



KPETS Keynotes

Our Mission:

KPETS is a non-profit organization established to promote Animal Assisted Therapy / Animal Assisted Activities (AAT/AAA) by recruiting, educating, uniting and coordinating volunteers with the facilities, social agencies and special-needs programs whose clients may benefit from the healing and rehabilitating effects of the animal/human bond. The unconditional love of our pets is shared with those of all ages and from all walks of life.

KPETS Board

- Karen Gerth
- Laura Whitman
- Bill Gerth
- Jim Martin
- Dr. Andrew Sloyer
- Art Amelio

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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Connected!

Dear KPETS Teams,

Well, I have a story, as well as a bone to pick (not that I would pick, bite or touch any of your bones, thank you). But before I get started, I am writing this since Mom is busy doing her school work. Since I've attended school for two years, I can now read and write. So, here is what I have to say. First, you need to remember that KPETS is not all about dogs, there are some of us not of the canine (yuck) species, thank my lucky stars. Secondly, you all may brag about what you have done; well let me tell you, we've done some pretty amazing things – and I've been part of many of them.

Just in case you canine people haven't figured it out, I'm a cat. To be specific, I'm a registered CFA solid blue Maine Coon cat. (You did get the part that I'm a cat? Did you also make the connection that KPETS is PETS, not just dogs? I just wanted to clarify that!) I have a title behind my name, but more importantly, I've been doing AAT activities since I was 6 months old. I am now 6 years old – so do the math. We are involved with the youth of our state. We go to the New Oxford library (and soon to the East Berlin library) to read to the children there. They love us. The "us" here is me (of course), Rosie – my housemate who happens to be a dog, and Pippa – Mary Merrill's Bernese Mountain dog. We go once a month and always have kids waiting for us. The kids rotate and usually get to read to at least two of us each night. It is great fun and I love to hear those cat stories the kids read to me. Occasionally, we get a few beginner readers, so I have to help them out. I put my paw in the book on the word, that way the child knows where to look to find the word to read. Once they move my paw (I've been told that my big ol' paddy paws can't be seen through) then either Mom or the child's mother help them out with sounding out the word. The kids love it and I love when the early readers start to learn new words!



One girl in particular (we'll call her Jane) is particularly fun. She makes sure she reads to all three of us each night. When she reads, her voice is like silk. But best of all, she'll read something that she can make connections to, then she starts talking about experiences or information she has learned about what we are reading about. Listening to her brings a purr to my throat. Pippa has told me that they had a good laugh over a story they were reading. In the story the dog passed some gas, so Pippa thought she'd make the story come to life to help the kids with connections as they read, and did the same thing! It cleared out Pippa's corner of the library! Luckily, our reading time was over, otherwise Pippa said it would have been hard to stay back there any longer. Rosie reads with me at the table. Of course, I get to lay on the table on my pad, while Rosie lies on the floor in front of the upholstered chairs. The kids either sit in the chairs or read on the floor next to her. The kids really like to lie next to Rosie with one arm around her and one holding their book. Rosie (and Pippa) like having the kids read and touch them. On the table, where I am, the kids usually hold my paw or stroke me as they read. It is truly CATHartic.

Well, Mom says she needs the computer and that the newsletter can only hold so much information from one source, so I'll write next time about what we do at Abraxas. Meanwhile, ya'll keep chewing those bones, I'll keep on reading. CATch you all later!

Your KPETS Partner,
Beamer

KPETS Recap

Cookies and K-9's

Elizabethtown College held the second 'Cookies and K-9's' on May 7th. This was a great way for the students to relax and have a much needed break with our KPETS therapy dogs while studying for finals. The students enjoyed the warm weather, a snack and the visit with the dogs. Sophie, one of KPETS chocolate Labs, played fetch with a ball and frisbee with the kids at the same time! It was a nice and relaxing time for all! The Elizabethtown College K-9 club is planning this event for the fall semester as well.

Denise Wagner

Lion's . . . *Oh My!*

Karen and Podley were seeing lions this past month. On Saturday, May 24, bright and early at 7:30 am, they were invited to inform the Manheim Township Sunrise Lions Club about KPETS and our mission at the Eden Resort in Lancaster.

Then on Tuesday, May 27, they were invited to the Akron Lions Club meeting in Karen's home town of Akron! That was a blast. Meeting folks who know her parents and actually one gentleman was her aunt's cousin! Both times the KPETS DVD was shown, with a brief talk about KPETS and then a question and answer time. Oh yes and of course, snuggle time for Podley. Both talks generated interest and donations to our program.

AND THEN: On Monday, June 9, Bill Townsend & Zoey, his boxer and Kris Frey & Triton, her golden did a presentation for the Quarryville Lions Club! From what I heard they had a great time and were very well received! This is exciting news. Teams from other areas are stepping up to the plate to represent our organization! Thank you guys, so much for your dedication!

Karen Gerth

Mental Health Awareness Day

Foo, my trusty Pekingese, and I recently had the opportunity to speak to a group at the Chambersburg recreational facility in honor of Mental Health Awareness Day. This group of about 20 ranged in age from young adult to older adult, however, they all had one

thing in common – they were fascinated and so delighted to be visited by a therapy dog!

While I gave them the background of KPETS and talked about therapy dogs in general, they had many questions of their own about therapy animals, several asking question about therapy cats! I talked to them about Foo's history of being a stray and to consider adoption of a rescued animal for themselves or encouraging others. We all agreed that our experience with rescued animals is that they seem to be intuitive about having a second chance at being loved or in a loving home and they seem to be special animals.

They asked what types of places we were volunteered at and I told them not only what we personally volunteer at as a team, but what others may be involved with. I told them that we were all volunteers, of course, and were only limited by the number of volunteer teams we had. There was always a greater demand for teams than what we had.

This was our first experience with talking to a group by ourselves, however, the time flew by and it was over before we knew it. Tish, the coordinator of the program, was so appreciative and others came up to us individually as well and thanked us.

Also, more people were coming in for a luncheon so we were stopped in the hallway by people wanting to talk to us and pet Foo --- of course, he loved it!

Wharton Elementary Reading Program

In the last week of April we started the reading program at Wharton Elementary School in Lancaster with Jesse, our Border Collie/mix. She listens to first graders read on a one-to-one basis. This past week the teacher, Miss Hill, told me that she had one boy that would not read out loud to the class. It was like pulling teeth to get him to read. However, since he has been reading to Jesse, this has changed! He now reads out loud to his class mates! I think it is great that our dogs and pets can help in so many situations.

Dotty and Aaron Rowe

The power of Pet Therapy!

"Talk About Your Dog - A Fun Visit!"

Murray and I need your help.

We visit three autistic brothers, ages 6, 9, and 12 in Elizabethtown. The mom requested a KPETS volunteer to teach them about dogs, and I have been having a great time. Murray loves the kids and they love him! We have had sessions on "*How To Meet A Dog*", "*How to Pet a Dog*", "*How To Play With A Dog*", "*How To Walk A Dog*", and now, I'm working on "*Different Kinds Of Dogs*".

That's where I need your help. New KPETS volunteer Denise Gillin has already come with me for a visit with the boys with her greyhound, Riplee. The boys were fascinated by the differences between Riplee and Murray, who is a baset. She talked a little about the history of her breed, and pointed out the differences between a sight hound and a scent hound. The brothers were excited at being able to meet a new dog, and really loved the visit.

I'd like to have them meet a variety of breeds. If you're interested in coming along with me and making a one time, fun visit with three great kids, please contact me at weidmama@etown.edu.

Mary Gottfried

Don't forget. . .

Do you Need to be Re-Assessed!

September is approaching and we have a large number of teams that still need to be reassessed. This is the first year to initiate reassessments. Every three years our therapy pets are required to be re-assessed in order to

renew and continue being a team with KPETS. This is to ensure the pet is still appropriate for visiting.

If you received a notice with your Sept 07 renewal notice that you need to have this done, please make your appointment as soon as you can. Contact Wendy at training@kpets.org (717-285-9719) or Mary at marym@kpets.org or Laura at LauraW@kpets.org (717-368-9993).

Reassessments can be done the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, or by appointment if absolutely necessary. Thanks for your cooperation.

- Mary Merrell

Did you know?

- That KPETS volunteers are providing a priceless service ?
- Research has proven that animal therapy provides immeasurable benefits.
- That KPETS is an entirely volunteer organization, founded for the sole purpose of sharing the unconditional love of pets with those of all ages and all walks of life?
- These caring teams of animals and their owners are willing to share their personal time so that others will reap benefits from the human-animal bond. All KPETS teams are dependable, registered, insured and committed to providing therapeutic advantages. Locations, clients, and schedules are carefully matched to reap the maximum potential for all clients.
- That KPETS has experienced exponential growth over the past several years as facilities of all types - health care, assisted living, hospice, acute care hospitals, children's rehabilitation centers, residence centers for at-risk teens, library and elementary school programs, and more – have learned of our commitment and excellent results?
- Over 120 teams visit over 95 facilities and organizations' clients throughout South-Central PA.
- That KPETS charges no fees to the facilities we visit?
- Because we must secure sustainable funding to continue to provide the services we do, we will be conducting a fundraising appeal within the next several weeks.

If you receive one of our requests for funding, or if someone asks you about our appeal, we strongly encourage you to support our efforts. A successful appeal is imperative if we are to continue our positive services into the future. Thank you!

Hot Weather Tips For Your Pet

This information can help you care for your companion animal when the mercury rises.



- Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal. Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle, since even with the windows open, a parked car, truck or van can quickly become a furnace. Parking in shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon thermos filled with fresh, cold water.
- Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot, humid weather. Always exercise him or her in the cool of the early morning or evening.
- In extremely hot weather, don't leave your dog standing on the street, and keep walks to a minimum. He is much closer to the hot asphalt and his body can heat up quickly. His paws can burn since they are not protected by shoes.
- Never take an animal to the beach unless you can provide a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for her to drink. Rinse her off after she has been in salt water.
- Always provide plenty of shade for an animal staying outside the house. A properly constructed dog house serves best. Bring your dog or cat inside during the heat of the day and let her rest in a cool part of your house. Always provide plenty of cool, clean water for your animal.
- Please be sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs (especially bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos and shih tzus) and those with heart or lung diseases should be kept indoors in air-conditioning as much as possible.

If you notice an animal you think may be at risk for any reason (including heat emergency cases, pets left in cars, inadequate shade/shelter, lack of water, etc. call you local Humane League promptly! Lancaster's number is 717-393-6551. You can contact ORCA as well (397-8922).

Classic Peanuts



What's Coming Up?

Join the fun!

To sign up to help with events or if you have any questions, contact Jenny Rule at events@kpets.org or (717) 808-0143 or the contact listed for that specific event! Come enjoy the fun! Get involved!

- ® **June 14th** from 7-8pm- Manheim BIC Community days at Manheim Farmshow Complex (in Manheim Township). This event is from 3-8pm. KPETS was asked to put on a fun/entertaining doggie show with dancing, agility, etc. from 7-8pm for the community.
- ® **June 14th** from 10-11:30 a.m. – Mennonite Home in Lancaster (across from Park City) Staff a booth for info and mingling with residents.
- ® **June 19th** @ 6pm- Camp STAR presentation to demonstrate the great abilities of our therapy dogs. This event takes place at Messiah College.
- ® **June 20th** @ 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.- Lebanon VA Hospital picnic. KPETS teams are invited to visit with the patients at their annual family picnic. This is a mingling event, no need for a presentation.
- ® **June 23rd** @ 10 a.m.- Hildebrant in Mount Joy is asking us to put on a fun 45 minute presentation for 24 of their day campers ranging in age from 5-9.
- ® **July 14th - Camp Lady Bug** Presentation near E-Town. Most likely in the morning- A 45 minute fun presentation for special needs children. Last year it was a lot of fun!!!

Orientations:

June 14 - Orientation. 9 am till noon. Brethren Village

July 13 - Orientation. 1 - 4 pm. Pet HQ, Palmyra.

August 9 - Orientation. 9 am till noon. Brethren Village

TBD - York area

Be sure to check www.kpets.org on the KPETS Kalendar page for additional updates! Note: Due to insurance purposes, events designated ® are only open to REGISTERED therapy teams (KPETS, Delta, TD Inc. etc.) OR teams who have taken KPETS Orientation and are working on evaluations.

Want to connect with other KPETS volunteers!

Our forum could be a key source for us to connect with each other and facility representatives. It is new and may seem a little scary, but you can't break anything. Honest! We are all learning as we go.

Go to www.kpets.org and click on *Konnections* and then *Forum*. Just click on *'register'* and then wait until we *'validate'* you. It's for KPETS teams and facilities only. You'll get an email notifying you're registered and all set to go. Then come back and start connecting! If you have any ideas you think will make it better, let us know!

See you on the forum!

Education Corner - Know Your Pet!

Doggy Dictionary

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

More Doggy Dictionary words in upcoming issues



Visit Requests - Teams needed!

As you can see our list of requests is growing and growing. Word is getting out how wonderful pet therapy is for folks in these types of settings. And now there is gaining interest for more diverse types of visits. Even if you can do once a month someplace, each volunteer's commitment is so valuable. We all know how much it means to those we connect with. Thanks so much!

For any event that does not have a direct contact name included: contact Jenny Rule at 717-808-0143 or events@kpets.org for additional information and details.

This is the kind of thing we can start posting in the Forum. Once we all get our feet wet, we'll make the facilities aware of it and let them join in and post and communicate directly with you! So check out the forum. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to let us know! (<http://forum.kpets.org>)

Legend: * - indicates new requests, or no visits as of yet

No * indicates ongoing request

Choices Rehab and Adult Day Care in Lancaster United Methodist Church. Special needs Adult Day Care program is looking for team(s) to visit Monday, Tuesday or Thursday any hour between 9 and 3, weekly or bi-weekly.

AseraCare Hospice is seeking pet therapists to share their certified pets with terminally ill patients in facilities in Lancaster/Lebanon. Orientations on requirements are offered on a continuous basis around the area. Please contact the volunteer coordinator at patricia_henry@aseracare.com or 1-888-262-8545 for more information. Visitations are completely around your schedule once or twice a month.

Compassionate Care Hospice - Contact Aubrey Smith at (717) 203-7104 or smith9900@comcast.net. Minimal one-hour orientation will be set up at your convenience - even before or after a visit. Looking for teams in the Honeybrook or Christiana area in Lancaster/Chester county, Masonic Village, Middletown Home, and Jewish Home, Hbg.

Evergreen Estates and SouthernCare Hospice - Lancaster, PA: 1st Saturday each month at 10 a.m. Contact Anita at gyanwolfe@dejazzd.com or 717-627-0478. Or contact SouthernCare Hospice, Karen Getz at 717-285-0177.

***Friendship Community –Leola area group home:** Looking for regular visits. Loss/grief situation - Pet therapy suggested. Prefer Hypo-allergenic, small dog. There are kids. No cats. Evenings after 5 or weekends. Wed/Thurs work best or 1 & 3 Mondays.

Good Samaritan Health System Hospice - Please contact Tracy Johnsen, Volunteer Coordinator at (717) 270-7672 or tjohnsen@gshleb.org. A mandatory hospice training at the volunteer's leisure is required.

***Greyson View Adult Day Care** - Derry Street Harrisburg.

***Havre De Grace, MD**—Day program for at -risk teens is looking for a team or two to come during the day. Summer between 9—noon, school year between 9—3. This is a lot of fun. We have teams going to a similar program in Elkton with great feedback.

***Heart of Lancaster** - Lititz

Heartland Hospice has patients in seven counties from Harrisburg/Hershey down through Chambersburg/Waynesboro. Visits could be in: nursing home, assisted living, apartment or private home. Hospice volunteer training done at the convenience of the volunteer. Contact Sharon Funk, Volunteer Coordinator at 717-240-0018 or e-mail her at: 4675officestaff19@hcr-manorcare.com.

***Keystone Drop-In Center** - a place for adults with mental illness to gather in order to socialize and work on their recovery. Open Monday through Friday from 9am-3pm. A monthly or even bi-monthly visit would be great. Contact Genevieve Kelly at 717-397-9379 or gkelly@keystonehumanservices.org

Lancashire Hall - Lancaster: Contact Kelly McIntyre, activities director - KMcIntyre10@comcast.net or 569-3211x 228

Lancaster General Hospital - additional hospital orientation required. Contact Phyllis Paules 717-544-5005 or ppaules2@LancasterGeneral.org

***Lancaster House South**— Looking for teams to come twice a month in the evening to their rec room for some fun! They hope to motivate some of the tenants to come out and mingle with others and just to brighten their day. So if we can find a few teams to commit to this, they would be so grateful. If interested, contact Jenny at events@kpets.org. Then we'll figure out what day would work best for those interested.

***Lancaster Regional Medical Center** - Adult Day Care, Lanc. Flexible times available. Contact Crystal Reese 291-8055. (3rd floor rehab center every other week from 630-715; The behavioral health unit every other week from 6-7; and Adult day services program for 45 minutes once a month during a mutually agreed time.

Landis Homes, Lititz—Contact Marva @ 381-3555. Visits would be so greatly appreciated!

Lebanon Teams Cedar Haven, Lebanon Valley Home, Manor Care, Hearthstone Nursing, and Stonebridge. Please contact Sylvia at 717-865-2385 or sylvia_flinchbaugh@yahoo.com

***PAI** - East Pete, day program for mentally/physically challenged. Would love to have pet visits on a regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly)! between 8:30 am & 3:30 pm. Contact Joan Clawser @ jclawser@paipartners.org or 519-6740.

***York Area** - Three young ladies group home in York area just off S. Queen. Late afternoon or evenings or weekends, Contact Meredith Dahl at mere9184@gmail.com

KPETS Key Konnectors

Volunteer Roundtable Planner:

Carol Johnston 717-672-0166 or max1024@verizon.net. Volunteer Round Tables are held every SECOND Saturday of odd numbered months at 9 a.m. at Moveable Feast in Mountville. (Carl was having pc problems)

Phone Buddy Coordinator:

If you do not have email, contact Bobbie to get set up with a phone buddy to keep you informed between newsletters. Bobbie Sayer 717-733-0929 or jsayer@dejazzd.com

Orientation Follow-up Guide:

Guiding volunteers through the registration process once orientation has been completed. BJ Shollenberger 717-397-9384 or bjshollen@juno.com or Gini Swartzell 717-732-5772 or vpompoo@aol.com

Membership Files: Andy and Linda Euclide maintain new and existing registered KPETS volunteers. Contact them at: membership@kpets.org or 717-355-5232

Events Coordinators:

Coordinating and staffing KPETS events AND visits - Jenny Rule 717-808-0143 or events@kpets.org and Gini Swartzell 717- 732-5772 or vpompoo@aol.com

Pre-assessment Testers: Wendy McKelvy 717-285-9719 or training@kpets.org and Mary Merrell 717-259-8759 or marym@kpets.org. 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Mennonite Home, Lancaster. Or by appointment with Laura Whitman, (Palmyra) 717-378-9993 / lauraw@kpets.org; Bill Townsend (Oxford) 610-932-4401 / wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com or Mary Merrell (York) 717-259-8759 / marym@kpets.org

KPETS Keynotes Editor - Lori Reed has been helping get the Keynotes published each month. Please, if you staff an event or have any good therapy stories to share, please send them to her at 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 - Jackie Diffenderffer and Adella Houck. To help out on this committee, please contact Jackie at jdiddy@verizon.net or Adella Houck at ahouck@embarqmail.com

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS on-line at www.kpets.org/volunteers. Each member should be set up with user name of first initial and last name (ex. Kgerth) and the initial password being the last four digits of your phone number (unless I typed it in wrong). Please change your password once you log in. You can also see a list of your hours. For those without internet access, please mail them to the KPETS address and we will enter them. THANKS SO MUCH!

KPETS Team Evaluators for On-Site Supervised Visits

Laura Whitman	717-368-9993	or lauraw@kpets.org
Wendy McKelvy	717-285-9719	or training@kpets.org
Jody Rosser	717-725-4522	or jrosser@lnpnews.com
Leanne Spurlin	717-898-6418	or lspurlin28@yahoo.com
Bill Townsend	610-932-4401	or wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com
Mary Merrell	717-259-8759	or marym@kpets.org
Margie Smith	717- 624-4742	or margiesracking@earthlink.net
Cindy Wilson	717-589-3734	or beagleomma5@embarqmail.com
Denise Prociuous	717-834-5694	or dprociuous@sutliff.net
Tammy Sickles	717-832-0348	or dogtrainingisfun@aol.com
Karen Sage	717-859-3044	or ssdrsr@ptd.net

No Email??

If you don't have email, and are not receiving calls from a phone buddy occasionally, be sure to contact Bobbie and let her know (717-733-0929). She'll hook you up with someone to keep you posted of opportunities that come out via email between newsletters.

OR—If you are willing to BE a phone buddy to one or two people to help keep them informed of emails that come out between newsletters, let Bobbie know this too. (jsayer@dejazzd.com). We just don't want anyone to miss out on anything. Help us keep KPETS teams connected! Thanks!

Reminders:

Please submit all your KPETS volunteer hours on-line at www.kpets.org/volunteers.

Is your pet due to be re-assessed?
Contact Wendy at training@kpets.org

Go to <http://forum.kpets.org> to get konnected with other KPETS folks on our on-line forum! Let's use this cool tool to stay connected!

If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please contact us at info@kpets.org or 717.333.5738.



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