



A New “Leash” on Life

By a Maplewood Park Place Owner/Resident, as told to Sue Carrington

Two years ago, my wife and I sold our home of 52 years. Destination: Bethesda’s Maplewood Park Place, a senior living community we’d fallen in love with. We were so impressed with the “look and feel” of Maplewood, and we welcomed the prospect of living stress free.

Just a short year later, my wife died suddenly. The two of us had already made many friends at Maplewood, and they were a tremendous comfort. Still, my home felt so empty, and I was fighting depression.

My daughter, who lives nearby in Silver Spring, understood my state of mind and set out to find a cure. On my 82nd birthday five months ago, she showed up at my front door, cradling a furry surprise: a two-year-old cream-colored rescue pup named “Puddin.” Little Puddin made herself right at home in my sprawling Maplewood apartment. And just like that, I had a new calling: dog dad.

My Daily Sunshine

When Puddin leapt into my life, I began to feel better. Her boundless energy lifted me up. Her need for my care and attention gave me purpose – and spared me from spending too much time focused on myself.

She’s my daily sunshine. She has a magnetic ability to draw people to her – and to me. Residents, visitors, and staff alike stop to pet her, toss her treats, and give her love. I have made even more friends at Maplewood, thanks to the joy Puddin spreads with her every step.

A Pet-friendly Community

Maplewood offers plenty of dog stations and comfortable spots for Puddin and me to relax in the community’s lovely gardens. The Bethesda Trolley Trail is just a block away, leading us on safe, scenic walks through woods and meadows.

Puddin is in good company at Maplewood. The community is home to a variety of dogs, cats, birds, and fish. Also, a therapy dog makes

regular visits to Maplewood’s healthcare center, while performance dogs visit to delight residents with an array of stunts and tricks.

If I take a trip and Puddin can’t be with me, I leave with the assurance she’ll be well cared for. Maplewood has partnered with several pet services to feed, walk, and play with animal residents when their humans are away.

Part of the Family

My wife and I chose Maplewood as our new home because we were drawn to its beautiful environment, friendly residents and staff, and outstanding services. We didn’t think about “pet friendly” as another key benefit. But on my own, I’ve discovered how fortunate we were to choose a community where animals are part of the family. Maplewood has truly given Puddin and me a new “leash” on life!

Maplewood Park Place in Bethesda, MD, is the area’s premier resident-owned retirement community for active adults 62+. Maplewood offers home ownership, an independent lifestyle, and a full continuum of care – all “under one roof.” For more information, visit www.maplewoodparkplace.com or call 301-571-7444

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