



Volume 2, Issue 1

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
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Lancaster, PA 17601
717.333.kpet (5738)
info@kpets.org

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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Konnected!

Volume 2, Issue 1

Caden and Max's First Meeting

It was a cool, sunny morning in February and two strangers were about to meet for the first time. One was a cute, little, almost three-year-old boy named Caden who possessed a beautiful smile. The other one was a little white fluffy dog named Max who loved to chase tennis balls and eat goldfish crackers. They were brought together, not by fate but by love.

Caden's mother heard about KPETS through a co-worker and decided to contact us in search of a team who would be interested in coming out to their home and helping during therapy services for Caden. She explained that Caden needed help with his physical mobility and communication skills. She wanted to see if a dog team would help motivate Caden during therapy. She noticed that Caden seemed to enjoy watching his older sister and the neighbor dog play fetch together when they were playing outside. Caden giggled during these games of fetch.

The job of playing fetch seemed to fit perfectly into Max's love of tennis balls. Add a few snacks into the mix and he

was ready for anything. So off to Caden's house we went. When we entered Caden's home, his mother and sister were there to greet us and to give Caden a few moments to prepare for the entry of a new pet into his playroom. As Max entered the playroom, Caden gave us a big smile. Caden seemed very interested in the busy white fluffy dog that entered his space as he watched Max move about in front of him. Caden was initially helped by his father in reaching out for and touching Max's fur and his big feathered tail. It was only a few moments later when Caden tried to reach for Max on his own. Caden's mother reported that this was the first time Caden independently attempted to reach for an animal! Although the visit did not last long, it was completed by a few well-thrown tennis balls by Caden's sister and a wet lick to Caden's hand from a tongue attempting to eat goldfish crackers.

The visit was a success. A little boy and a white fluffy dog brought together by love. A mother's love for her son and a dog's love of tennis balls and goldfish crackers!

Carol Johnston and Max

TAILS BY JAY STUTZ

This year's big fundraiser dinner will be held **on Saturday May 17, 2008** at the beautiful Felicita Resort. This year's fundraising dinner promises to be bigger and better. Paul Scott of Smooth Jazz 92.7 will be our Master of Ceremonies and Valerie Pritchett of ABC 27 News will be our guest host introducing our very special guest, Jay Stutz of Animal Planet's Good Dog U. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You won't want to miss it this year! Jay is very entertaining and a fascinating speaker. We will have lots of wonderful items to bid on at our silent auction. So - Save the date!



Dog Lessons

I grew up with pets. My parents were animal lovers, and they knew it was important for their four kids to understand animals and how to interact with them appropriately. We were taught to be kind and gentle with the dogs and cats who lived with us, to feed them, and play with them, and to respect them. When one passed away, we learned that life doesn't last forever, and that death is a part of life.

As I grew older I learned that not all children are raised this way. This has always been a source of sadness for me, because as any animal lover knows, those who never bond with an animal are missing out on one of the richest aspects of life.

Last November, Laura Whitman contacted me with a special request. The mother of three Autistic boys, ages 6, 8, and 12 had made a special request of KPETS. Although this mom didn't feel that bringing a dog into her energetic family would be a good idea at this point, she did want her sons to have the experience of interacting with a dog appropriately. She was requesting a KPETS team to do some home visits. I jumped at the chance!

Our visits are very structured and follow a pattern: Murray waits in the car until I go in and tell the boys he's coming. They sit on the couch when he comes in, and they let him come to each of them in turn. At that point, if they want to pet him or give him a treat, they do that. Then we all sit on the floor and talk: they ask questions about dogs in general and show Murray their toys. They learn how to greet him, how to pet him, and how to approach a dog being walked by a neighbor. They're learning how to walk Murray on his leash. They bring him bowls of water. They love it if he sits on their laps, even though he weighs 65 pounds - and they like his big basset kisses!

Murray has brought a 'color me basset' for the boys to color after he leaves, and he has given them each a photo of himself. He always follows up with a personal note to each brother thanking them for what they did for him that day: giving him a treat, bringing him water, or scratching his belly. And now, when I say "Lets go see the boys!", he wags his tail and heads for the door.

Working with this wise mother and her three energetic young sons has been a great experience for me as well as Murray. We truly look forward to each visit!

Mary Gottfried

Books with KPETS

*Posted on New Oxford Area Library Website
New Oxford, PA
Friday, Dec 7*

The New Oxford Area Library, a branch of the Adams County Library System, is pleased to present "Books with KPETS." Keystone Pet-Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS) is a nonprofit organization whose clients may benefit from the healing and rehabilitative effects of the animal/human bond. Once a month, starting Thursday, November 29th, the New Oxford Area Library will offer "Books with KPETS" from 7-8 pm. During this time, children will have the opportunity to meet a registered pet and read to that pet, one-on-one.

These dogs and cats have been specifically trained to be good, patient listeners. Beamer, a solid blue Maine Coon cat, is one of these therapy animals. Beamer loves to read and write with children and has spent long hours in the school setting helping students. Rosie, a rough collie like Lassie, is also a therapy dog who loves reading with kids of all ages. Each of these special animals have worked with Margie Smith, Learning Support teacher with the Upper Adams School District in Biglerville, PA.

Please come Thursday, November 29th at 7 pm to meet Beamer, Rosie and other certified therapy animals and their owners. This program will explain the "Books with KPETS" concept. Pre-registration is requested, so call the New Oxford Area Library at 624-2182 to reserve a spot for your child. Additional programs are planned for December 13th and January 10th.

Kanine Carnival

Do you have the winter blues and have some free time? If so, and you love the outdoors and being around dogs KPETS needs your assistance to help plan and implement the KPETS Kanine Carnival. There are many ways you can get involved with this annual fundraiser. Please contact Jenny at events@kpets.org to be part of this committee.

Kalendar Update

There are still a few 2008 KPETS Kalendars available for \$10. Contact Jenny Rule @ 717 808-0143 or events@kpets.org to order yours!

A New Adventure

In December, I attended orientation in the hope of gaining KPETS registration for my AMSTAFF, George. After seeing the presentation and talking with Karen, I decided to ask if there may be any teams willing to come to where I work, Abraxas Academy, since it would be a few months before George was able to start the registration process.

Abraxas Academy is a juvenile residential treatment program in Morgantown that serves males ages 14 to 21. It seemed to me that this could be something that would greatly benefit the kids and maybe get some of the program staff interested in getting their pets involved as well.



Karen said that this was something different for KPETS and that she would look into seeing if any teams would 1) travel to Morgantown and 2) be comfortable in that type of setting. Needless to say, this excited me and I made sure to stay in contact and follow up with Karen. She was able to recruit Karen Sage and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Sally.

Thursday, January 24 was the first visit. Karen and Karen showed up with Podley and Sally. After meeting them, taking a short tour of the school and administration offices, and explaining some of the policies and procedures of the program, I could not wait any longer to get some of the students and introduce them to the teams.

I dropped off Karen/Pod and Karen/Sally at the gym and went to get the kids. They had seen the dogs walk through the school and were not really sure what was going to happen. The looks on their faces were a cross between excitement and confusion, as this was the first time an opportunity like this was made available to them. There were four students who had earned the privilege to participate in the activity.

The kids had a great time with the teams. They all had a smile on their faces for the whole two-hour visit with the dogs. This was amazing because I see them everyday and I could not remember a time in the past couple of weeks that I had seen a smile from two of the kids in particular. One of the guys had even mentioned that he had not seen a dog in years. Can you imagine that! We all had a blast playing fetch with Pod and having Sally perform her favorite tricks. Even though they would never admit it, I believe the kids had the most fun with the long brushing sessions.

Overall, I believe this was a great experience for all involved. The genuine appreciation the kids had for the teams coming in was extraordinary. They all made sure to thank myself, Karen/Pod, and Karen/Sally for arranging the visit and sharing our time. After the students were gone we sat around and talked for a while. We all thought that some good had been done with the boys and Karen and Karen agreed to do another visit in two weeks. We talked about the endless therapy possibilities that there seem to be with these kids.

Again I find myself unable to wait for the next visit. Students and staff alike have the same feeling. The first four boys have spread the word about the great time they had and are getting everyone interested in participating. One has even said that he would be willing to give up his spot so that other kids would be able to have the experience.

Hopefully, this is a relationship between KPETS and Abraxas Academy that can continue to grow. I invite any teams that are interested to contact me and learn more about the program, the kids, and the endless possibilities.

*David Moyer
Education Supervisor
Abraxas Academy*

KPETS Recap

Special Fun with Kids

On January 12, four KPETS teams ventured to Mountville Brethren In Christ Church to assist in a program that they host for special needs kids. Every second Saturday, from 10 am to 3 pm, parents of special needs children can drop off their children so they can have some time to themselves to get things accomplished that may be a bit difficult with a child along. KPETS has been invited to participate in these times from 1pm to 1:45pm each month.

On January 12, Kate Cox/Bo, Marilyn Hapke/Gretchen, Trish Hess/Abby, and Karen Gerth/Podley joined the volunteers and kids after their lunch for about 45 minutes of meet-and-greet with the children. The needs were varied and most were very receptive to the pet visits. From the Newfoundland to the poodle, all found new friends to hug and play with.

After our first visit, Kim Zimmerman - who connected us with them - stated via email: "We are just thrilled to have KPETS join us in the Real Joy Respite children's ministry. Many of the children have been inquiring if the dogs will be there next month."

Looks like this will be a regular visit each month. We're planning on doing a sort of teaching or program for the children. Kate Cox and Trish Hess have agreed to take the lead and run the time that the teams are there. We'll play games, maybe have kids give commands for the dogs to do tricks or some obedience, or even do Bible stories in form of skits. We're even planning a doggie birthday party!

If you are interested in joining us, please let Jenny know.

Karen Gerth

Lioness Club Presentation

On Monday, February 4, Karen and Podley were invited to speak at the Millersville Lioness Club meeting. As a Lioness Club member, KPETS volun-

teer, Marilyn Hapke was there too! She provided 'moral' support for Pod as Karen set-up the laptop and projector equipment. Karen knew the KPETS DVD would be far more interesting than her talking, so she started the presentation with the 11-minute DVD. She then expanded on things from there for about 15 minutes and then opened up the floor for questions. Podley schmoozed the crowd before, during, and after the talk. The Lioness Club made a very nice donation to KPETS. We may even have some new recruits!!

If you know of a community organization that may be interested in hearing about KPETS, please give them our website www.kpets.org, email address info@kpets.org or phone 717.333.kpet (5738).

Karen Gerth

Landisville Animal Hospital invites KPETS to Open House

Everyone loves a party! On Saturday, February 2nd Landisville Animal Hospital had an Open House/Birthday Party that was celebrating their 20th year in business. They had stations set-up in the animal hospital that would include a tour of the entire facility, demonstrations of some of their equipment used to diagnose illnesses, review and demonstrate surgery procedures, information on pet foods, plenty of give-a-ways and of course some birthday cake.

Landisville Animal Hospital invited KPETS to set-up our booth in their lobby to promote our services and recruit volunteers. They also put together a bunch of gifts, sold raffle tickets and donated the \$237 raised to KPETS!

Thank you Landisville Animal Hospital for inviting KPETS to the party! Congratulations on your 20th year of caring for animals and good luck with your next 20 years!

They ARE Taking Us Seriously!

Nicole Graybill, the Dr Paws coordinator from Lancaster General Hospital, notified us that they actually received a physician's order for pet therapy visits for one of their patients.

You can tell Nicole is as excited as we are by great news like this: "I have never had a physician write orders for pet visits, and this is truly amazing to me! I think they just know that we visit certain units, and leave it at that. The patient was so thrilled by my visit, and just the fact that her doctor cared enough to listen to her, truly hear what she needed, and then ask for the pet visit, that she said she's ok even if the visit doesn't happen - it was good to know people went the extra mile. It's just nice to get that extra validation, that people do appreciate what we do."

Thanks, Nicole for sharing the exciting news with us!

Susquehanna Nursing/Rehab

On Saturday, January 26, 2008, KPETS visited Susquehanna Nursing and Rehab in Columbia, PA.

Jenny Rule sent out an urgent email asking for teams to visit because a few people couldn't come at the last minute. It turned out we had enough dogs to visit with the residents and had a good time.

Bobbie Sayer had Syreeta (Cockapoo) do tricks like waving, rolling over and dancing. Nan Han-shaw-Roberts had Smidgeon (Boxer) do some commands but Smidgeon's attention was at the lady running the sweeper in the hall. Nancy Houston had Gilly (Golden Retriever) touch the easy button that talks saying "That was Easy" which made the residents chuckle. Becki Lieberknecht took William (Beagle) around to the resi-

dents for petting. Karen Gerth tried to get Podley (Golden Retriever) to bow by saying "TA DA" but Pod wasn't interested in bowing that day. Carol Croft (a new member) brought Foo (Pekinese). Foo sits up on his hind legs and begs. He got a lot of (ooohs and awws) for acting so cute. Gini Swartzell tried to get Tucker (Pomeranian) to dance for a treat. But Tucker was like Pod, he made a fool out of his owner. It still made the residents laugh and that is what KPETS is all about.

Thanks to all who attended and gave up their afternoon to help KPETS be successful.

Gini Swartzell

KPETS Pleas for Help Are Working!

We post so many needs for our services and it's really nice to see these needs being fulfilled and appreciated!

Sharon from Heartland Hospice in Carlisle informed us she got two inquiries and two teams in Hospice training! It is so cool to initiate something like this from as far away as Lancaster and see the need be fulfilled in Carlisle!

Thank you teams! And thank you ALL, for filling so many of our requests! The share our pups wagging tails is so rewarding for all - pet, handler, staff, and patient!! Please know all your time and efforts are so appreciated.

Farm Show Recognition

On February 1, 2008, Jessi Smith, Special Deputy Secretary for the Department of Agriculture sent the following to all teams who participated in the "Discover What Dogs Can Do" booth at the Farm Show this year:

"On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Dog Law Enforcement, I would like to thank you for sharing Sammy with us and with the many attendees of the 2008 Pennsylvania State Farm Show. "Discover What Dogs Can Do" Learning Station was very popular and enjoyed by young and old alike. We have received many favorable comments about the participating dogs' talents and behavior. We really appreciated your time and work to make this event a success.

We look forward to your participation in future years."

Centenary UM Church

Cindy Wilson and her canine best friend, Casey, will teach about God's unconditional love by demonstrating how dog and master work together to build a trusting relationship.

Kids and adults alike will enjoy this presentation. Why not stop out and see her presentation!

Contact Cindy at 717-589-3734 for more details.



Volunteer Recognition

Mark your calendars for April 13th, it's a date made especially for you! KPETS would like to recognize our volunteers, during National Volunteer Recognition Month, which is in April!

On April 13 starting at 12:30pm we will be hosting a potluck luncheon at Outdoor World Circle M Campground at 2111 Millersville Road. KPETS will be providing the main dish, ham and lasagna and we ask that everyone bring a yummy dish to share with others. It'll be a wonderful feast to enjoy with others who love sharing their pets with others as much as you do!

Unfortunately, for this event you'll have to leave your furry friends at home. It'll be a perfect opportunity to mingle with other therapy volunteers, to put names to faces with our volunteers and to update all of you on KPETS past successes and our plans for the future.

Keeping our teams connected with the community and with each other is what sets KPETS apart from the larger national organizations.

If you're planning on attending this event, please contact Jenny at events@kpets.org or 717-808-0143.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Adella Houck

Microchip / Lifetime Dog License Clinic

Saturday, February 23rd KPETS is having a Microchip Clinic at That Fish Place/That Pet Place on Centerville Road in Lancaster from 12-2. Also available will be the Lancaster County Treasurer and staff to issue life-time dog licenses!

We will need a couple of teams to help staff the booth to help with questions and paperwork. If you could be there from 11:45 - 2:15 that would be ideal.

If you've been thinking about getting your pet micro-chipped, now is the PERFECT time to do it. Not only will you be helping to save your pet in case he/she gets lost, but a portion of the proceeds is being donated to KPETS.

Contact Jenny at 808-0143 or events@kpets.org if you have any questions or if you can help staff the booth.

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!

- February 12 & 26, March 11 & 25 - Practice Obedience**, 7:00 p.m., Mennonite Home - Meadow View Activities Room. Open for practice but Pre-assessments done by appointment only. Contact Wendy at training@kpets.org
- February 23 - Microchip/Life Time Dog License Clinic**. 12 - 2 pm That Fish Place
- February 23 - Centenary UM Church**, 6 pm, Canine Fun with Biblical Impact, Cindy Wilson
- February 27 - Etown K9 Club Play Day**. 6:30 pm. Fun time for student with therapy dogs.
- March 3 - ®Pet Therapy Awareness Days**. Hershey Medical Center (Hershey Med Teams only - Contact Cindy Wilson, beaglemomma5@embarqmail.com or 717-237-6777.)
- March 8/9 - Pawsabilities**, Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg. Need folks to staff our first booth there!
- March 9 - Orientation** at Pet HQ in Palmyra.
- March 12 or 13 - Church of Apostles presentation for Pre-school kids** - need teams
- March 15 - Volunteer Round Table**. Moveable Feast, Mountville, PA 9 a.m. Come and be social! RSVP: to Carl Speros at misskatiesdad@webtv.net or 717-397-7882.
- April 5—CGC Testing. 9 am - 3 pm**. Bill Townsend is putting this event together for Nottingham, Chester County Park near Oxford. This could pull folks from PA, DE and MD!
- April 12 - Orientation**. Brethren Village 9 a.m. - noon
- April 13 - Volunteer Recognition Gathering** 12:30 pm we will be hosting a potluck luncheon at Outdoor World Circle M Campground at 2111 Millersville Road. KPETS will be providing the main dish, ham and lasagna and we ask that everyone bring a yummy dish to share with others. It'll be a wonderful feast to enjoy with others who love sharing their pets with others as much as you do!
- April 26 - Ruffin' it - A Day in the Park** - need teams
- April 26 - Puppapalooza** - Etown College - Mary Gottfried staffing booth.
- April 26/27 - Head Over Tails Agility Club USDAA Agility Trial** at Governor Stable Park in Bainbridge - need teams
- April 26—Muddy Creek Lutheran Church** - Birthday Party for 80+ members. 12:30 Need about 5 teams to do little info and then fun! only about 1/2 hour 3/4 hour.
- May 17 - Tails with Jay Stutz Annual Fundraising Dinner**. Felicita Resort - Don't miss this event!!

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.

KPETS Welcomes Our Newest Evaluator

Denise Procius from Duncannon has joined the ranks as one of KPETS evaluators. Denise and her five-year-old lab Phred (pronounced Fred) have been members for about two years. She had been mentoring under another evaluator for quite awhile and is now stepping out from the shadows and going solo. Denise got involved because "she wanted something to do with her dog and help people". Since Phred has a kind and gentle nature she thought he should be a good fit for doing therapy work. They typically visit at Church of God in Carlisle. Phred LOVES to visit and gets so excited when he gets out of the car. He does his business right away so he can hurry up and get in to get tons of attention lavished on him. He can even tell when someone needs attention themselves with no coaching on Denise's part.

Denise can be reached at dprocius@sutliff.net or 717-834-5694.
Thanks Denise for taking on this new role with KPETS!



Denise with best bud, Phred

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, there may be someone else who can do that too, making it even better! 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.

Abraxas Academy (Morgantown) - Contact David Moyer for more information, 717-859-1302 (H), or 717-201-8133 (C) Check out their website www.cornellcompanies.com.

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 - Contact Pat Henry at 800-551-4466 or HAP12@aol.com Requires flexible 4 hour hospice training

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.

ECC Retirement Village - Myerstown. Skilled care and assisted living facility anxiously looking for teams. Very flexible. Contact Christine Haag directly to work out a way that works best for you. c.haag@eccrv.com or 717-866-6541 ext. 2217.

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.

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.

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. The pet owner would need to complete hospice volunteer training to adequately prepare them for the issues our patients are dealing with. Training is done at the convenience of the volunteer. For more information, call Sharon Funk, Volunteer Coordinator at 717-240-0018 or e-mail her at: 4675officestaff19@hcr-manorcare.com.

Lafayette Elementary School (also in Lancaster City) is looking for KPETS teams for their READ program after school on Wednesdays for one hour any time between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Lancaster Library—Therapy Reading Program, This program is set up for Tuesday, March 4th 6:30-7:30, Saturday, March 8th, 2:30-3:30, Tuesday, March 11, 6:30-7:30 & Saturday, March 15th, 2:30-3:30. It will be held in the Bates Auditorium at the Duke Street Lancaster Public Library. Please contact Cara Scudner for details, phone 717-290-7449, email carakoala@aol.com

Lancaster Regional Medical Center - Lancaster. Flexible times available.

Lancaster Rec. Senior Center, Lancaster 525 Fairview Ave (mornings once a month) Filled? Lorrie/Emery?

Landis Homes, Lititz—Contact Marva @ 381-3555

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

Mountville Area - Disabled children's group at church in Mountville, 2nd Sat of month. This group is set up to give Moms and Dads of special needs kids some free time.

Myerstown ECC is desperate to have some therapy dogs visit them. They two facilities. Contact Christine Haig directly to set something up. 717-866-6541 x 2217

York Area - private in-home visit for elderly lady - (possibly filled by Rocket)

KPETS Key Konnectors

Volunteer Roundtable Planner:

Carl Speros 717-397-7882 or misskatiesdad@webtv.net- 6:30 p.m. - Volunteer Round Tables are held every third Saturday of odd numbered months at Moveable Feast in Mountville.

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

New Recruit Contact:

Guiding and helping potential volunteers get lined up with orientation by responding to questions via emails and phone calls. Bev Smith 717-350-6175 or info@kpets.org or Chris Bordner 717-567-3852 or CBinPA@gmail.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

Volunteer Hours Tracking & Membership Files:

Please be sure to report your volunteer hours and travel time (as a separate amount) each month to Linda Euclide at 717-355-5232 or volhours@kpets.org. (Looking for someone to take over hours tracking only).

Events Coordinators:

Coordinating and staffing KPETS events - 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. Laura Whitman, by appointment - Pet HQ in Palmyra. 717-378-9993 or lauraw@kpets.org. Bill Townsend by appointment, 610- 932-4401 or wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com.

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. We'll get them in for all to enjoy. It's one way that we can keep our teams connected!

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.

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
Cindy Wilson	717-589-3734	or	beagleomma5@embarqmail.com
Denise Prociou	717-834-5694	or	dprociou@sutliff.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.

*Unfortunately Bobbie's computer crashed so she lost the previous listing of buddies so . . . ***Current phone buddies (callers or those receiving calls), please contact Bobbie with who you are calling or who is calling you, so she can rebuild her list.****

KPETS Listing of Facilities currently visiting

If you notice any additions, deletions or corrections, please bring it to our attention and we will update the listing. Thank you!

Facility	City	Facility Team Leader	Facility	City	Facility Team Leader
*Acadia	Lancaster	*Carol Hopwood	Landis Homes Adult Day Care	Lititz	Mackeys
Asera Care Hospice	Lancaster		*Lititz Library - Paws to Read	Lititz	*Anita Wolfe
Audubon Villa	Lititz	Frank & Ginni Fossa	Lititz Senior Center	Lititz	Marilyn Mackey & Jolene Newcomer
*Barnes Hall	Lancaster	Mark Stoner	Luther Acres	Lititz	
Bosler Library		Roslyn Rhodes	Manor Care	Elizabethtown	Mary Merrell or Fran Holt
Berkshire Commons	Wyomissing	Ann Palmer	Manor Care	Elizabethtown	Mary Gottfried
Brethren Village	Neffsville	Darlene Creighton & Leanne Spurlin	Manor Care	Lancaster	Jenifer Cammauf, Marilyn Hapke
Bridges at Bent Creek		Roslyn Rhodes	Masonic Village	Elizabethtown	Joyce Grix
Cedar Crest High School & IU 13	Cedar Crest	Nancy Campbell	Masonic Village	Elizabethtown	Bobbie Sayer
Cambridge Colonial Hall	Lancaster	BJ Shollenberger	Menonite Home	Lancaster	Joe & Crystal Hess
Church Of God Home		Roslyn Rhodes	Messiah Village	Mechanicsburg	Roslyn Rhodes
Claremont Nursing Home		Roslyn Rhodes	Moravian Manor	Lititz	Frank & Ginni Fossa
Cocalico Place - Ephrata		Bobbie Sayer	Mount Hope Dunkard Brethren Home		
Cocalico Senior Center,	Reinholds	Marilyn Mackey	Oak Leaf Manor	Millersville	Shari Sellers
Colonial Lodge	Denver	Bobbie Sayer	Octorar Elementry	Octorara	Luann Rittenhouse
Conestoga View	Lancaster	Pat Wood	Perry Village		Roslyn Rhodes
Country Meadows	Lancaster	Luann Rittenhouse	*Phil Haven	Mt Gretna	Andy/Linda Euclide
Country Meadows	Mechanicsburg	Roslyn Rhodes	*Phil Haven Group Home	Mt Gretna	*Bev Smith
Ephrata Library	Ephrata	Jolene Newcomer	Pinnacle Health Hospice		
Ephrata Manor	Ephrata	Kim Michener or Marilyn Mackey	Reidenbaugh Elementary	Lititz	June Wise
Evergreen Estates Village	Lancaster	Anita Wolfe	Rheems Nursing & Rehab Ctr	Rheems	Wendy McKelvy
Fairmont Homes	Ephrata	Rick & Jenifer Cammauf	*Schreiber Pediatric	Lancaster	*Karen Gerth
Frederickson Library	Mechanicsburg	Roslyn Rhodes	*Schreiber Pediatric	Lancaster	*Jenny Rule
Friendship Community	Neffsville	Marlene Varner	Select Specialty Hospital	York	Mary Merrell
Golden Living / Aegis Therapies	Camphill	Nancy Campbell	Stonebridge Health & Rehab Cntr	Duncannon	Roslyn Rhodes
Garden Spot Village	New Holland	Jolene Newcomer & Marilyn Mackey	Susquehanna Rehab & Nursing	Columbia	Becki Lieberknecht
Hamilton Arms	Lancaster		Tel Hai	Honey Brook	Brenda Glauner
Hershey Medical Center		BJ Shollenberger & Carl Speros	The Glen, Willow Valley	Willow Street	Jody Rosser
Hearthstone	Hershey	Nancy Campbell	Twin Oaks	Campbelltown	Nan Hanshaw-Roberts
Homestead Village	Mount Joy	Connie McCarthy	United Zion	Lititz	Frank & Ginni Fossa
Heartland Hospice	Lancaster		*Upper Bay Counseling	Eikton, MD	*Linda Bunch
Lancaster Generations -	York & Lanc County	Fran Holt	Village Vista	Lancaster	Nancy Thomas
Lancaster Rec Senior Center	Lancaster		Ware Presbyterian Village	Oxford	Bill Townsend
LRMC Adult Day Care	Lancaster	Lorrie / Emeber	Willow Lakes, Willow Valley	Willow Street	Jenny Rule
Lebanon VA Hospital	Lancaster	BJ Shollenberger	Wicksham Elementary School	Lancaster	
Lebanon Valley Home	Lebanon	Marilyn & Bruce Mackey	READING Program		
	Annville	Nancy Campbell	Westminster Ridge	Westminster, MD	Mary Merrill
			York County Nursing Home	York	Mary Merrell or Fran Holt

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Fact Sheet: January 2008

These facts about MRSA are from Delta Society's website from a download MRSA Fact Sheet. Since many of our volunteers do not have access to the internet, I've inserted this data. MRSA has been in the news a lot lately, and this may help answer some questions for you. It can be found in its entirety at www.deltasociety.org/mrsa.htm.

There is also website with more pet related MRSA information at: <http://www.thebellamossfoundation.com>.

What is Staphylococcus aureus? "Staph" bacteria are a common cause of skin infections. The infections can at first glance, look and feel like spider bites. Antibiotics are prescribed to heal the infection. When certain antibiotics (such as oxacillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin) don't kill the staph bacterial, it means the bacteria have become resistant to those antibiotics. Resistant staph bacteria are called MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). Staph infections, including MRSA, most often occur among people with weakened immune systems, in hospital and healthcare facilities.

What is MRSA? MRSA is a strain of Staphylococcus that is resistant to methicillin antibiotic. MRSA is contagious and can be spread to other people by skin-to-skin contact. It is traditionally seen in people who have been recently hospitalized or who have recently had surgery.

What is CA-MRSA? Community associated MRSA infections (CA-MRSA) is acquired by people who have not been hospitalized or have had a medical procedure within the past year. Staph or MRSA infections in the community are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples and boils, and occur in otherwise healthy people.

Who gets staph or Healthcare -Associated MRSA infections? Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities weakened immune systems (such as nursing homes and dialysis centers). These healthcare-associated staph infections include surgical wound infections, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia.

Who gets CA-MRSA? Anyone can get CA-MRSA. However, outbreaks have mostly been seen among athletes, injection drug users, military recruits, children, prisoners. Factors that contribute to the spread of MRSA include: close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts or abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions, and poor hygiene.

How is MRSA transmitted? Both CA-MRSA and Healthcare-Associated MRSA are spread in the same way. The infection is mainly spread through person -to- person contact. It can also be spread by contact with contaminated items or equipment.

What does a staph or MRSA infection look like? Staph bacteria, including MRSA, can look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus/other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections.

What should I do if I think I have a staph or MRSA infection? MRSA begins as a skin infection. When left untreated, MRSA infections can have very serious complications. Please see your healthcare provider if you think you may have a MRSA infection.

Are staph and MRSA infections treatable? Yes. Most staph and MRSA infections are treatable with antibiotics. Many staph skin infections may also be treated by draining the abscess or boil and may not require antibiotics. Drainage of skin boils or abscesses should only be done by a healthcare pro-

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vider. If other people you know or live with get the same infection tell them to go to their healthcare provider. If new symptoms develop during or after a person has been treated, they should contact their healthcare provider.

How can the spread of MRSA be controlled? Careful hand-washing is the single most effective way to control the spread of MRSA. It is possible to have a staph or MRSA skin infection recur after it is cured. To prevent this from happening, the person must follow the healthcare provider's directions while they have the infection. Be sure to cover the wound. Keeping the infection covered will help prevent the spread to others. Family members and others in close contact should wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Personal items such as towels, clothing, and razors may be contaminated and should be avoided.

How can I prevent staph or MRSA skin infections? As a Delta Society Pet Partner it is always important to be very conscientious about infection control procedures. Good hygiene protocol is imperative for both humans and animals.

Here are a few tips to remember:

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.

What are the risks of MRSA to my animal? The risk that a pet can come into contact with MRSA is real. The risk of infection depends on hygiene, especially hygiene practices of the person who is already MRSA positive. The number one factor in terms of the spread of MRSA is hand washing. Hand washing greatly limits the spread of MRSA. The current recommendation continues to be for all visiting animals to avoid all contact with patients who either have MRSA or who are immune compromised.

How can my animal become infected with MRSA? By coming into contact with an open wound, by cuddling or giving "kisses", or by having other close contact with a MRSA infected person.

How do I recognize if my animal has contracted MRSA? Rarely will the animal become "sick". However, the animal can spread MRSA from person to person, if they have contracted the infection from a MRSA positive patient.

If my animal were to contract MRSA, is this treatable? Most, if not all, pets will clear MRSA spontaneously if re-infection is prevented. Routine colonization is not recommended in humans or animals that have been exposed but clinically infected.

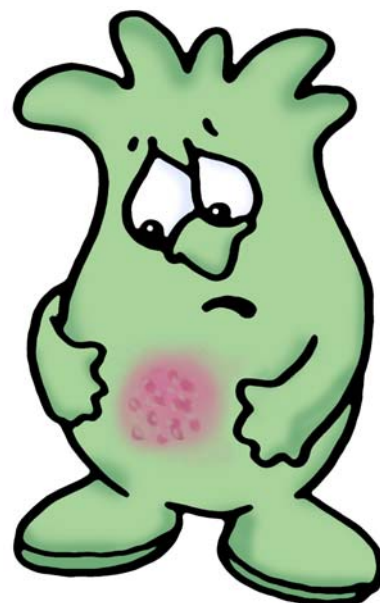
What can I do to protect my animal? Prevent initial exposure to MRSA, as well as re-exposure to the infection. Chlorhexidine baths can be utilized to help protect animals after a visit. However, they do not address the primary sites on an animal where MRSA colonizes (nose and mouth).

For more information on MRSA:

- Go to CDC's website: www.cdc.gov
- You may also visit this link: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html
- Call your local health department, or visit their website

References:

- www.cdc.gov
- Dr. Gregg Takashima, DVM, Delta Society Board Chair President
- ASPCA – Delta Society Affiliate, New York City





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Please submit all your KPETS volunteer hours and details to Linda at volhours@kpets.org or call 717-355-5232. Forms available online or contact Linda.

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'Therapy Pet on Board' Magnet



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