



Touching Lives
Warming Hearts

Our Mission:

KPETS is a non-profit organization established to promote animal assisted therapy/animal assisted activities (AAT/AAA). The healing and rehabilitating benefits of the animal/human bond are provided by registered KPETS volunteers to the community in health-related facilities, social agencies, special-needs programs, schools, libraries, hospices, or wherever the human/animal connection is beneficial.

By recruiting, educating, uniting, coordinating and motivating volunteers with these agencies, KPETS provides our community with thousands of pet therapy hours a year.

Mailing Address:

590 Centerville Road #107
Lancaster, PA 17601

Office Address:

630 Janet Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601

888.68.KPETS
(888.685.7387)

info@kpets.org

"The official registration and financial information of KPETS- Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of state by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement."

KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Konnected!

Tis the Season! Alternate Gift Fair

Last year KPETS participated in something that was fun and offered purposeful gift ideas to the community.

It was the Alternate Gift Fair, put on by GiftsThatGiveHope.org. GiftsThatGiveHope.org promotes meaningful gift giving and support for non-profit organizations by helping communities host alternative gift fairs. It is a non-profit organization that assists service, civic, community and faith-based groups plan events to raise awareness of needs in a local or global area, secure donations and encourage volunteerism, while providing unique shopping and giving opportunities. To find out more go to www.giftsthatgivehope.org/lancaster/



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

KPETS is back again this year along with so many other worthy non-profits.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601

This is a great place to do your Christmas shopping for those you don't quite know what to give. We hope to see you there with your Christmas gift list. Tell your friends and neighbors. There are many gifts to choose from!

We could also use a few teams to staff our info table in two hour shifts. Set up and 10-12; 12-2 and 2-4 and tear down. It really was lots of fun last year! Just let Jenny know at konnections@kpets.org! Thanks for your support in so many ways!

R.E.A.D. Workshop at Oxford Library

- Bill Townsend

On October 24, a workshop for Reading Education Assistance Dogs (READ), a program of Intermountain Therapy Animals out of Salt Lake City, Utah, was attended by eight individuals associated with KPETS (or will be).

The READ program indicates that children with low self-esteem are often more willing to interact with an animal than another person. One key to success of the READ program experience is a shift away from children viewing themselves as the target of yet another remedial program, and toward them seeing themselves as tutors and helpers for the dog. This is validating, empowering and satisfying for the children."

In addition to covering the best practices for a **READ** program, each participant received a 200 page manual that included sample program agreements for schools (AAT) and libraries (AAA). Parental permission slips, program evaluation forms and many useful suggestions on how to make a READ program successful.

Last but not least is a 35-question test that must be submitted, with a 80% correct score, to become certified as a READ Team.

The Coatesville, PA Child Development Center (CDC) is starting the use of therapy dogs in their facility. This is in the initial stages and further information will be provided. Their services cover grades K-12.

(Con't on page 2)

This column will appear in Keynotes monthly. Its purpose is to give teams additional resources as therapy teams. Mary Gottfried and Karen Sage will alternate months doing an article. Mary has been and will continue to do stories for AAA/AAT applications. Karen will do articles on dog training tips. Be sure to check out previous articles on the forum at: <http://forum.kpets.org/>. You will need your user name and password. If you have trouble, let us know. This is to protect the forum from spammers, etc.

On Target ! - Karen Sage

Those of us with small, lap-sized dogs (and cats) sometimes have it a little easier when we do visits. To facilitate petting for someone who is seated, we can simply pick up our dogs and hold them at a level or in a position that's convenient. So what do handlers with larger dogs do to place their dogs in a convenient position?

At pre-asses we usually advise handlers to walk their dogs around so their heads are facing front and their bodies are along side a chair, etc. That way the person being visited can reach over and pet the dog. But maybe the resident is sitting in a group and you can't get beside them? Maybe they can't reach to the side, or maybe your dog doesn't feel comfortable standing with his body that close to a wheelchair? The answer... "Target training"!

Target training is simply teaching your dog to touch a target with some part of his body. (The target can be anything; your hand, a wooden spoon, a sticky note, whatever) By teaching your dog to touch his nose or paw to a target, you can easily reposition him without pushing or pulling on him. Just offer the target in a way that causes your dog to move his body where you want him.

With a little more effort on your part, you can teach your dog to target his chin to a towel and hold that position. How awesome to be able to lay a hand towel across a patient's lap, give your pup a command and have him place and hold his chin on the towel to facilitate petting! This can also be useful for keeping your dog from licking when it's uncomfortable.

To start target training, (nose to item) simply offer the target item a few inches from your dog's nose. Most dogs are curious enough to sniff the object without any further prompting. When he sniffs the object, tell him "yes" and reward him with a yummy treat. Move the target around in various positions (make it easy at first and slowly work up to distance and duration of touch) and continue to reward your dog when he touches it. Once he's really got the idea, start using a cue word like "touch".

So try target training and see just how many ways it comes in handy in your visits and even in your day-to-day activities with your dog!

R.E.A.D (con't from page 1)

Some basic information is that CDC offers a full array of programs to meet the needs of students with severe disabilities including:

- Autism support Learning Support
- Emotional support Mentally challenged
- Multiple & Physically challenged

Many related support services are provided for students with specialized needs including:

- Work Study Speech Therapy
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Vision and hearing therapy
- Adaptive physical therapy

For more information go to www.cciu.org, click on Special Education and then click Child Development Center.

Due to lack of labor resources, we regret that there will be **no KPETS Kalendar this year**. Those who contributed donations to have your pup's birthday noted on the calendar will be getting a refund shortly. We hope to have one again next year. Thanks for understanding.

Ashcomb's Dog Days - York - Margie Smith

Ashcomb's Dog Days was held on August 22. The day started off rainy, cool and muddy, but it didn't stop Sue Adams/Rosie, Margie Smith/ Guinness and Lori Cordon from manning the KPETS booth. We also had help from the Bassett Hound Rescue across the aisle from us, since Liz Keilley and Dulcie kept referring newcomers to our booth. We had several people come visit with us, even though the weather was less than perfect.

The three KPETS people and dogs had such a good time that we've decided to make this an annual event! Ashcomb's was just beautiful, even in the rain. The food was good and they offered some choices including soup! The staff at Ashcomb's were very helpful and provided shelter, tables and table coverings for us to use.

If you love gardening, dogs and people - this is the place to go for next year!

There will no KEYNOTES next month - December.

Enjoy the holidays - Please consider sharing your pet a little extra with those who may not have family this holiday season.

KPETS News

Rescue—Kaysee's Rescue

- Denise Gillin

Kaysee is a beautiful calico cat with white mitten paws. People are immediately taken in by her "prettiness," and she plays the role of gentle feline well. Curling up to sleep in cute and unexpected places, daintily washing her big paws, elegantly patrolling the borders of her property, bringing live animal presents to me – you get the idea.

It all seems good; however, living with Kaysee is not easy. She is a true diva in every sense of the word and has the personality of a teenager going to the prom who just discovered a zit on her forehead.

The day of our house fire, she was languishing on the roof of the car in the garage. I wasn't there, but the neighbors that were instrumental in rescuing Riplee from the kitchen, tell the story of Kaysee's rescue like this.....

Everyone was busy trying doors and windows as they worked to get Riplee from the house. As soon as he decided it was ok to leave with them, one neighbor whisked him to her home. At that moment, another neighbor saw the garage door fly up as the motor shorted out by the fire. A huge ball of flame spewed out the opening, catching the car in the driveway on fire. Everyone stood gaping and wide-eyed, trying to sort out what to do next.

Before they could regroup, out of the garage following the fireball stormed Kaysee – puffed up twice her size and hissing and spitting at being interrupted from her nap. She immediately sought refuge under the flaming car in the driveway.

Patiently, but with a sense of urgency, the next-door neighbor kindly tried to coax the cat out from under the burning car. Amazingly, for the first time in her 18-year life, Kaysee agreed to something that wasn't her idea. She walked out but remained puffed and stiff as the neighbor hoisted her up and carted her off to the laundry room of a nearby house.

Later when I went to see her, she was still puffed up, reeked of smoke, and mad – really mad, and I'm sure very scared. She greeted me with a big hiss and paw swipe so I knew she would be ok. She spent the night at the neighbor's house. We picked her up the next day. She was still curled up in a laundry basket where she slept that night. She was still sleeping and looking angelic when we stopped to get her.

Now she is settled into a routine at a relative's house, busy bossing around two dogs. The dogs have grown tired of trying to befriend her and don't seem to notice her complete disdain of them anymore. We look forward to the day when we will all be back together again, but for now, we are all coping!

Thanks for your continued support and well wishes. We - Mike, Riplee, Kaysee, and I – really appreciate all the good thoughts, prayers, and resources you have sent our way!

Raise funds for **KPETS** when you search or shop online

Search to your heart's content at:

www.iSearchiGive.com

Raise a penny (or more!) for our organization every time you search the web. Do all your web searches from www.iSearchiGive.com/kpets

With all the searching on the web that we do, this is sure to add up quickly. Be sure to make it your default search engine!



If you shop online, you can help even more: www.iGive.com/kpets

This holiday season, send a gift that means an automatic donation to **KPETS!** When you shop at any of over 700 of the web's best online stores through iGive, a portion of each purchase comes back to us in the form of a donation check. (up to 26%!)

It's free for you, free for us, and you pay the same (or less!) than you would by going directly to the store, etc. And to all you smart shoppers: don't miss iGive's treasure-trove of coupons, sales, and free shipping.

Save money, save time, and send gifts that give twice. What could be better than that?

NEW MEMBERS to iGive for KPETS generate a \$5 bonus, too!

Shop iGive.com this season!

Newsletter Survey Results

- Karen Gerth

KPETS received a free 30-day trial for a survey software package and used it see how we are doing with our newsletter. There were LOTS of positive comments but you know we'll focus on how we can improve. Some of the comments (along with our feedback) were:

More training type stories - Each month or possibly alternating every other month, Karen Sage will do a dog training tip and Mary Gottfried will continue to contribute the Expanding Your Horizons. As our circulation grows, we hope to add therapists feedback/instruction on AAT/AE procedures, too.

Meet our Teams - This is something we may consider to help motivate teams to log their volunteer hours. It is so important to log those hours for us to use for grant-writing and to show our credibility.

No Time / Easier to get to - We will send the link so the pdf file will open, rather than taking you to the website for more clicks. Time permitting, we may be looking into a different package to handle our newsletter and email addresses. But these things take time and staffing to research and \$ to purchase or subscribe to - which leads us to . . .

So many fundraising endeavors - KPETS has approximately 200 volunteers now. We are no longer the small group of buddies with our pets. With the increased growth, has come increased duties and responsibilities. Renewal time is a very demanding time in the office. Plus orientations happen every month. Materials need updated and printed. Hundreds of emails keep coming in for either requests for visits, questions on how to get involved, how do I complete the process to become registered, can you speak here, can you have booth there, etc; Not to mention expenses for office and storage rents, internet costs, phone, website hosting, insurance and accounting duties. Jenny's 20 hours are not enough. Next year needs to be the year to add an additional staff person as executive director to keep up with the growing responsibilities of our organization. So, when you see us asking for your help for raising funds, think of us like Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They have administrative responsibilities for their organization to function, but all their services are provided by their volunteer 'Bigs'. That is the way with us as well. With 3000 hours logged for serving our community with only one part-time employee, that is a pretty good ratio. We'd much rather be out there volunteering with our pets, than sitting behind the desk! But if KPETS is to continue, funding at a new level is needed.

Join National Org - It was asked why not just be one of the national organizations. We started out that way. But when the demand to register volunteers became so great, those organizations could not keep up. With our current stats of 200 registered teams, that means we've trained/tested about 400 volunteers, if our completion rate is 50 percent! That's a lot! AND besides, we wanted to offer more than they did! It takes funds to do that. Host a website, forum, produce/print/distribute a newsletter, brochures, cards, connection services, promotional efforts, etc. - these are not free. I wish the other orgs teams would join US as KPETS teams and support AAA/AAT efforts locally. When KPETS' processes were evaluated along side of the national organizations to be accepted into the HIGHMARK PALS program, they complimented us on our screening process; stating it was the most thorough compared to the others. Even their attorneys scoped us out! We qualified - hands down!

I hope this explains things a bit better for some of the questions raised. I want to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback from our survey. All-in-all the comments were very positive and appreciative! We will continue to do our best to provide you with an interesting and useful newsletter! Thanks for reading and thanks again for your support! (There will be no Newsletter in Dec.)

More Parades! - Sarah Traphagen

The Millersville Halloween Parade was held, Saturday, October 24, and thank goodness, the rain held off for us. With only two teams (Bill & Sarah Traphagen/Poz (golden) and Becki L/William(Beagle), we ended up tying the banner to the front of our Explorer. Sarah drove, so KIP the KPETS dog (Bill) could schmooze the crowd with Poz along with Becki Lieberknecht and William, the beagle!

THEN - Monday, October 26, was the annual Lititz Halloween Parade. I got reports about the crazy dog running from side to side of the street. I was worried we had a problem! She laughed at me. She was referring to our own beloved KIP, the KPETS dog (alias Bill Traphagen). Bill, you make us proud! - Karen Gerth

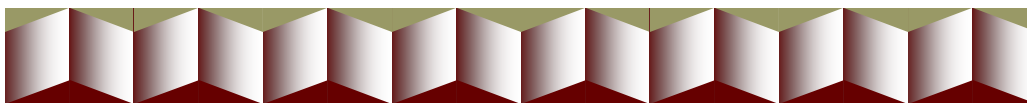
Sarah, Poz, Kip (Bill) along with Becki and William



What's Coming Up?

Due to insurance purposes, events designated ® are only open to REGISTERED therapy teams (KPETS, Delta, TD Inc. etc.)

2nd & 4th Tue	Tues 7 p	Pre-assessment	7p - Mennonite Home, Lancaster 2nd and 4th Tues Due to limited space, contact konnections@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
4th Mon	4th Mon	Pre-assessment	7p - In The Net Sports Complex, 798 Airport Road, Palmyra Contact konnections@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
????	Mon 7 p	Pre-assessment	7p - Canine Companions, Bair Road, Bainbridge
Nov 8	Sun	Orientation - Palmyra	1 pm - Pet HQ, Main Street, Palmyra
Dec 12	Sat	Orientation - Lancaster.	9 am - Blair Room, United Way Building, 630 Janet Avenue, Lancaster. Park in Frances Ave parking for Blair Room entrance
Nov 21	Sat	Volunteer Round Table - Lancaster	9 am - 2nd Sat, odd months - Moveable Feast, Mountville. RSPP Carol at max1024@verizon.net or 717-672-0166
Dec 12	Sat	Volunteer Round Table - New Oxford	10 am - 2nd Sat, even months - Rosie's Restaurant in New Oxford. RSVP Margie at margiesracking@earthlink.net
11/8	Sun	Bon Ton Community Days	Noon-2p - Sell Bon Ton Community Days booklets at the mall or on your own to your friends and co-workers. Please help!
Nov 14	Sat	Bon Ton Community Day Sales Event	If we sell enough tickets we can be present in the store on Sales Day and sell even more and recruit volunteers! Time TBD
Nov 15		Adopt-a-Thon	Happy Hounds, Ephrata
Nov 21	Sat	Alternate Gift Fair	10a - 4p - Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster. Need teams to staff both in two hour shifts.
Dec 4	Sun	Elizabethtown Holiday Parade	This is always a fun time for the Santa parade. Bring to pups dressed in their holiday attire.
Dec 14	Mon	Schreiber Pediatric Social Skills Class	6-7p - One team needed to visit and assist with kids during their social skills class.
Dec 30	Wed	Puppy Pool Party	1:30p - Brethren Village Puppy Pool Party. KPETS teams only - <u>Limited Space</u> . Sign up w/Jenny to reserve your spot.



2009 H1N1 influenza virus confirmed in Iowa cat - Email forwarded from KPETS Volunteer and Vet - Nan-Hanshaw-Roberts

November 4, 2009 – A 13-year old cat in Iowa developed signs of a respiratory infection after several people in the household were ill. Preliminary testing was positive for 2009 H1N1 on October 29, and the results were confirmed on November 2. This is the first report of a cat infected with H1N1. The cat has recovered from its illness.

To date, this is the first cat confirmed infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus. Two ferrets, one in Oregon and one in Nebraska, have also recently been confirmed infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus. The Nebraska ferret died, but the Oregon ferret has recovered. To date, there is no evidence that the ferrets or the cat passed the virus to people.

The American Veterinary Medical Association and American Association of Feline Practitioners are reminding pet owners that many viruses can pass between people and animals, so this was not an altogether unexpected event. We are advising pet owners to monitor their pets' health very closely, no matter what type of animal, and visit a veterinarian if there are any signs of illness.

For more information, click on the like for the [AVMA's press release on the Iowa case](http://www.avma.org/press/releases/091104_H1N1_Iowa_cat.asp) (http://www.avma.org/press/releases/091104_H1N1_Iowa_cat.asp) or visit the [AVMA's H1N1 resources Web page](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/new_virus/default.asp) (http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/new_virus/default.asp).

Kids and Dogs - Who could resist! - *Cindy Hess*

John Beck students in Mrs. Malloy's class have been spending their October reading time on Tuesdays with a special, furry reading buddy - Maggie, the golden retriever. Her owner Mrs. Cindy Hess, works with Maggie to help promote the benefits of the animal/human bond and their therapeutic benefits. Maggie is a registered KPETS therapy dog who brings a special quality into the classroom. Because the students tend to relax and enjoy sharing their reading out loud with Maggie at their side, they are more confident in their group reading and reap great benefits from the program.



Thank you!

- *Karen Gerth*

Christopher and Doreen Pitera graciously donated a generous sum to apply to printing fees for our next batch of brochures. Chris works for Weaver Associates in Lancaster and sees our brochures and discussed our mission with Karen during customer service calls. Christopher and Doreen personally donated these funds to off-set the printing fees to support KPETS! Thanks, Chris and Doreen, for this self-less gift.

KPETS TEAMS BRIGHTEN DARK NIGHT

- *Denise Gillin*



At the Elizabethtown Public Library on Thursday, October 15 six KPETS teams demonstrated how to care for a dog – including ways to have fun! Even though it was a dark, stormy night, 35 attendees braved the weather for the kid-oriented program.

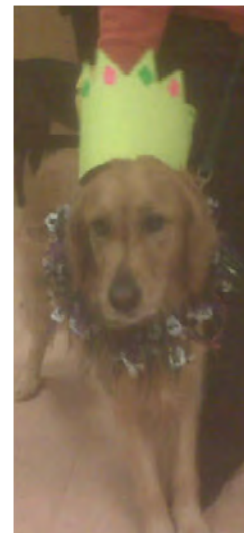
The show started with each team introducing themselves: Murray (Mary Gottfried) led the show, with a very enthusiastic Suzy Q (Patti Jo Hibshman) next. Holly, in her special Halloween collar, (Nancy Campbell) and Carney (Linda Hummel) followed as representatives of how beautiful golden retrievers can look with different coat colors.

McGuffee, sporting a flattering haircut, (Westley McDonald) preceded perky little Amber (Marjan van Schaik), and slim, trim Riplee (Denise Gillin) followed. The attendees were asked to "name the breed" as teams presented their pets.

Next, children from the audience were asked to volunteer to pick a pet care item out of a pillowcase and tell what the item was used for. They were all able to answer correctly about the water dish, leash with "poop" bag, grooming tools, treats, nail clipper, and tooth brush! Riplee was gracious enough to demonstrate having his teeth brushed with special beef-flavored toothpaste to the children's delight!

The grand finale was a peanut butter eating contest between Murray – defending champ of being the slowest dog to eat peanut butter off a spoon – and Holly, the challenger. The spoons were loaded, and the contest began! The entire audience was out of their seats to cheer them on! Eventually a photo finish declared Holly the winner and she branched her construction paper crown like any champion would!

After the "formal" program, there was plenty of time for the kids & adults to pet dogs and ask questions before checking out a good book and heading into the rainy night.



Reminders

Please be sure TO SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

If you have web-access, you can submit your hours online at www.kpets.org/volunteers.

For those without internet access, please mail completed forms to the KPETS address and we will enter them.

Be sure to check requests listings

It is GROWING and is updated constantly. [Click here](#) Or Go to KPETS.org -> click on Konnections tab -> Choose Facilities Seeking Teams. There may be something new that is perfect for you and your pet! Notify Konnections@kpets.org if you fulfill any of the needs. Thank you!

KPETS Forum

Get Connected with other KPETS teams at: <http://forum.kpets.org>

This tool is under-utilized. Check it out. It's a great tool to stay connected with each other!

Newsletter Stories

Submit your **newsletter stories** to keynotes@kpets.org within five days of the event to make putting newsletter together a lot easier on our volunteers!

Special Notices -

PRE-ASSESSMENT DATES

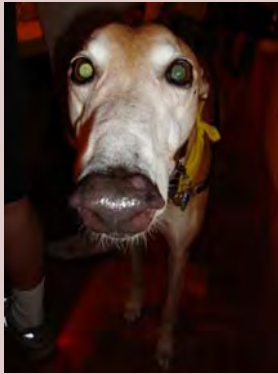
In the Net, 798 Airport Road, Palmyra
7:00 pm, 4th Mondays

Canine Companions, Bainbridge
7 pm, October 23

Mennonite Home, Lancaster
7 pm 2nd & 4th Tues nights

Please schedule your assessment with:
Konnections@KPETS.org

**Be sure to
check us
out on
Facebook!**



**See you
there!**

Volunteer Roundtable Planner: Volunteer Round Tables are held every month. Times and locations listed with "What's Coming Up."

Carol Johnston 717-672-0166 or max1024@verizon.net.

Margie Smith margiesracking@earthlink.net. *York Volunteer Round Tables*

Phone Buddy Coordinator:

If you do not have email, contact **Patty Sarago** (717) 761-0396 to get set up with a phone buddy to keep you informed between newsletters.

New Recruits Assistant: Helping guide new inquiries for KPETS to Orientation.

Sue Schreffler - bichon10@verizon.net or (717) 838-9672.

Orientation Follow-up Guide:

Guiding volunteers through the registration process once orientation has been completed. **Nicole Byers** - welcome@kpets.org and **Gini Swartzell** - ginis@kpets.org.

Facility/Events/Volunteer Coordinator:

Jenny Rule 888.685.7387 ext 2 or konnections@kpets.org along with many other volunteers who assist her!

KPETS Keynotes Editor - Denise Gillin. If you staff an event or have any good therapy stories to share, please send them to keynotes@kpets.org.

Safety Assurance Leader - Wendy McKelvy. Any questionable pet behavior observed should be reported immediately to Wendy at training@kpets.org or (717)285-9719

Development Coordination - To help out on this committee, please contact

Karen at kareng@kpets.org or **Jenny** at konnections@kpets.org

ALL KPETS Teams should now be registered on the forum and to log volunteer hours. If trouble, contact Konnections@kpets.org.

***** EVALUATORS Will ALWAYS Be Needed! *****

If you are interested in becoming an evaluator for us, please contact Laura at LauraW@kpets.org to discuss

Evaluator Name	Phone	Area Served	Email address
Denise Procius	717-319-4242	Duncannon/Carlisle area	denisep@kpets.org
*Laura Whitman	717-368-9993	Elizabethtown area	LauraW@kpets.org
Mary Gottfried	717-361-2507	Elizabethtown area	MaryG@kpets.org
*Karen Sage	717-859-3044	Ephrata Area	KarenS@kpets.org
Jolene Newcomer	717-733-4024	Ephrata Area	JoleneN@kpets.org
Margie Smith	717-624-4742	Hanover area	MargiesS@kpets.org
Cindy Wilson	717-319-1136	Harrisburg area/Perry County	CindyW@kpets.org
Jody Rosser	717-725-4522	Lancaster	JodyR@kpets.org
*Wendy McKelvy	717-575-1278	Lancaster area	Training@kpets.org
Leanne Spurlin	717-898-6418	Lancaster area	LeanneS@kpets.org
Nicole Byers	717-314-2662	Lancaster area	NicoleB@kpets.org
*Bill Townsend	610-932-4401	Oxford area	BillT@kpets.org
Sue Schreffler	717-838-9672	Palmyra area	Orientations@kpets.org
Harriet Hombach	717-266-2163	York area	HarrietH@kpets.org
Fran Holt	717-292-5743	York area	FranH@kpets.org
Bev Hirt	410-803-9294	York/Adams Counties & MD	BevH@kpets.org
Donna Gomer	717-630-2362	York/Adams Counties & MD	DonnaG@kpets.org

* Indicates Level II Evaluator (Assessment Evaluator)

Challenge Your Pre-Conceptions

- By Toni Vale, KPETS Volunteer

Okay. I am the first to admit that I prefer volunteering with the elderly to young children. When I signed up to become a KPETS volunteer with my GSP mix Freckles, I was thinking: "I'd rather not volunteer with children."

You might guess that I don't have children (unless you count the 2 dogs, plus 1 foster dog, 4 cats and 5 feral cats that are my animal children). Therefore, I have no real reason for wanting to avoid human children (apart from the bad behavior I always seem to witness in the store, my doctor's and dentist's offices)!

This article is about how, despite my pre-conceptions of children, I became involved and enjoyed participating in a brand new library reading program for children at the Collinsville library in Brogue, York County.

My challenge began at a friend's party in early summer. My friend introduced me to one of her friends, Leslie, who just so happens to be a librarian at Collinsville Community Library. Collinsville Library just happens to be the nearest library to my home and also would you believe it, just so happens that Leslie had already heard of KPETS! I mentioned reading programs for children as part of our portfolio of voluntary activities as Leslie was already actively seeking this kind of opportunity.

Of course I volunteered. How could I not? I had the chance to promote KPETS into the deepest, darkest regions of York County! We set a date for October and I was thinking; "how bad can it be? At the very least, I absolutely love books!"

On a cold and wet Saturday morning, Freckles and I made our way to the library. Unfortunately, because of the weather the library was fairly quiet. We did however, have one young lady signed up to read to Freckles. As she was reading, I saw the look on her face and then it struck me; this was the same smiley, happy face that Freckles elicits from the residents at the nursing home we visit. At the nursing home we are bringing comfort and fond memories to those who are missing their beloved pets. At the library we are actually helping children to read, to READ! What can be a better contribution to a child's development than that?

At the end of the 30 minute session, Freckles was rewarded with a doggie treat and of course, during the session, he received copious amounts of belly rubs from everyone. I think he enjoyed himself! The little girl certainly had a good time. I asked her if she enjoyed reading to Freckles and she said that she did and would be coming back next month.

It just goes to show that when an opportunity presents itself, you really need to grab it with both hands and just see what happens. Always challenge yourself as to why you have certain pre-conceived ideas. We all have them! You never know what might happen and where the Lord will take you. We will be visiting the library again next month. Let's see what happens then!



Lititz Halloween Parade - Scary !?! - "Kirby" Marshall

When my mom and dad put me in my KPETS Vest I was sure I was going to see my "Ladies" but it wasn't Tuesday PM. I was so excited that I was going to be in a Halloween Parade! It was my first parade and I wanted to put my best paw forward! When we got to downtown Lititz I was amazed! I saw parade floats, unicyclists and kids in all kinds of costumes! And then I met some KPETS members and got to go nose to nose with a pirate, football players and even a police dog. My dad helped carry the banner and I was so proud of him!

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We walked the parade route and strutted our stuff for KPETS. I was so proud that I was wearing my vest and so many people were lined up watching and wanted to pet us. I had an awesome time and even met KIP, our mascot. Along the route some owners were throwing candy to the kids watching and they got really excited trying to grab the candy. I don't remember seeing any treats for us, except William got treats to encourage him to walk in his policeman's costume.

I loved walking in the parade and had a really good time. We walked on Main Street from the Post Office, around the square on 501 and up a few blocks then left to Cedar and then back to the Post Office. We were on our very best behavior when we passed the judges stand. Whew, it was a long walk but so much fun! I went home and got a drink and climbed onto the top of the sofa and fell asleep dreaming of pumpkins, treats, belly rubs and strutting my stuff for KPETS.

- Kirby

PS: Here's my new friend Scooby with the Bechtel family!



NEW KPETS ITEMS AVAILABLE

These items will eventually be on the website but for now, here's the scoop.

Magnets are now available again. Now with KPETS Therapy DOG on board (Not KPETS Therapy PET on board)

Also we have window decals that go across your rear window that say "**Your breed**" *KPETS Therapy Dog on Board* Letters are all white. It looks really sharp!

You can now order business cards with your pooch's picture on it. Quantity is 1000 minimum, but think how many smiles you'll bring as you hand them out to everyone your dog meets!

KPETS Supporting Memberships now available. Great gift to give someone who 'has everything'. Three different levels!

- ◆ Individual: Includes Newsletter and updates that will include progress we've made, new venues we've pursued, hours goals, reached, etc. (\$20)
- ◆ Pet Professional: for groomers, vets, trainers, etc. Same as Individual but also receives a window decal stating "Proud Pet Professional Sponsor of KPETS—Keystone Pet Enhance Therapy Services" (\$45)
- ◆ Facility Sponsor: for facilities and organizations we visit. Same as Individual but also receives a window decal stating "Proud Facility Sponsor of KPETS—Keystone Pet Enhance Therapy Services" (\$75)

Supporting Memberships support is so greatly appreciated. These dollars help up continue our vision of recruiting, http://www.kpets.org/a_membersponsor.html or email Karen at kareng@kpets.org or 888.68.kpets (888.685.7387).

Thank you so very much!



If you shop on the web, go to www.igive.com. Sign up, and choose KPETS as your cause. A percent of the cost of your order will be donated to KPETS. MANY stores to choose from!

EVERYTHING IS A CLICK AWAY

To find our Events Kalendar

Go to: www.KPETS.org - Go to the Kalendar Tab. Choose the *Events Kalendar*

For the Facility Requests

Go to www.kpets.org - Hover over the Konnections Tab choose Facilities Seeking Teams.

Please, please! If you fulfill a facility's request, let Jenny know at konnections@kpets.org so we can take them off our ever-growing listing!

KPETS is a growing business that supplies our services free of charge to thousands! With nearly 200 volunteers teams, we're doing our best to keep up with the behind-the-scenes responsibilities.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to find our way in the business world!



Don't forget to write us in on your United Way Pledge Sheet!

Check inside for new KPETS items available this holiday season!



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