonderful things MHS is accomplishing with your help! More information will be posted on our website.

► **Wheels 4 Paws** – If you're a biker, and you love animals – join the many other bikers who do too, and show your support for the homeless animals of MHS. A 100-mile ride to raise money for the care of the homeless animals of MHS. Wheels 4 Paws will be held in September – date TBD.

► **SAVE THE DATE! 12th Annual Hair Ball – Saturday, Nov. 1.**  
Start planning for another fun evening as we come together and celebrate the animals of our community!

### 2014 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Volunteers assist us with everything from basic cleaning and animal care to board and committee work and advocating for animals to the public. If you're interested, please sign up for an orientation session:

Friday, March 28 from 4:00 until 6:00pm  
Tuesday, April 8 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm  
Friday, April 25 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm  
Friday, May 2 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm  
Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 until 11:00 am

### MHS GUINANE TRAINING CENTER EVENTS

► **WCRL Rally Trials**, April 5 & 6 Sat/Sun 8 am – 6 pm  
► **Rally Show & Go**, March 15, Sat. 1-4 pm  
► **K9 Nosework Mock Trial**, date TBD  
► **WCRL Rally Trials**, May 31 – June 1 Sat/Sun 8 am – 6 pm  
For a listing of classes and to register, visit our website



## Monadnock Humane Society

101 West Swanzey Road  
Swanzey, NH 03446  
603.352.9011

[monadnockhumanesociety.org](http://monadnockhumanesociety.org)



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## Joe's Emergency Dental Fund

*Hi, everyone. I'm only six months old, and I already need dental work. It's really expensive—and I don't have any money. I need some financial aid. Would you consider helping me? If you would like to contribute to "The Joe Dental Fund" please visit the MHS website, click on the donate button, and in the "In Honor of" box, type in "The Joe Dental Fund." It's gonna make me smile. Thanks so much! —Joe the Chihuahua*

## MHS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### First, there was The Olympic Games. Then ... The Daycare Games!

Sponsored by The Dog Gurus, an on-line safe off-leash play resource that was founded in 2013, The Daycare Games ran during the month of February and MHS Daycare competed against 14 other medium-class daycare facilities.

There are 3 events in the Games: Dog Recall, Group Sits, and Managing the Gate Boundary. With Dog Recall, each staff calls the dogs from the playgroup one at a time and is scored on the percentage of dogs who come to be petted within 3 seconds. The Group Sit is scored by the percentage of dogs who sit on the cue at the same time and hold the sit for 2-4 seconds. The last event is the most challenging—the Gate Boundary. Scores are based upon the number of dogs that the handler can have waiting calmly at least 3 feet away from the gate and how far the gate can be open while doing this.

MHS is pleased and proud to announce that we won a total of NINE medals across all three events with three staff! 6 gold medals, 2 silver, and one bronze! A round of a-paws for our great Daycare team!

