



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.

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Lancaster, PA 17601

Office Address:

630 Janet Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601

888.68.KPETS
(888.685.7387)
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"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!

Two New Ways to Share your Passion

Have you ever wanted to be able to spend more time with those you visit? I know I do.

Did you know studies have shown that the benefits of therapy visits last even AFTER the animal has gone? People discuss pet visits for days afterwards - discussing with staff and or family members! You can help extend the benefits of your pet's visits by leaving a photo of him/her.

What KPETS is doing to help, is offering KPETS business cards for you and your pet to hand out at events or during visits. This is also a way for folks to recognize KPETS services to our communities. Let us know if you are interested - possible design sample above. Pricing is still being negotiated for quantities ordered.

Another item available to order is breed-specific decals for your car window similar to the one pictured. Contact Jenny at Konnections@kpets.org to place your order.



Golden Retriever
KPETS
THERAPY DOG *on board*

WoofStock! - Gini Swartzell

KPETS had a great day for Woofstock along River Front Park, Harrisburg on Sunday, September 20. The weather was cool and dry and lots of dogs attended. Victoria Stillwell was there signing books from the TV Show *It's Me Or The Dog*.



KPETS pups worked the crowd getting the people to come pet them so we could inform the public about our therapy dogs.

Tucker and Sophie drew a crowd around KPETS booth looking cute as usual. Tucker was tie-dyed in blue, purple and pink and wore, what I call, his Jerry Garcia wig. Sophie was dressed in purple bell bottoms, with a pink and purple tank top. Wearing her pink heart sunglasses and

peace necklace, she was sported around by mom in her appropriately decorated stroller.

Tucker won Top Dog for his category in the costume contest. He's still has a tint of tie-dyed but I guess the rest will grow out!

Thanks to all who helped staff the booth: Jackie Laplaca/Russert, Lisa Deyo/Lilly, Patty Sarago/Ginger, Cindy Stewart/Jack, Stacey Chubb/Hallie, Sylvia Miller/Skippy, Lynne Scherden/Meggie, Gini Swartzell/Tucker. With a special thank you to Deb Flage who came without a dog to help out. Deb is in the process of getting a dog registered with KPETS.



This column will appear in Keynotes monthly. Its purpose is to make readers aware of programs, presentations and resources that can help you plan activities and find your niche as a pet therapy team. All the information presented here can also be found on the KPETS Forum under "Presentations and Resources" in PDF downloadable form.

Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy

While most therapy teams engage in Animal Assisted Activities (AAA), such as nursing home visits, in which no definite goals are set and documented, there is another aspect of pet therapy work that can be extremely rewarding. Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), in which the pet and handler work as part of a team with certified professionals, is an option to consider.

In AAT, the pet/handler team works in a setting in which measurable goals are set and progress documented by a certified



professional. The therapy animal is used to motivate

the patient and to achieve pre-determined goals. AAT is used in mental health facilities, in occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, cognitive therapy and physical therapy settings, among others. Both JCAHO and CARF support the use of AAT in patient treatment plans.

If you are interested in investigating this aspect of pet therapy, you can learn more by going to the Kpets Forum 'Presentations and Resources' section. Click on "Introduction To Animal Assisted Therapy" to read and download the PDF document.

Karen Gerth and Nancy Campbell have agreed to act as mentors for AAT and provide information to those interested. Their contact information can be found on the Kpets Forum in the "Mentor" section."



Alternate Gift Fair

Oh my, I can't believe Summer is over! And the stores are getting all vamped up for the holiday shopping season. I'm so not ready for the hype!

I heard on TV that stores are not going to carry the inventory they have in previous years due to the economy. People are rethinking gift ideas and priorities.

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 got to www.giftsthatgivehope.org/lancaster/

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

Why not shop at the Alternate Gift Fair. We hope to see you there with your Christmas gift list. Maybe you'd like to even help us staff our KPETS table that day for a two-hour time slot. It really was lots of fun last year!



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

KPETS Teams out and about!

Another Successful Kookies and K9s - *Mary Gottfried*

The students at Elizabethtown College are spreading the word to come and pet the therapy dogs at Kookies and K9s events! On Wednesday, Sept, 16th, the lobby of Ober Dorm was overflowing with over 50 students, and seven KPETS therapy dog teams.



These events, which are held at least twice each semester, are drawing larger crowds each time they're held.

The events are normally held in the lobby of Ober Dormitory, and students gather to pet the dogs and eat cookies which they share with the pet therapy teams. Many of the students have dogs at home and miss them tremendously when they are away at school. Last night one student who has a German Shepherd at home was almost in tears as she petted and talked to Bev Butch's German Shepherd therapy-dog-in-training, Samson.

Other teams who attended included Troy Conner and Brody, Martha Gomez and Micah, Joan Smith and Rosie, Kathy Farr and the always elegantly attired Sophie, Amos Hess and Apollo, and Patricia Hess and Abby.

In fact, this event was such a success that the K9 Club announced that it would like to have another Kookies and K9s event on October 20th at 6:30 in Ober Dorm. Think about joining us for some delicious cookies and good conversation with the students!



Bark in the Park - York - *Margie Smith*

Thank you to Toni Vale, Jesse Horn and Peg Snyder. Due to their efforts today, Bark in the Park at John Rudy Park in York, was a success. We handed out many pamphlets and KPETS business cards. Of all the people who passed through, there were 7-8 possible newcomers to KPETS! Two were from the Hanover area and two or three were from Felton area - where Toni is from.

This is exciting since we can use more teams to KPETS in this area. So, kudos to Tami, Jesse and Peg - you did us proud!

Also, a quick thank you to Patti Chamberlain who sent people to our booth to say "hi" and ask about KPETS! Patti was working (she is a park ranger) today at John Rudy Park leading nature hikes. We're moving ahead with new people, new interests and good fun! Thank you all!

Palmyra Went to the Dogs - *Laura Whitman*

KPETS had a picture perfect day for our second annual dog swim. There were two pools available: The kiddie pool, for those who wanted to get their toes wet for the first time; and the large pool for the seasoned swimmers.

This year folks came a little more prepared with toys for the dogs to dive into the pool after.

Two additions from last year were the snack bar being open and having life guards on duty. The pool board of directors were kind enough to pay for the life guards.

Gini Swartzell and I greeted everyone as they arrived. Karen/Podley, Nan/Copper, Jackie Laplaca/Russert came to take advantage of the beautiful day.

This was a great way to introduce folks to KPETS and the pool. With an admission of \$5, a lot of folks stayed and enjoyed the afternoon. We had 78 dogs. It was a great fundraiser for the pool and KPETS. Next year is already on the calendar. Hope to see you there!!!!!!

Casey Wood - A Precious Gift Almost Missed Her Calling

We all hear about the horrors of puppy mills, and many of us have championed the cause to help the unfortunate animals who become victims of greed. Your work is not in vain.

Frank and Pat Wood share the story of how their dog, Casey was rescued from a puppy mill and has brought them and many others – thanks to KPETS – happiness.

The Woods rescued Casey from a puppy mill when she was three and a half. It was estimated that Casey had three or four litters before being taken in by the Woods. They willingly took Casey and her broken heart and broken spirit. They wanted her to be whole again.

It turned out the perfect remedy was to have Casey registered as a KPETS dog. Casey was transformed back to the “puppyhood” she never got to enjoy. As a therapy dog, she loved to put on her bright yellow vest and serve others. KPETS gave Casey a new more rewarding purpose in life – the ability to touch hearts.

As KPETS teams, we make a difference in the lives of many people when we perform our visits. Casey and her owners made a special difference. They healed two hearts at a time – Casey’s and the lucky person whom she visited!

It is with great sadness, we tell you that Casey left Frank and Pat Wood for Rainbow Bridge last month. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her beautiful spirit.

Thank you Pat and Frank for helping a puppy mill dog and sharing her life with so many others!



Riplee’s Rescue - Denise Gillin

“Your house is on fire.” I struggle to absorb the words. “Where’s Riplee?” I ask. “He’s fine; we got him out,” is the reply. There’s nothing else I need to know.

I grab my purse and Mike and I start the drive home. The trip is fast and slow at the same time. We discuss what’s in the house and decide there is nothing we care about which can’t be replaced.

A neighbor greets me and escorts me to another neighbor’s house where Riplee waits. Tears wet my cheeks as I hug him. He wants to go home, but home will not be the same for a long time. Home will be the Bark Park for two weeks and then a different house. It will all be fine again someday.

Yet more speeding motorcycles zooming down the road in front of our houses. They are annoying and dangerous. We complain about them and try to get them stopped. A neighbor runs outside to see if he can identify them. Missed again – he turns and sees the smoke coming from the garage of our home. He runs and screams for help, knowing Riplee has to be rescued.

His wife dials 911 and runs to another neighbor’s house, thinking they will have a key to our place. Those neighbors join in the Riplee rescue effort by trying to get in the patio door.

Riplee stands watching them from inside the flaming house.

The ruckus alerts another neighbor with a key to the front door. It opens the lock. Riplee is delighted to have so much company! He willingly goes – except outside is different. It smells acrid and looks hazy. “Maybe my bed would be safer,” he thinks. “Where is my mom?” They tell him it will be OK; they stroke his head and sides. Riplee goes with them. He is fine. He is out. He is safe.

On August 31 we had a house fire. We don’t know the cause of the fire and never will. The fire investigator searched through the rubble, but because we had gasoline and other flammable things in the garage, the fire burned so hot everything was ash. Thanks to our neighbors, no lives were lost. That’s the most important thing.

I learned several things: All my awesome neighbors will have a key to our new house. Volunteer firemen train hard and risk their lives for us – thank them! Check your insurance policy. People are good –from offering clothes and shelter to mowing our grass – we have received many blessings. KPET volunteers are great! Special thanks for all the cards and donations; they were so appreciated! It’s very comforting to know others care and take time to let you know they are thinking of you and praying for you.

Thank you everyone – neighbors, fireman, friends, family, Bark Park staff, coworkers, volunteers! We are lucky. We are all safe and able to appreciate the good things life brings us. Riplee is now my twice rescued greyhound!

United Way Day of Caring - KPETS visits Conestoga View

Saturday, September 12, was the kick off of the 2009 United Way Campaign with the Day Of Caring. Volunteers from all over the county participated in offering services to non-profits in the community. KPETS offered our services to those less fortunate by visiting with our pets at Conestoga View, in Lancaster.

Teams participating are pictured from left to right, Jm Krauss/ Scout, Wayne Bechtol/ Scobby, Bill Townsend/Zoe, Carol Hopwood/Maggie, Karen Gerth/Sammy, Nancy Houston/Gilly and Sarah & Bill Traphagen/ Poz. We split up into smaller groups and visited residents on different floors so we would be sure to spread the joy (and fur) to all who wanted to meet the pups.



Maple Farms Fall Fest

On Saturday, September 19, KPETS teams mingled with the residents from Maple Farms Nursing Facility in Akron. Jim Krauss/Scout, Winnie Gerlach/Daisy, Shari Beears/Chrissy, Karen Gerth/Podley strolled around the event with their pups greeting the folks and making them smile. Pod even got to share mom's ice cream! (shhhh! don't tell Sammy or Cinda).

But on another note: a lesson was learned this afternoon - not all dogs enjoy the new sounds and hustle-bustle of an event like this. Poor Chrissy was not having fun. She was very worried about the dunk tank, a noisy ball-toss game, and other loud games. Rightfully so, Shari took her home.

Our pups sometimes take a while till we can find their niche. Once found, it's so rewarding sharing them with others.

We met all kinds of folks, from one lady getting out of bed and sitting on the floor to be with the dog to the lady that followed us around with her baby doll and 'gently' letting us know it was time for us to leave her floor. The pups took no offense to it. They just went on to wherever they heard the usual 'ahhhhh!'

After visiting, most of the teams ventured to McCaskey High for the yummy lunch that was provided. As you can guess, the pups were a hit there as well!

Thanks teams! Appreciate the giving of your Saturday morning to brighten the residents' day.

Don't forget, you can make your pledge through the United Way to KPETS by writing us in on your pledge form! **THANKS!**



Reminders

**Please be sure
TO SUBMIT YOUR
VOLUNTEER HOURS**

If you have web-access, you can submit your hours on-line 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 our listing of requests.

It is GROWING and is updated constantly. 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! Please 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	dprocious@sutliff.net
*Laura Whitman	717-368-9993	Elizabethtown area	LauraWhitman@kpets.org
Mary Gottfried	717-361-2507	Elizabethtown area	weidmama@etown.edu
*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	margiesracking@earthlink.net
Cindy Wilson	717-319-1136	Harrisburg area/Perry County	cindyw@kpets.org
Jody Rosser	717-725-4522	Lancaster	jrosser@lnpnews.com
*Wendy McKelvy	717-285-9719	Lancaster area	training@kpets.org
Leanne Spurlin	717-898-6418	Lancaster area	leannes@kpets.org
Nicole Byers	717-314-2662	Lancaster area	njlbyers@yahoo.com
Tammy Sickles	717-228-7731	Lebanon/Hershey area	dogtrainingisfun@aol.com
*Bill Townsend	610-932-4401	Oxford area	wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com
Sue Schreffler (soon)	717-838-9672	Palmyra area	bichon10@verizon.net
*Harriet Hombach	717-266-2163	York area	hubamus@verizon.net
*Fran Holt	717-292-5743	York area	jackson43@pa.net
Bev Hirt	410-803-9294	York/Adams Counties & MD	bdhirt@comcast.net
Donna Gomer	717-630-2362	York/Adams Counties & MD	littledogs@juno.com

* Indicates Level II Evaluator (Assessment Evaluator)

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	Mennonite Home, Lancaster 2nd and 4th Tues Due to limited space, contact konnections@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
4th Mon	4th Mon	7 p	Pre-assessment	In The Net Sports Complex, 798 Airport Road, Palmyra Contact konnections@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
Oct 23	Mon	7 p	Pre-assessment	Canine Companions, Bair Road, Bainbridge
Oct 3	Sat			Bark in Park, Oxford Chester County Park. Responsible Dog Ownership Day. CGC testing offered!
Oct 7	Wed			Manheim Farm Show Parade Line up at 6 pm at football field. To walk with KPETS in the parade contact Jenny at konnections@kpets.org
Oct 10	Sat			Orientation - Lancaster 9 am - Blair Room, United Way Building, Lanc. Blair Room parking is off Frances Avenue
Oct 10	Sat			Furry Friends/ Mutt Mixer 11 am - 3 pm - Need teams to staff the KPETS info booth. Rain Date- Sunday, October 11. Sponsored by Furry Friends Network; non-profit, no-kill rescue
Oct 10	Sat			Volunteer Round Table 10 am - Even months - the 2nd Saturday of the month at Rosie's Restaurant in New Oxford. RSVP Margie at margiesracking@earthlink.net
10/10, 17, 11/8	Sat Sun			Bon Ton Community Days Sell Bon Ton Community Days booklets at the mall or on your own to your friends and co-workers. This is a great fund-raiser for KPETS. Please help!
Oct 15	Thurs			Elizabethtown Library KPETS teams will be putting on a fun and informative presentation for the kids at the E-town Library. To help with the presentation, contact Jenny.
Oct 18	Sun			Daniel's Den 12 - 4 pm. Mingle with the special needs kids at this fun event in their special playground
Nov 8	Sun			Orientation - Palmyra 1 pm - Pet HQ, Main Street, Palmyra
Nov 21	Sat			Alternate Gift Fair 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster. Need teams to staff both in two hour shifts.

How much is Too Much? - Karen Sage

While your KPETS therapy dog may be reducing stress for you and others, you should always be watchful of signs of stress in your dog. It's easy for us to get so excited about sharing our best friends with people, that we don't see that our dogs aren't enjoying it as much as the humans. The last thing we want is to cause "therapy burn out" in our dogs.

Watch your dog and learn to recognize the signs of stress he typically shows. Some common signs of stress in dogs are:

- Excessive panting
- Excessive lip licking
- Tail tucked
- Ears back/down
- Yawning
- Disinterest
- Clinging to handler
- Refusing to take treats/food
- Leaving sweaty paw prints

If you are on a visit and your dog starts to exhibit signs of stress, it may be time to end the visit (even if you normally stay longer) or at least give your pal a break by going outside for a short walk. Don't let your dog know if you are disappointed or make him think he did something wrong. Simply explain to whomever you are visiting, that your dog is having a "bad day" and therefore you'll need to cut your visit short.

There are several things you can do to help avoid burn out and stress in your dog. If you are just starting out with KPETS and visiting new places with your best friend, keep your visits short and maybe schedule only a couple of visits per month. After a visit, give your dog some playtime by going to a park, going for a hike, going swimming, playing his favorite game or giving him a massage and some quiet time with you.

Teach some natural fun behaviors for your dog to perform on visits to help de-stress him. People love to see our dogs doing tricks, so teach your dog a few of these behaviors to use when you visit.

- High five or wave
- Spin left/right
- Play bow
- Nose touch your hand or a target

(Be sure to teach your dog these new "tricks" at home and practice them first in a low/no stress environment before taking them on the road.)

We appreciate all the visits being done by all our teams and we want you and your awesome pups to continue for many years. So if you feel like your dog is saying "too much", be sure to listen to him and take whatever steps needed to keep him stress free and enjoying being part of a KPETS team.

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.

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!



It's United Way Campaign time!

You can write us in on the form!

Thanks



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