

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for December 2024 Activities

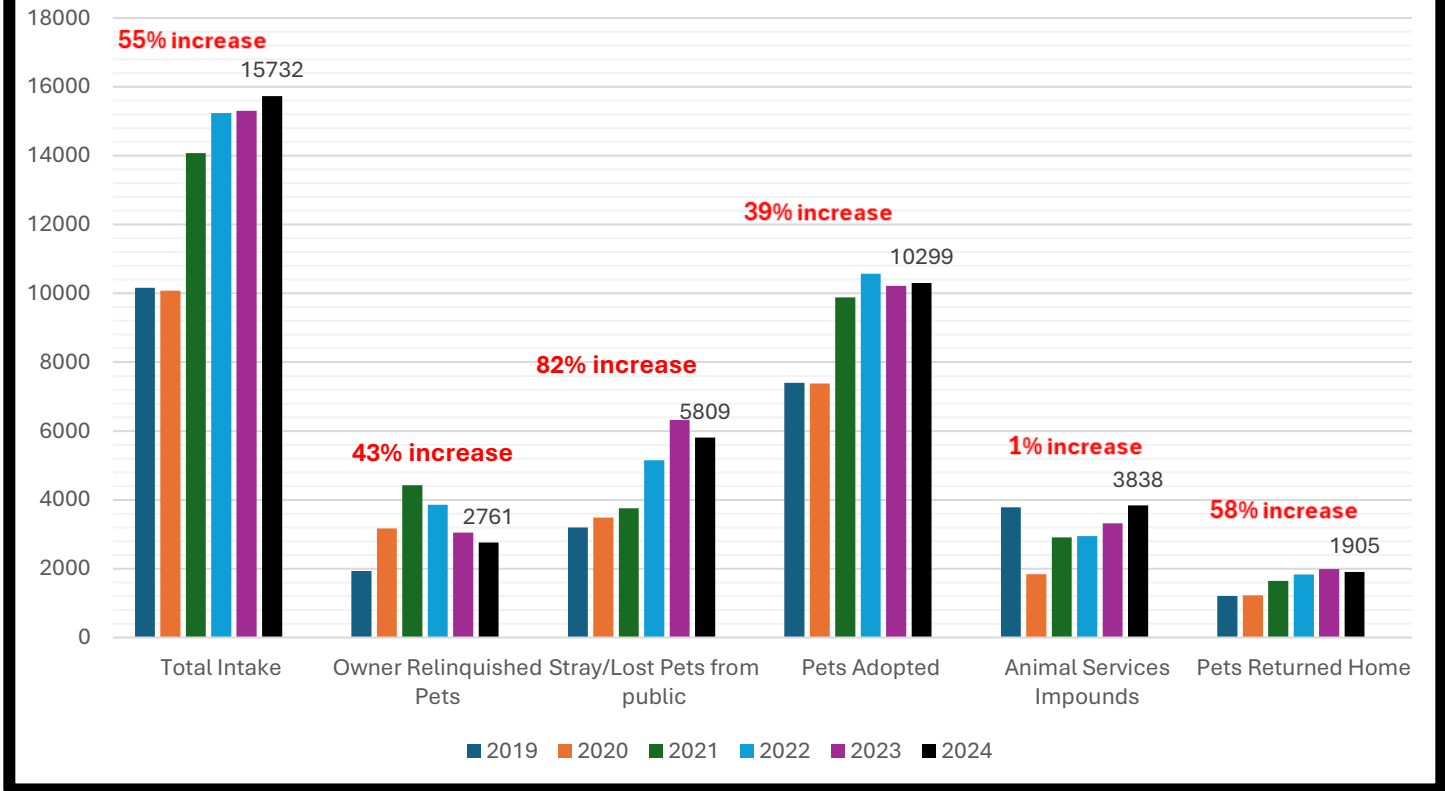
Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals for Jan – Dec	2024	2023	Difference
Total Intake	15,732	15,308	424 more
Adoptions	10,299	10,218	81 more
Returned to Owners	1,905	1,992	87 fewer
Live Release Rate	93.7%	93.4%	0.3% higher
Owner Surrendered Pets	2,761	3,048	287 fewer
Stray animals brought in by public	5,809	6,319	510 fewer
Cats/kittens transferred IN	1,356	1,236	120 more
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	9,678	8,966	712 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	19.9 days	20.6 days	0.7 days fewer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	16.2 days	19.4	3.2 days fewer

December 2024 – Animals In & Animal Out

- We received or provided care for **1,154** new dogs and cats that arrived in December (708 dogs, 446 cats), along with 8 chickens/roosters, 3 guinea pigs, and 1 horse.
- **904** pets were adopted in December (426 dogs, 468 cats, and 10 other pets). Dog and cat adoptions were up by 1.4% from December 2023. Year-end adoption numbers were up **3.1%** over last year.
- Despite the continued increase in the number of animals arriving, we achieved a **96.4%** Save Rate in December (95.3% dogs, 97.7% cats). Our Save Rate for 2024 was **93.7%**, a 0.3% increase from the previous year.
- Our veterinary team performed **690** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in December. Doctors performed **927** examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter and treated 3 puppies and young dogs in our shelter’s parvovirus ward – bringing our total treated for parvovirus to **157** puppies/dogs in 2024.
- We provided spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for **65** community cats last month – totaling **816** low-cost surgeries for feral/community cats performed in 2024.
- We provided free spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for **21** owned dogs in December that were reclaimed and reunited with their families – totaling **324** reclaimed dogs that went home spayed/neutered at no additional charge from KCPP in 2024.
- **362** dogs/puppies and **44** cats/kittens were sent to foster homes in December – bringing our total to **4,417** dogs/puppies and **2,037** cats/kittens sent through our foster departments in 2024! An astonishing **22.9%** increase for dogs sent to foster in 2024! Our Canine Foster Program sent **2,342** dogs on a “Dog Day Out” with the public/volunteers in 2024 – a **23.4%** increase in the number of dogs over last year!
- The number of pets impounded by our Animal Services team was **28.6%** higher than in December of last year. For 2024, we saw an increase of **15.5%** for animals impounded by our Animal Services team.

KCMO Shelter Data Trends for Dogs & Cats January through December 2019 - 2024



- **Intake** for animals is still running **55% higher** than what we saw in 2019.
- **Adoptions** are also still at the highest levels in our 12-year history – still **up 39%** from 6 years ago for this timeframe.
- **Stray/lost pets** brought in by the public are still at the highest level ever recorded in Kansas City – **up 82%** from 2019 totals.
- **Pets surrendered by their Owners** are **43% higher** than 2019 totals for this period.

Animal Services Update for December 2024

Officers worked **1,691** total case activities last month, travelling a total of **15,675** miles throughout the city, impounding **364** animals, and returning an additional **27** lost pets back to their homes without having to impound them.

- ❖ In December, the Cruelty Investigation Team closed **208** animal cruelty case activities for our community, including **49** reports of animal abandonment, **142** reports of general neglect, and **17** reports of cruelty.
- ❖ Our Dispatch team efficiently handled nearly **3,369** calls, including 9 calls to the Cruelty Tips Hotline.
- ❖ The number of dogs impounded by Animal Services was up more than **29%** in December.
- ❖ Twenty-seven (27) loose/lost pets were reunited with their families in the field by Officers, rather than having to be impounded.

Enforcement & Criminal Deterrent Efforts by our Animal Services Division

In December, officers issued **sixty-two (62) citations** for violations of the Kansas City Municipal Code. *A total of 868 criminal citations through Municipal Court have been issued so far in 2024.*

The top five criminal court citations issued by Animal Services in December:

1. Public Nuisance,
2. Spaying and Neutering,
3. Adequate Animal Care,
4. Dangerous Dog Comply,
5. Dog at Large

Stories from the Field

On December 24th, Animal Services Officers responded to a residence on the 2800 block of Raytown Road to investigate allegations of animal neglect. Upon arrival, our officers contacted the animal owner and conducted a thorough investigation, which revealed that several dogs on the property appeared to be living in negligent and inhumane conditions. The dogs were immediately seized and transported to the KC Pet Project Shelter for inspection as allowed by the city code. The inspections revealed several signs of inadequate care, including fractured teeth, skin infections, heartworms, and more. Our Cruelty Investigations Manager deemed the owner as an "unfit owner" pursuant to Sec. 14-5 of the city code, and the owner was denied the opportunity to reclaim the animals. The owner has been issued multiple citations and is required to appear in court.

Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

- ❖ **413** pets found loving homes during the "Home for the Holidays" adoption event (12/13-12/24), During this event, all dogs weighing 30 pounds or more and all adult cats were \$30 to adopt.
- ❖ [Bird Flu prevention tips and important insight.](#)
- ❖ [Protect Your Tailgate at Boulevard Brewing Company & Player Play Date at Bar K](#)
- ❖ During the month of December, we had 60 news mentions (91,915,162 million reach) and 300 broadcast mentions (3,983,008 reach) for a total reach of **95,178,170 million** people.
- ❖ Excluding the contract and leadership exit coverage, the biggest news story was from [KCTV5 - With Black Friday over, KC Pet Project's efforts to house dozens of pets continue.](#)



Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users: 71,615 (New users: 63,388)	145,188 followers on Instagram
Sessions: 145,000	202,712 followers on Facebook
Page Views: 653,000	1,227,118 TikTok Followers

Volunteer Program Updates

In December **781** volunteers gave **4320.59** hours of service, the equivalent of *24.92 full-time employees*.

- ❖ 323 volunteers served at KCCAC
- ❖ 193 volunteers served at KCCAC with Groups
- ❖ 70 volunteers served at Zona Rosa Adoption Center
- ❖ 96 volunteers served at our Petco Cat Habitat locations

The remainder were those who input foster hours, court ordered community service and remote volunteer work

Total value of volunteer hours in December: **\$123,309.63**

Businesses and groups that volunteered in December brought 193 volunteers to the campus and gave **500.75** hours of service – a value of **\$14,291.40** : *Prairie View High School Animal Science, Dynasty Volleyball 11U/12U, The McDonald Family, City Wide Facility Solutions, Odessa High School, Liberty Academy, Keystone United Methodist Church, Easton Roofing, Girl Scout Troop 2391, DaVita and Kiewit.*

On December 5th a group of **50 students** from Odessa High School joined us to help all around the campus. Hosting this group was a coordinated effort between the Volunteer Department, Facilities/Custodial, the Canine Team, Retail and so much more. The group split into two groups for tours and separately met Una and Lizzy, who could not resist all the attention!



Easton Roofing joined us on December 6th to help with kennel cleaning, dishes, laundry, cleaning and moving carriers, helping clean floors and more. They met Safari at the end of their day. Safari took part in these large service groups back in June. He was returned in December and went right back to engaging with these groups with his sweet smile. Easton donated a \$230 check to KCPP as a thank you.



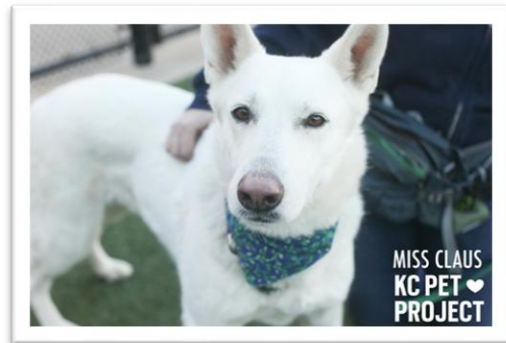
Total active volunteers: 1787

- ✓ We received a total of 256 new volunteer applications in December and 5 new volunteer orientations were conducted for 102 attendees.
- ✓ In December 193 volunteers participated in 275.64 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 157 volunteers (*new volunteers and volunteer mentors*).
- ✓ 18 Community Service volunteers gave 140.67 hours in December, which is a value of \$4,014.62

Volunteer Photo and Video Team Updates

Photo Team

- ❖ The volunteer photo team photographed 217 dogs in December, an average of 47 dogs per week.
- ❖ In 2024 overall the photo team photographed 2,445 dogs, averaging 47 dogs a week as well for the year.
- ❖ *Example of one of the great photos taken by the Photo Team. Miss Claus is now adopted!*



Video Team

- ❖ As of January 3rd, **207** of the 316 active dogs have videos on their profiles (Foster and puppies included in the total 316). *This means 66% of all dogs active with KCPP have videos on their profiles!*
- ❖ Since the start of the video team in August 2024 the video team has made **643** videos to be used on dogs' profiles.

Other updates from the volunteer department:

In the volunteer department we get calls about donations from schools, scout troops, and others that have or would like to spend time collecting or making items for KCPP. We coordinate with these groups to greet them when they arrive, accept their donations and thank them on behalf of the organization.

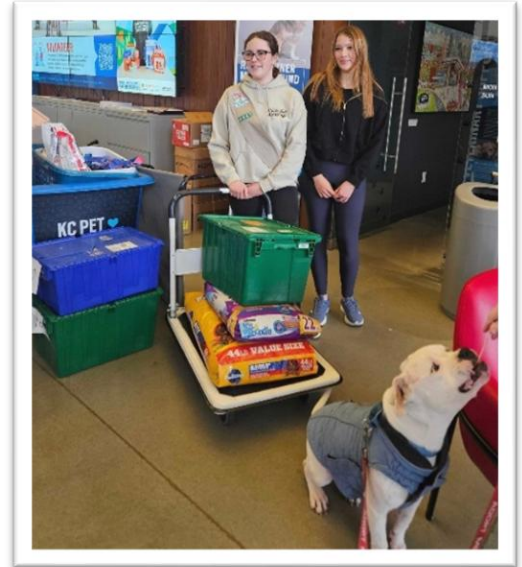
For example, on December 28th we had two separate scout troop visits and donations.



At 12pm only two Scouts in one troop arrived to drop off their donations. Just the two of them put together a drive for KCCP including online communications, flyers and all. They donated three bins of food, toys, towels, bags of food and a large dog bed.

At 1pm we had a Daisies group arrive with dog biscuit donations. Two 8th grade Scouts talked to the Daisy troop about their service and experience with

community service, we then took a tour to see the puppies, cats and the roosters outside. We are so thankful to have these kinds of donations and appreciate all the time scout groups like these take to help us. We also really appreciate the opportunity to share more about KCPP when they visit so they can help educate peers, families and other community members about our mission



Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in December 2024

Surgeries	
Community Cats Neutered	32
Community Cats spayed	33
Reclaimed pets neutered	19
Reclaimed pets spayed	6
Shelter Animals Neutered	281
Shelter Animals Spayed	295
Specialty Surgeries	24
Total Surgeries	690

Medicine	
Wellness exams	70
Emergency exams	15
Foster pet exams	26
Rechecks performed	183
Medical concerns addressed	405
Post-adoption exams	3
Other Exams	225
Total Exams	927

Parvo Ward	
Parvo pups treated	3
Parvo pups graduated	1
Save rate for parvo	33%
Clinic Administration	
Communications with fosters	94
Communications with adopters	95
Medications filled	430

Lifesaving Stories from the KCPP Veterinary Clinic

Palmer



Throughout the month of December, we placed feeding tubes in 10 cats that weren't eating, often because of severe congestion. We don't know of any other shelters that routinely do this. Placing a feeding tube directly into the esophagus allows us to give nutrients and medication without causing fear, anxiety, or stress to the kitty. It helps kitties stay hydrated, and it allows for faster recovery from whatever ails them. Palmer was one of those kitties. Palmer's adopted family called us a couple of days after they adopted her to let us know she hadn't eaten since she'd been adopted. While some fearful adult cats won't eat for a few days after moving to a new home because they're just so scared, that's unusual for growing kittens, and it's very concerning. We asked Palmer's family to allow us to examine her and we found that she had lost half a pound--that's a lot for a

kitten! She was dehydrated, had a really severe kitty cold, and wouldn't eat. Her family left her with us so we could hospitalize her and try to get her better. Palmer got a feeding tube and improved quickly. Only a week later, she was back to normal. We removed her feeding tube and sent her home to her grateful family.

Elain

Little Elaine came to us to serve bite quarantine, a feral kitten that bit her rescuer when he removed her from a car engine. We worked with Elaine to get her used to being handled and she came around quickly and became a staff favorite. Unfortunately, she had been with a congenital defect of her eyes that resulted in painful eyes and minimal vision, so we removed both of her eyes. Elaine did great despite it all. When Elaine was finally ready for adoption, we noticed the rescuer she had bitten had left us a message asking how she was doing. He was so grateful to hear that she had gotten the help she needed and had learned to trust humans. We love it when we exceed expectations! Elaine found a great family almost immediately after moving to the adoption floor.



Pet Support Center – Pet Support Desk, Pet Helpline, and Return to Home (Lost and Found)

Customer Engagement Performance

“They were extremely kind and gave me space to look at the cats and did not pressure me at all! I am so happy with my kitty, formerly Buddy Guy, now named Onyxia! Thank you so much!! I am in love with my sweet, goofy kitty!!”

Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.2/5.00** (1,632 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (726 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (232 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **677** emails were received in December inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **1,022** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available to adopt or the adoption process.

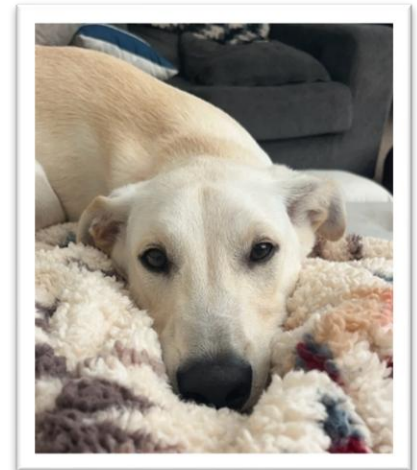
Adoption Updates:

In December we received 42 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns. Here is what some of our adopters had to say this month:

“Biscuit is the best, silly little orange kitty cat there ever was!”



“Roo is doing well! He loves his sisters so much and is becoming a big snuggle bug!”



Pet Support Center - Customer Satisfaction Survey & Services Provided

- ✓ **2024 Rating: 4.71/5.00**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.468/5.00; 12 surveys submitted in December, 1,406 submitted since launch in September 2020.

“Everyone was very helpful. My needs were addressed, questions were answered, and I left with more resources than I even came in for. Thank you all!!”

“All workers are professional and here to help. Very blessed to have y’all. God bless you all.”

“Very sweet and kind helped find our dog Sky. Thank you very much.”

Pet Support Call Center/Pet Helpline Performance

December 2024	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,069	527	3596	15%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	52	34	86	40%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	648	144	792	18%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	3,769	705	4,474	16%
OUT < Helpline – Main	999	235	1,234	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	290	69	359	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,289	304	1,593	N/A
Total Performance for December 2024	5,058	1,009	6,067	17%

Our Pet Support Center team answered 3,769 live phone calls, completed 1,593 outbound calls, resolved 114 voicemails, and completed a total of 6,676 interactions with pet families in December, a 25% decrease from last month's total of 8,910.

2024 – Annual Totals	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
Helpline INBOUND Performance	47,463	10,800	58,263	19%
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	16,028	3,500	19,528	NA
Total Performance for 2024	63,491	14,300	77,791	18%

- ❖ In December, the Pet Support Center staff assisted approximately **1,200** KCMO residents with in-person services -- bringing the total for 2024 to **16,675 residents/families** who came in for pet relinquishment services, stray animal impounds, microchipping, lost and found/return to home, pet licensing, bringing in sick or injured pets, pets being reclaimed, and for pet resources such as basic pet care supplies as well as supportive programs through Keep 'Em Together, KC.
- ❖ We took in **344** stray/lost animals from members of the public (a **7%** decrease from December 2023; 367 animals).
- ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **245** animals whose owners originally contacted KC Pet Project to surrender their pet(s); **63** animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, and **8** additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter. ***A total of 337 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into or staying at the shelter, a 13% decrease from last month's total of 390, and a 37% decrease from December 2023 (531 pets).***
- ❖ Pet Support Center staff diverted 91 animals through walk-in and over-the-counter in-person services for community members who visited the admissions department at the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care in December. **That puts our total diverted intake for community members seeking over-the-counter and walk-in service to a grand total of 1,185 for this year.**

Our Pet Support Center team received 369 requests in December from residents to surrender pets to the shelter, a 7% increase from last month (345). We have received 4,712 requests for owner surrender in 2024, a 5% increase from 2023 (4,478).

The top 4 reasons pets surrendered in 2024 were:

1. Lack of financial resources or inability to access resources for their pets, including costs for veterinary care and unplanned litters (936 pets).
2. Health of the owner or health of pet (611 pets).
3. Personal reasons include changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (472 pets).
4. Housing Issues including cost, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (427 pets).

Year-End Stats:

- ✓ **47,463** answered inbound calls and completed **19,528** outbound calls, resulting in an 18% abandonment rate for all 77,791 Helpline calls (A **9% decrease** from 2024's total of 85,807 calls to our Helpline.)
- ✓ The Pet Support Center completed **2,251** owner surrenders for 2024, a difference of 290 and a **9% decrease** from 2023's total of 3,103.
- ✓ Our Pet Support Center team scheduled a total of **2,251** appointments for owner surrender in 2024, a **1.7% decrease** from 2023's total of 2,290.

News from the Pet Support Center

- ❖ In December, Pet Support Center staff worked together with shelter volunteers to update all of our Informational Handout Resources. We contacted multiple organizations in the area to confirm their hours, addresses, and the types of resources they can provide for KCMO residents!
- ❖ Our Pet Support Center team had a very busy year. *Among our greatest accomplishments in 2024 include a total of **3,165** shelter intakes diverted through pet support services, and a total of **715** microchips being implanted at time of reclaim, **an 8% decrease from 777 in 2023!***
- ❖ *The Return to Home and PSC teams completed 1920 owner reclaims in 2024 (a 4% decrease compared to the 1999 completed in 2023)!*

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return to Home team completed **323** ownership investigations for found animals.
- ❖ **139 (21%)** of the **661** found animals impounded at the shelter in December were returned to their owners. **25.4%** of found dogs were reunited with their families, while 5.8% of found cats were reclaimed by their owners. An additional **11** animals considered "at risk" were returned to their homes after an initial quarantine or scheduled surrender.
- ❖ In December, **8** animals (8 dogs) were enrolled in the Friendly Finder Program, which allows finders to foster dogs they find as strays through KC Pet Project. This program encourages the finders to be more involved in the reunification process and helps prevent overcrowding in the shelter. Of the nine dogs fostered through the program:
 - 1 was reunited with their owner
 - 1 was adopted by the Friendly Finder
 - 3 continued to be fostered by the Friendly Finder after stray hold was completed

- ❖ ***In 2024, 23.6% of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while 7.7% of cats were reclaimed by their owners!***



Return-to-Home: Doc is Found!

On November 4th a sweet shepherd boy was brought to the shelter by a member of the public after he was found running loose in the Northland (Kansas City MO). After sitting at the shelter for 53 days his owner finally located him when a friend happened to see him on our FB page. The owner said that he never imagined his canine friend would be so far away from home on the south side of town. It was a heartwarming moment when they were reunited!

Rehoming Support Services

In December, our team received 102 requests for private rehoming. Eligible pet owners posted 43 owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website for rehoming support services. *Our team has received 3,548 requests for ReHome since December 2021.*

Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Case Manager, reported **353** families benefitted from our five (5) KETKC subsidiary programs in December (a 44% increase from last month’s total of 245).

1. Home Away from Home (HAFH) – Temporary Care Boarding Program

Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Case Manager, reported the following success for the month of December:

- 1 family with 1 pet applied for temporary care assistance in December.
- 1 family (1 pets) were reunited in December.

Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided **5,206** days of enrollment and **8,158** days of temporary care for a total of **93** families with **143** pets.

Home Away from Home enrolled 2 families with 2 pets, resulting in 27 days of enrollment in 2024. We ended the year with a 93% reunification rate.

With Home Away from Home being closed this year, we still saw 2 emergency placements within the program. We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated fosters and staff willing to go above and beyond to open their homes and hearts to pet families in such emergent situations. With the state of the world, we are in need of programs like this more now than ever before. Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Case Manager, is hopeful that the next year will bring more opportunities for KCPP to provide crisis boarding to community members in need.

2. Pet Care Assistance Program (PCAP)

Pet owner financial assistance totaling \$3,635.42 for 19 families (27 pets) was awarded in December:

- ✓ 18 Pet Care Assistance applications were received.
- ✓ Healthy Pets, KC medical assistance granted: \$274.58

- ✓ Home Away from Home reunification fees: \$195.00
- ✓ Shelter reunification assistance granted: \$3,165.84

In 2024, our Pet Care Assistance Program granted a total of \$38,035.98 in financial assistance for 194 families with 234 pets, a 1.2% decrease from 2023.

3. Pet Resource Assistance Program

Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Case Manager, reported pet foods were shared with three (3) community pantry partners in the metro, including, Chestnut Avenue Resource Center and two local community cat caregivers. **826 families with 409 pets** benefited directly from these resources provided in December:

- ✓ 889.5 lbs. of cat food and 113 lbs. of cat treats
- ✓ 3325.5 lbs. of dog food and 284 lbs. dog treats
- ✓ 621 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 31 collars and 18 leashes
- ✓ 56 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 14 kennels/crates and 0 dog houses
- ✓ 55 dog toys, and 382 miscellaneous pet care items

In 2024, our team provided a grand total of 70,896.50 pounds of pet food and distributed more than 4,059 pet care items to 12 community partners and 2,555 households with 5,319 pets.

Our Keep ‘Em Together, KC initiative continues to grow with the increased need for pet support services in the Kansas City, Missouri, community. Our team had a busy year of providing direct assistance. Some of their greatest accomplishments for 2024 include:

In 2024, KCPP saw the relaunch of our Pets for Life program. PFL coordinator Mariana Vasquez has made an incredible impact for those pet families in the 64127 area of Kansas City. Through the relationships with the pet families in that area Mariana has been able to build, the neighborhoods has been able to access regular supply delivery and provided much needed veterinary services.

In 2024 the Keep ‘Em Together Resource Request Program continued to provide the community with as many resources as possible. Even though there were several times in which supplies were severely limited or even completely depleted, the Keep ‘Em Together program tried to meet the needs of our community members they best we could. Whether it was through referrals or even a wait list, resources were passed out. Through several avenues, we distributed 70,896.5 pounds of dog food, cat food, and treats to the community, a 32% decrease from what was given out in 2023. With the average cost of pet food in 2024 being roughly \$2.52 per pound, that is an estimated value of \$178,659.18 in resources provided to the Kansas City Community. The program is primarily supported through the generous donations of Chewy, and the many good Samaritans who provide supplies to the shelter each day. 2024 was also the year in which our pantry partnerships began to grow. We provided supplies to 3 new pantry partners this year, including the Salvation Army and KCPD Social Workers in Shoal Creek.

Though Home Away from Home was closed in 2024, the need for this and other programs like it did not change. We are still seeing community members reaching out almost daily to find help through difficult life events. Our team is able to provide referrals to different organizations that have similar programs or even provide financial support for those in need of crisis boarding. Even if we are not able to provide the support those community members are looking for, we do our best to provide as many options to help keep their families together.

4. Pets for Life (PFL) Program:

Mariana Vasquez, Pets for Life Coordinator, reported the following program updates for the month of December:

- ✓ New clients met through active PFL outreach: 1
- ✓ New clients who contacted PFL or were referred to PFL by others: 4
- ✓ Number of new pets met: 52
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter appointments scheduled: 4
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter surgeries completed: 4
- ✓ Total number of touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 83
- ✓ Supplies given (leashes, food, shelters, etc.): 271 items
- ✓ Medications or services given (dewormer, nail trim, microchip, vaccines, etc.): 84
- ✓ Completion rate of spay/neuter: 100%
- ✓ Conversion rate of altered pets whose pet families request spay/neuter services: 100%

Pets For Life: “Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog the world will change forever.”



Meet Baby Kitty and her siblings - Lilly the Sweetie, and Big Bear. Together, they help mom to keep stray cats safe/warm and fed. Now that they're a part of the Pets for Life family, they won't need to worry about running out of food. Looking back, 2024 has been an amazing year helping families with their pets, learning from them, and building relationships with pet owners to where they feel comfortable asking for help, no matter the situation.

5. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

✓ **67.6%** of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in December were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.

✓ Since June 2021 we have subsidized a total of **\$364,950** in reclaim fees for **3,494** families with **4,104** pets.

\$9,100 was subsidized by KC Pet Project in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 74 families with 94 pets in December, a 3% decrease from December 2023's total of 97 pets.

Keeping 'Em Together: Rebekkah and Dazzle

Our Pet Support team recently was presented with a truly heartbreaking situation. When Rebekkah came in for an emergency surrender of her two cats, our staff learned that she was here dealing with the health of her child and a trusted friend was supposed to be caring for the pets. Unfortunately, the pets were not being taken care of and by the time the owner realized that they were not in great shape. Luckily, the owner was able to find a rescue to take in her dogs and she brought the cats to KCPP. Pet Support shared this family's story with our clinic and cat teams. Sadly, one of the cats did not make it. This set our teams into motion. Dazzle, the surviving cat, was placed into Home Away from Home.



After a few weeks, Rebekkah was able to secure pet friendly housing and was ready to bring her pets to their new home. She also said that her child could not wait to have "his Dazzle home for Christmas". Through the medical issues this family faced, this kiddo held tight to the idea of having Dazzle home and celebrating Christmas together as a family. Though Home Away from Home is technically closed, our staff rallied behind this family to help fulfill a child's Christmas wish.

Canine Behavior and Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 41
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultation conducted: 155
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters: 17
- ❖ 182 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ 26 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ Assisted 8 people with behavior help or lessons given for recently adopted or foster dogs
- ❖ Average daily number of dogs served via playgroups: 180 dogs a day on average in playgroups
- ❖ New dog playgroup introductions: 9 new dogs a day on average introduced to playgroups

The Behavior and Enrichment Team's Playgroup Coordinator, Matthew Holt, set a record with **216** dogs participating in playgroups in a single day. A huge step forward in improving their socialization and overall well-being. Despite staff turnover this year, the team has bounced back, rehiring all but one position, and increased pay has made the department more competitive with local organizations. This year, we also became a host shelter for Dogs Playing For Life mentorships, further cementing our role as leaders in Animal Welfare. The team has handled the difficult transition to capacity-for-care euthanasia with care and professionalism, ensuring our focus remains on providing the best possible outcomes for the animals in our care.

Year-end Stats:

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 608
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultation conducted: 1,560
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters: 176
- ❖ 1,104 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ 155 behavior support phone consultations performed

- ❖ Assisted 34 people with behavior help or lessons given for recently adopted or foster dogs
- ❖ Average daily number of dogs served via playgroups: 175 dogs a day on average in playgroups
- ❖ New dog playgroup introductions: 11 new dogs a day on average introduced to playgroups

Canine Operations & Adoptions

We had **955 separate individuals/families** at our KC Campus for Animal Care in December who were interested in meeting dogs available for adoption.

- ✓ **44.8%** of all visitors who met with a Canine Matchmaker adopted a dog that day.
- ✓ The average wait time for a Canine Matchmaker in December was 7 minutes.
- ✓ The average time it took for an interested party to meet and decide on a dog to adopt was **31** minutes.
- ✓ The average wait time for an Adoption Counselor before finalizing the adoption was **26** minutes.
- ✓ The average total time spent at KCCAC to meet and take a dog home was **72** minutes.
- ✓ The Canine staff cared for an average of **250** dogs daily at our Main Campus location.
- ✓ **281** dogs and puppies were adopted in December.

Staff Training	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Able to introduce dogs to adopters:	19	22	23	23	23	26	26	21	20	17	21	23
Able to facilitate dog-to-dog introductions:	24	24	28	30	31	31	29	20	20	15	23	23
Level 1 Week 1:	28	28	32	32	31	31	31	23	24	26	25	26
Level 1 Week 2:	27	28	32	32	31	31	31	23	22	23	24	26
Level 1 Week 3:	27	28	32	32	31	31	31	23	22	22	23	26
Blue Level	27	27	28	32	31	29	31	22	20	17	23	24
Level 2 Week 1:	25	26	27	29	29	29	27	20	18	16	21	22
Level 2 Week 2:	25	25	27	29	29	29	26	20	18	13	19	22
Level 2 Week 3:	25	25	27	29	29	29	26	20	18	13	16	22
Level 2 Week 4:	24	24	25	26	28	29	24	20	18	13	16	22



In the month of December, the Canine Care & Adoptions departments trained in dog walking, dog to dog introductions, and showing dogs to potential adopters. At the end of the month there were five vacancies on the Canine Care team, and one vacancy on Canine Adoptions.

Kat Moran was promoted from Canine Adoptions Counselor to Canine Adoptions Supervisor in December!

Canine Adoptions stayed busy with "Fee Waived Wednesday" taking place throughout the month, as well as a successful "Home for the Holidays" adoption special resulting in **95** adoptions in the week leading up to Christmas. Foster-to-adopt was more popular this month, with **35** dogs participating in the program. By the end of December, the Adoptions team had sold **233** flea/tick & heartworm preventative products for a total revenue of **\$3,160.50!**

Year End Stats:

We had **11,024** separate individuals/families at our KC Campus for Animal Care in 2024 who were interested in meeting dogs available for adoption.

- ✓ **3218** dogs/puppies adopted from our main campus location in 2024. That's a **6%** increase over 2023!
- ✓ **42.7%** of all visitors who met with a Canine Matchmaker adopted a dog that day.
- ✓ The average wait time for a Canine Matchmaker in 2024 was 9 minutes.
- ✓ The average time it took for an interested party to meet and decide on a dog to adopt was **31** minutes.
- ✓ The average wait time for an Adoption Counselor before finalizing the adoption was **29** minutes.
- ✓ The average total time spent at KCCAC to meet and take a dog home was **70** minutes.
- ✓ The Canine staff cared for an average of **260** dogs daily at our Main Campus location.
- ✓ Adoptions sold **\$45,966.50** in Elanco products in 2024!



Customer Satisfaction Surveys

KCCAC Survey total overall rating: 4.88/5.0 stars

(6 surveys submitted in December, 58 responses year to date)



"We are first time adopters and unsure of the process. Excellent job helping us find the right match and going through the process. Incredibly positive experience 🍷"

"I adopted Wyatt October 5th love him to death so smart I would recommend kc pet project to anyone!"

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported that **163** dogs were in foster homes at the end of December.

- ✓ During the month, **262** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes!
- ✓ We welcomed **55** new dog foster families.
- ✓ We had **61** dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.

Volunteers took 169 dogs on a Dog's Day Out in December!

For the month of December, we want to highlight three amazing dogs who were in foster care during the month of December.

Celie came to us back in September, very scared and shut down, avoiding any human interaction. But she quickly started to open up in playgroups with other dogs. After a failed adoption in November, Celie came back to the

shelter, and we knew she needed out. In December, she went into foster care, and within just three weeks, she blossomed! We are so happy to share that Celie found her forever home and is now thriving.

Troy came in with a severely injured back leg in October. Unfortunately, the injury was too much to save, and he had to have his leg amputated. Despite the setback, Troy's calm, gentle nature won over everyone. He had a bit of a tough time getting along with other dogs making placement harder, but a wonderful foster stepped up, and within a month, Troy found a new home where he is getting all the cuddles he could possibly want! We could not be happier for him.



Titan's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. He came in with neurological issues after a toxic intake and could not even stand or hold his head up. Thanks to the incredible care from our clinic team, Titan made huge progress and was able to go into foster. Now, he is walking with the help of a wheelchair and even taking steps on his own! We are so proud of how far he's come and can't wait to see how much more he'll achieve in his foster home!

Year-End Stats:

- ✓ On average, there were **143** dogs in foster care
- ✓ **831** dogs were adopted from foster. That's a **29.7%** increase over 2023.
- ✓ **4,417** (including DDO's) dogs sent to foster. That's a **23.4%** increase over 2023.
- ✓ **945** new dog fosters in 2024, a **64.5%** increase over last year.
- ✓ New things in 2024: Implemented Mom & Puppy Guide for fosters, transitioned canine foster onboarding from in person to online training and recreated a foster Trello board for dogs looking for foster!

Canine Transfer & Placement | Transport | Small Animals & Farm Animals

In December, 27 dogs were transferred out to these shelters/rescue organizations: Boxer Paws Rescue, Great Plains SPCA, Just Giants Rescue, Kanas City Kansas Animal Services, Melissa's Second Chances, Mid America Boston Terrier Rescue, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawsitive Tails, Randi's Rockin' Dachshund Rescue, Warriors' Best Friend Foundation, Wayside Waifs

Small Animal & Farm Animals Program:

We processed 10 small animal adoptions last month – 3 Chickens, 6 Guinea Pigs and 1 snake.

Transports

Our offsite transportation program continues to stay busy and maintain our role in creating lifesaving space at our main campus location by utilizing staff and volunteers to transport animals offsite.

Forty (**40**) puppies/small dogs and forty-one (**41**) large dogs were moved to off-site locations this month to our Zona Rosa Adoption Center. Three (**3**) small animals were moved to our Petco Adoption Center. These transports were performed by staff and by our dedicated volunteers!

Year in Stats: The Rescue & Transport Program Coordinator position has been vacant since April of 2024. Even with the position being unfilled, we accomplished sending **411 animals** to **40** different rescue partners. We also saw a **9%** increase in our small animal and livestock adoptions for 2024.

- ✓ 53 dogs transferred in

- ✓ 5 new rescue partners established in 2024
- ✓ 181 small animal/livestock adoptions

Petco Habitats | Whiskers Cat Café | Feline Lifesaving Transfer Program

Gage Mofield, the Petco Program Manager, oversaw the transfer of **148** cats/kittens from Austin Pets Alive!, City of Grain Valley, Gladstone Animal Control, Greenbrier Humane Society, Humane Society of Scott County and Nexus Pets.

- ✓ The average length of stay for adult cats in a Petco Habitat in December was 4.0 days, and the length of stay for kittens was just **1.2 days** at the Habitats! A decrease of 1.8 days.
- ✓ We processed **177** cat/kitten adoptions from our Petco Cat Habitat stores, as well as 11 adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café.
- ✓ The Blue Springs Petco store had the highest number of adoptions in December with 24 adoptions, followed by the Vivion Road Petco store with 23 adoptions and then Liberty Petco with 22.



- ✓ Petco Cat Habitat volunteers gave **486.02** hours of service to the program, a value of \$13,842.33 to KCPP.

This is a decrease from this previous month, but an increase from December of last year! This lines up as we had a few day stretches where we did not have cats at every habitat, specifically the last week after Christmas where staff members were on PTO, which means less habitat shifts to sign up for in general, and this tends to happen as kitten season winds down and rely on our feline lifesaving transfer program to fill our Petco stores! This past month we put on our “Kittens for Christmas” event at the Petco stores, where we were able to get kittens to all 10 of our cat habitats before the holiday season! We were able to get featured on social media for this event as well!

Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported sending **39** kittens and 5 adult cats to foster homes in December. While also onboarding 8 new foster homes! At the end of the month, we had **54** cats/kittens, about 36% of cats at KCPP, in 19 active foster homes.



Year-End Stats

- ✓ In 2024, we sent out **58** adult cats and **1,979** kittens to **253** different foster homes and onboarded **164** new foster homes.
- ✓ Foster homes found adopters for **455** cats and kittens, which accounted for approximately **9%** of cat adoptions this year.
- ✓ On average throughout the year, **54%** of the KCPP cat population was in foster care.
- ✓ This year, we saw a 34% decrease in the number of kittens under 8 weeks with good body condition scores who came in, but a 24% increase in kittens with poor body conditions over last year. We also saw an incredible 68% increase in the amount of bottle babies with poor BCS who went to foster this year compared to last year. This means we were able to send more of the most fragile kittens to foster care. Despite the increase in underweight kittens we saw this year, we had a 1% decrease in kitten mortality; 11.3% compared to 12.9% last year.

Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreiseward, Director of Feline Operations, reported the number of owner surrendered cats stayed the same as last December. For December, the number of cats arriving and receiving care from KCPP is up **6.4%** over last year at this time.

- ✓ Stray cats being brought in by the public are **1.2%** lower this month compared to last year.
- ✓ We had a total of **468** cats/kittens adopted in December.
- ✓ **348** families arrived at our KCCAC location in December that were interested in adopting cats.
- ✓ The average wait time to see cats was 10.1 minutes.
- ✓ **53.7%** of all visitors who met with a Feline Matchmaker adopted a cat that day!
- ✓ Visitors spent on average 39.8 minutes meeting cats before deciding to adopt.



Eileen Dover is a 2 year old lady who was brought in as a stray on July 13th, 2024. While Eileen was calm for kennel care, she took a few months before she began soliciting attention and another month before she began leaning into pets. After an almost 5 month stay, Eileen finally found someone who was willing to give her the time and space she needed to adjust to a new home, and she was adopted on December 3rd, 2024! Her new home sent an update and she's doing well with her new brother!

Rutabaga came to KCPP as a 10.5 year old stray on November 9th, 2024 and had a difficult time adjusting to life in the shelter. She was very fearful, but quickly began to feel more comfortable and enjoy petting. Even though she did enjoy attention and petting, she spent most of her time hiding in her kennel even after being moved to an adoption kennel. Finally, after nearly 6 weeks in the shelter, she began to come out of her shell and solicit attention on her own. By New Year's Eve, she found her home and was able to start the new year with a fresh start!



Community Cat/TNR Program

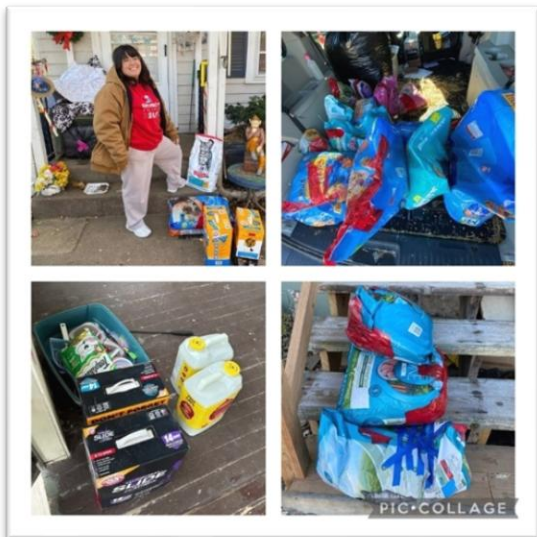
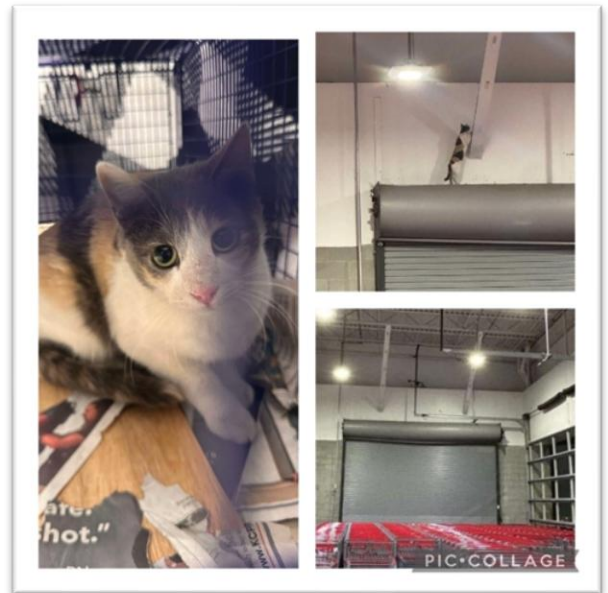
Twenty-Three (23) cats received Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) service from KCPP in December!

During the month, we delivered to our community:

- ✓ 796.5 pounds of dry cat food
- ✓ 41 cases of canned cat food
- ✓ 10 winter shelters
- ✓ 10 cases of litter
- ✓ Extra straw, a set of heated water bowls
- ✓ Litter boxes, treats, toys, and litter scoops to assist in transitioning friendly community cats inside a caretaker's house to help mitigate neighbor complaints of cats.
- ✓ 706 miles driven in December

We created written directions for how to schedule a public TNR appointment through KCPP to help us reply to emails and encourage people to TNR their colony if they can. Within that document are also brief details on how to successfully and safely trap a cat - this document was shared with PSC and admissions so they can also share it with members of the public bringing in their own community cats for TNR services. Additionally, we created a written guide for how to set the TruCatch cat traps that PSC has available for the public to rent out - including pictures to best help new trappers navigate the traps.

Costco Cat - On 12/2 our team was alerted to a feral cat stuck inside the midtown Costco. Our ASD officers were not able to safely secure the cat, and we were advised the cat had been stuck inside since prior to Thanksgiving. Staff trapper Yaneli went after her regular shift and stayed for several hours inside the area where the cat was and set multiple traps to attempt to trap her. Due to the commotion of the store Yaneli knew the cat's best chance to be trapped would be after hours, so she taught store employees how to safely trap the cat and gave detailed directions on how to proceed. She left them traps and supplies and scheduled to be back the next morning prior to the store's opening to continue trapping the cat if they weren't successful. Luckily the Costco staff were successful in trapping her after the store closed and our ASD officers picked her up and brought her to the shelter. She received TNR services and was assessed behaviorally to ensure she was in fact feral. After determining her to be feral we canvassed the area for her colony and found it - she was happily returned, and we have the address notated to reach out to help further assist this colony with TNR services.



Thanks to a large food donation from Chewy we were able to assist over **16 caretakers** that care for colonies with 15 or more cats with a larger quantity of cat food than we can normally assist with. During the winter community cats need a slightly increased number of calories, so there is an extra financial burden on caretakers in the winter. We are grateful to Chewy for helping us alleviate some of that stress for our caretakers this month! We also were able to assist a local volunteer trapper with a large quantity of dry cat food to help provide to the caretakers she assists as well, helping to strengthen our relationship with the public trappers.

Submitted by,

Steve Kaufman, Interim CEO
KC Pet Project