

SPRING 2005



# SOARING

*A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities*

## *Sammy* FROM **KPETS**

*Animal Assisted Therapy  
and Activities*

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# “SAMMY” GERTH KPETS THERAPY DOG

Hi! My name is “Sammy” and I am three years old. I have beautiful blonde hair and big brown eyes! I’m a golden retriever and I LOVE to come visit my friends here at Mennonite Home.

KPETS connects these dedicated teams with facilities that have requested AAT/AAA services. Location, schedules and clients are matched to benefit all participants.

With all those ways to serve my community, my friends and I hold several special positions with KPETS. Some of the things we do with our handlers are:

- Visit in Health Care and Assisted Living facilities
- Provide fun-time events such as the Special Olympics Picnic, the Mennonite Home Doggie Birthday Party, or the Bow Wow Luau, hosted at Brethren Village
- Educational presentations for local groups and Boy Scouts
- Reading assistance dog programs for children at schools and libraries
- Therapy services for Hospice and local hospitals
- United Way Day of Caring

KPETS is now certifying our own therapy dog teams. One therapy team

is working exclusively with head trauma patients. But listen to this! Some patients now remember Maggie, the dog’s name, but don’t remember their therapists’ names that they see every day. Maggie is helping their cognitive skills and she doesn’t even know what that means!

KPETS is also working with K-9 Disaster Relief Services out of New Jersey to become registered canine disaster relief teams. To date, KPETS handlers have been trained in Canine Disaster Relief and Critical Incident Stress Management to use their canines as a catalyst to help individuals in the wake of a disaster.

I know all of my friends really enjoy the work we do for the community. So, if you know anyone who would like more information about joining us or would like us to come visit, please let us know. You can find us at [www.kpets.org](http://www.kpets.org) or by calling 717.333.kpet (5738).

- “Sammy” Gerth



I am a registered therapy dog with KPETS. Yup! I have a job! Well, I work more for the hugs, smiles, pets, kisses and the occasional treats. So what is KPETS? Oh, please, let me explain!

KPETS stands for Keystone Pet-Enhanced Therapy Services. KPETS was established to promote Animal Assisted Therapy/Animal Assisted Activities (AAT/AAA). We recruit, educate, unite and coordinate 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 provides a network of many registered/insured and dependable AAT/AAA teams that are committed to providing therapeutic benefits through the use of animals.



K-Pets Volunteers: Lindsey Harnish and Diesel, Bobbie Sayer and Syreeta, Katie Sweigart and Mac, Karen Gerth and Sammy, Betty Jean Shollenberger and Ophelia, Laura Whitman and Daisy