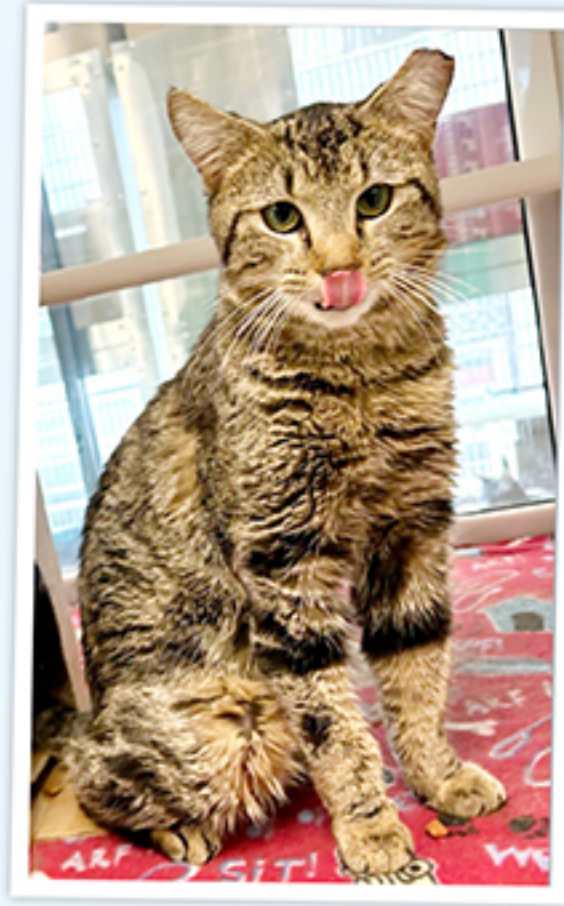




OUR FEATURED CUTIE: SPORK!

Spork arrived at KC Pet Project in March 2023 after an animal services officer found him limping heavily on one paw through the streets of Kansas City. Spork was terrified when he came to KC Pet Project and had three wounds on his right arm. It only took a few days for Spork to grow comfortable with our caring staff, and once the pain from his injuries was being managed, Spork began soliciting attention from our feline team members!

For many weeks, Spork's health fluctuated. We soon discovered he was FELV+, which results in a higher risk for immune system problems as well as greater susceptibility to bacteria, viruses, and fungi. It also meant he would need an adopter who had other FELV+ cats, or no other cats in the household. We found that adopter on July 13, almost 4 months after he arrived at the shelter. We are happy to report that Spork, now named Jupiter, found a home with 2 other FELV+ kitties and is living his best life with endless snuggles and treats. Spork was given a chance at KC Pet Project that he may never have received otherwise. He got to know what love was from the care and giving hearts of our staff—and now in his "forever" home.



BY THE NUMBERS

Our shelter was full to bursting with dogs this summer, but our donors came through in a big way. 818 dogs came into the shelter in July alone, and at one point we only had two open kennels to start the day when we were expecting up to 30 new dogs to come through our doors. We reached out to our dedicated community of donors and fosters, and they absolutely saved the day! Just when we didn't know how we'd ever make space for incoming pets, our community sprang into action. We are so grateful to everyone who has adopted, fostered a pet, or even shared about our shelter on social media. So many people stepped up, and in one week we went from having 283 dogs in the shelter to just 255—freeing up kennels to save even more lives, all because you cared!

BOTTLE BABY SQUAD

Our neonatal kitten savers are #SquadGoals! This summer our 230 dedicated volunteers saved the lives of a record **247 kittens** under 4 weeks of age as they fed and monitored them at the shelter and in foster homes. This is such a crucial need we experience every summer, and we are SO grateful for the hard work and dedication of our Bottle Baby Squad.

Interested in joining the squad or donating supplies?
We're always looking for more volunteers to pitch in! Visit kcpetproject.org/bottlebabysquad to find out more about this special group of volunteers.



A HAPPY ENDING FOR JONES BLUE

When Jones Blue returned to KCPP in August 2022, his previous owners were heartbroken that they could no longer meet his high energy and attention needs. "He is a good boy, loving, and loves to cuddle," they said to our staff, adding with a chuckle that Jones Blue is super affectionate and "doesn't believe in personal space."

Shelter life was difficult for Jones Blue, and after a few short days of being back at our facility, staff and volunteers could see the stress starting to take a toll on him. He enjoyed his daily walks to stretch his legs, get fresh air, and have a chance to act like a normal dog. But when it was time to return to his kennel, he would stop and pancake to the ground, refusing to go inside. Our staff knew that he needed a foster family to give him a place outside of the shelter to de-stress while he waited for an adopter.

A foster family welcomed Jones Blue into their home and quickly noticed how handsome and loveable he was. Jones Blue loved to snuggle on the sofa, take short walks, and even go for rides in the mini car! His foster family took adorable photos, wrote bios, and shared about him on

social media to help find him a permanent home. But as luck would have it, Jones Blue was already home. After spending more than a year with his wonderful foster family, he had made a permanent home in their hearts. They decided he was part of the family and adopted him!

Last year, KC Pet Project sent more than 2,400 dogs to foster families who provide shelter, love, and attention. For a shelter animal, a foster home helps to reduce stress and improve physical and mental well-being. Fosters not only save the lives of animals in their care, but provide space on our adoption floor for other animals to find their own loving homes. We are so grateful to our foster families, whose support enables us to save even more pets like Jones Blue!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, AND TIKTOK!

CEO COLUMN

Celebrating the Season with Gratitude

Dear Friends,

In our fall issue of the newsletter, we're all about gratitude! I love reflecting on the impact of our staff, the dedication of our fosters, and the success of our community outreach programs—but most of all, I love thinking about all the ways our wonderful donors support the good work we do here at KC Pet Project. It really takes a community to make this work possible.

This summer we took in 1,010 underage kittens! With so many underage animals coming through our doors, we rely heavily on our fosters. In June, 467 kittens were in foster homes and 79 cats were adopted directly from foster homes, accounting for 17% of our cat adoptions. We are so grateful for our wonderful fosters all year long, but especially during kitten season!

Our cats aren't the only animals on the move—from January through June we sent out 882 dogs on our Dog Day Out program! This allows you to take a dog out of the shelter for a car ride to go get a pup-cone, for a naps at your home, or just for hanging out around Kansas City. Not only is this FUN, it gives our pets a much-needed break from the stress of shelter life and helps us learn about their behavior and preferences so we can find them homes faster.

And what gratitude list would be complete without our Keep 'Em Together, KC program, which celebrated its three-year anniversary in May. Since the program launched, 5,673 local pet families (9,272 pets) have been supported through assistance with things like food donations and subsidized reclaim fees at our shelter. Altogether, more than \$304,000 in financial assistance has been provided to pet owners to help them keep their pets when times are tough!

We are beyond thrilled to see so much success because of the generosity of our donors. Our community's support is how we save lives every day! Would you like to make a difference and be a bigger part of the life-saving success at KCPP? There are so many ways to get involved, from adopting or fostering an animal in our care, to making a monetary donation or a gift of pet supplies, to volunteering your time. Thank you for everything you do!



Teresa Johnson

Teresa Johnson
President/CEO and
Chief Lifesaving Officer
KC Pet Project

THRIVING IN ALL STAGES OF LIFE: MEET TILLY AND NASH!

At KCPP, we see animals at all stages of their life journey—from mama cats with tiny kittens, to senior animals who have seen their share of struggles. We help them all because of your support! I'd like to tell you about some special animals we treated recently...Tilly, her three kittens, and Nash.



TILLY and her precious feline family were brought to us on June 4 after being found inside a wire trap that was attached to two dogs. They were covered from head to toe in dried mud and blood, suffering from missing limbs, severe infection, and other serious injuries. Our doctors went right to work on the delicate business of saving Tilly and her three tiny kittens, who we named Ty, Leanne, and Norman.

Despite the ordeal and trauma they must have endured, they purred the entire time our medical team worked on them. After one week of round-the-clock care in our clinic hospital, the kittens were cleared to continue their recovery in a foster home. Mama cat "Tailless Tilly" spent her recovery time in our feline hospital and absolutely won the heart of anyone who walked in with her purrs and head butts. During her stay, she transformed from a fragile survivor to a vibrant and contented girl. Tilly and her kittens are now fully recovered and have all found loving homes, thanks to your support!

NASH was abandoned in a Kansas City park with his Paddy the Platypus stuffed animal and a few hamburger buns. We quickly saw that his platypus friend was his emotional support animal. We began posting about Nash and his platypus friend on Facebook and Instagram, and the response blew us away! Thousands of likes, comments, and shares showed Nash just how much his community wanted to see him find the perfect pet parent. The day after posting about Nash, we had a line of people interested in saving this senior pup. He found his adopter, and they love this boy and his platypus so much!



KENTON & SWEETIE

Kenton saved Sweetie when she was a young pup. He told us he intervened when someone was threatening to throw her into the street for being "a runt." Since then, they have been inseparable.

Kenton brought Sweetie to KC Pet Project after she had been shot while he was walking her. He had nowhere else to turn to for help. Our veterinary clinic knew that we could help Sweetie through our Keep 'Em Together, KC program. While she was being treated, Kenton called to check on Sweetie daily and came to visit her while she was recovering in our hospital.

Sweetie lived up to her name while she was here and loved the attention she received from our staff for nearly three weeks in our hospital ward. When she saw Kenton again, the bond between the pair was evident and she couldn't contain her wiggles. It's thanks to your donations toward our Keep 'Em Together, KC program that we are able to provide this support and keep families like Kenton and Sweetie together.



Thank you for making sure every animal at KCPP receives the care and love they need. Your support ensures these animals can thrive in all stages of life!

Give online at
donate.kcpetproject.org/october23