

KC PET PROJECT

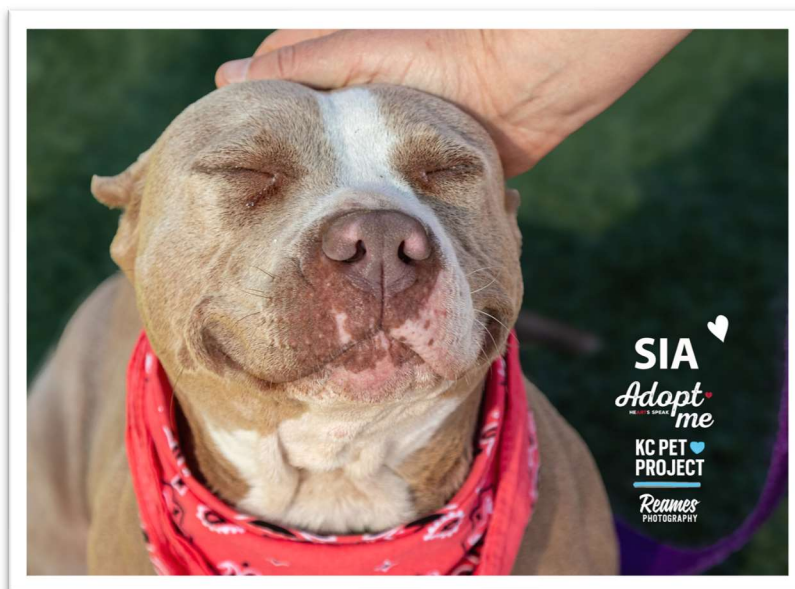
Impact Report for April 2024 Activities

Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals for Jan - Apr	2024	2023	Difference
Total Intake	4,545	4,627	82 fewer
Adoptions	2,908	2,998	90 fewer
Returned to Owners	581	689	108 fewer
Live Release Rate	93.6%	94.0%	0.4% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	918	833	85 more
Stray animals brought in by public	1,603	1,803	200 fewer
Cats/kittens transferred IN	370	683	313 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	2,654	2,209	445 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	19.0 days	21.7 days	2.7 days fewer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	13.3 days	13.1 days	0.2 days longer

April 2024 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,188** new dogs and cats that arrived in April (702 dogs, 469 cats), along with 3 chickens, 4 goats, 2 guinea pigs, 1 pig, 3 rabbits, 1 bearded dragon, and 1 lamb.
- ❖ **684** pets were adopted in April (459 dogs, 213 cats, and 12 other pets). Dog adoptions were still on the rise in April (**up 25%** over last April) and are up nearly **10%** over last year at this time!
- ❖ Returned adoptions for dogs were **down 33.3%** in April, with our year-to-date rate of returned adoptions having been reduced by an impressive **44%** over last year at this time! We attribute this reduction in adopted dogs being returned to quality matchmaking skills by our canine team and dedicated follow up and adoption support provided after they adopt from KCPP.
- ❖ Cat adoptions are down nearly 19% due to a much lower inventory of available cats/kittens. We have taken in 313 fewer cats this year from other shelters due to fewer shelters/agencies needing help.
- ❖ We achieved a **91.5%** Save Rate in April (91.9% dogs, 90.8% cats).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed **621** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in April – including 80 low cost spay/neuter surgeries provided for community cats, and 26 free



spay/neuter surgeries provided for pitbull-type dogs that were reclaimed from our shelter by their families.

- ❖ The number of dogs surrendered to the shelter by their owners in April (554) was up nearly **19%**, and dogs being surrendered are up 14.2% overall for the year. ***We are seeing the largest number of owned dogs surrendered to the shelter in our city's history to date – a 117% increase from 2019 totals.***
- ❖ **322** dogs/puppies and 150 cats/kittens were sent to foster homes in April.

Data Trends 2024

Intake for animals is still running **42% higher** than what we were seeing in 2019.

Adoptions are also still at the highest levels in our 12-year history – still **up 35%** over the past 6 years for this timeframe.

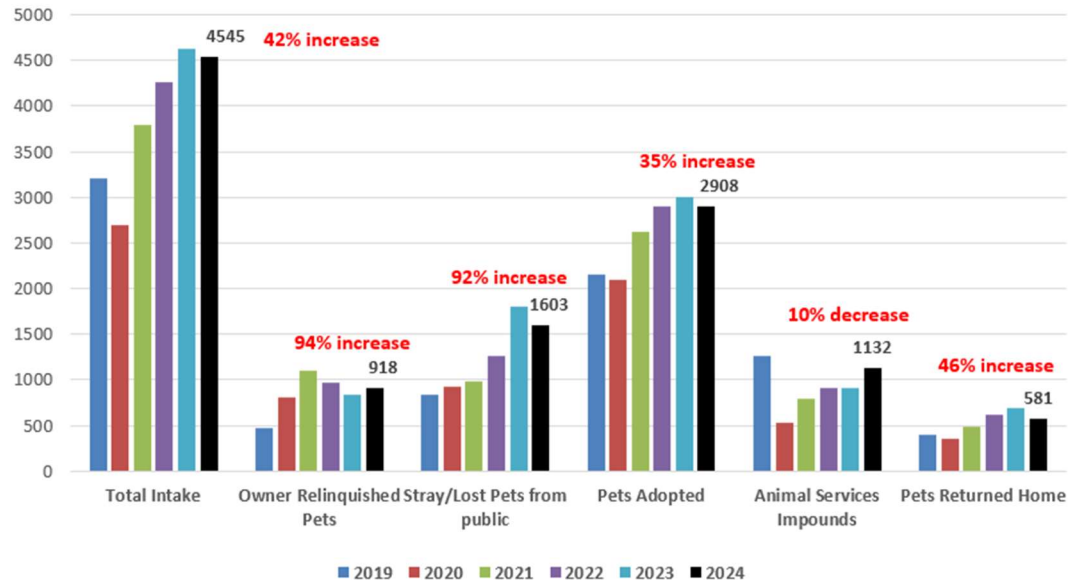
Stray/lost pets brought in by the public are still at the highest level ever recorded in Kansas City – **up 92%** from 2019 totals.

Pets Surrendered by their Owners

have **risen 94%** over 2019 totals for this period.

Our **Live Release Rate** so far in 2024 is **93.6%**.

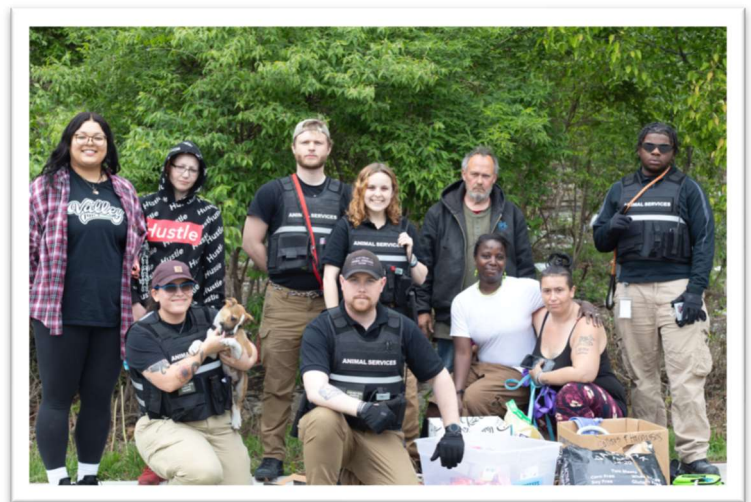
6-year KCMO Shelter Data for Dogs & Cats January - April



Animal Services Division Update for April 2024

Officers worked **2,249** case activities last month, travelling a total of **14,001** miles throughout the city, impounding **272** animals, and returning an additional **19** lost pets back to their homes without having to impound them.

- ❖ Our Animal Cruelty Investigations Team investigated and closed **214** animal cruelty cases and issued one (1) **Unfit Owner Declaration**, as defined in Chapter 14-5(c) of the Kansas City, MO Code of Ordinances. This declaration followed the lawful seizure of a dog who was allegedly subjected to physical abuse by its owner. This case is awaiting trial.
- ❖ Our Dispatch team answered 2,868 live phone calls, made 656 outbound calls to residents, and resolved 145 voicemail messages. Dispatchers spent more than 77 hours on the phones and maintained an average wait time for callers at just **31** seconds in the direct Dispatch queue with a call abandonment rate of only 5%.



Enforcement & Criminal Deterrent Efforts by our Animal Services Division

In April, officers issued **seventy-seven (77) criminal citations** for violations of the Kansas City Municipal Code. Citations are one of the many compliance-based tools that each Animal Services Officer is trained to use to ensure that humane care and compliance standards are upheld.

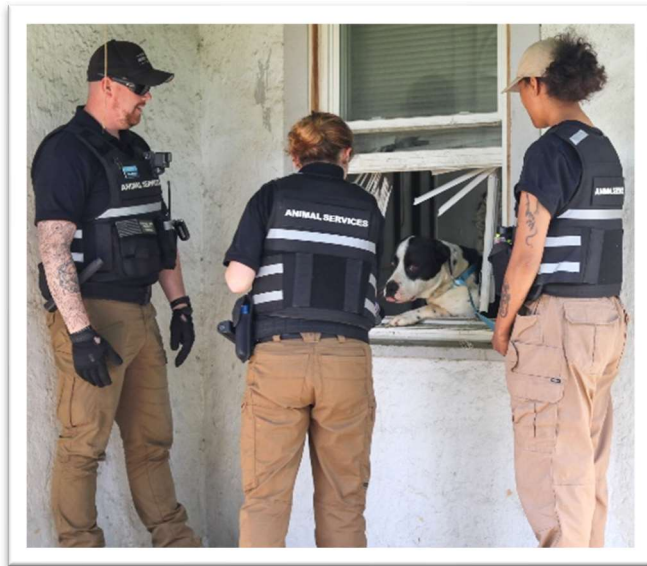
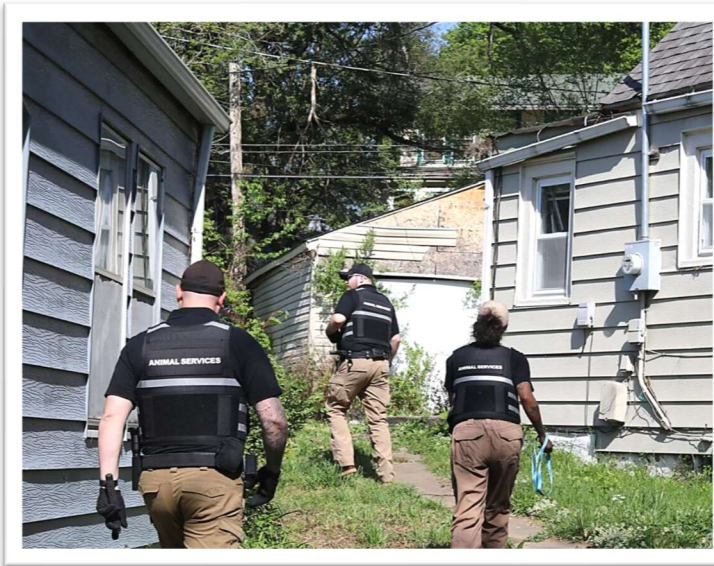
The top five criminal court citations issued by Animal Services in April:

1. failure to display or obtain a city license,
2. failure to spay/neuter a Pitbull-type dog,
3. failure to provide adequate animal care,
4. dog creating a public nuisance,
5. dog running at large

Stories From the Field -- Search Warrants Executed for Pets Abandoned in Homes

In April, The Cruelty Investigations Team obtained two municipal warrants under Chapter 14-10(f) of the Kansas City, Missouri Code of Ordinances. These warrants were issued in response to two reports of animal abandonment, where the residents had vacated the premises, leaving animals inside the home. Our Investigators made thorough efforts to contact potential owners, and upon confirming a lapse of at least 12 hours without care, secured municipal warrants to safely extract the animals from the premises. Both search warrants were acquired and executed in Kansas City, Missouri.

On April 26th, Chief Johnson and Manager LaDue aided a Kansas City Police Department Detective and the Tactical Response Team in executing a felony-level search warrant related to a joint Child Abuse and Animal Abuse case on the 4400 block of S. Benton in Kansas City, Missouri. Although the animal's condition did not meet the seizure criteria outlined in the Police Department's warrant, substantial evidence was gathered to issue animal neglect charges against the owner, which will be addressed in municipal court proceedings.



Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

Chief Communications Officer, Tori Fugate, reported the following activities:

- ❖ Our KC Pet Project 5K race was held April 13th in Swope Park and we could not have had better weather for this sold-out fundraising event. Nearly 600 participants ran or walked the course, with many more spectators and volunteers cheering them on. Sponsors had booths in our Vendor Village, and we featured many available dogs and puppies.
- ❖ For National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 21 – 28) we shared posts on social media highlighting the many ways volunteers support our organization and how to get involved.

- ❖ Tori was a featured speaker at the Texas Unites for Animals Conference in Austin, TX. She participated on a panel talking about media tips for animal welfare professionals.
- ❖ KC Pet Project was chosen as a site for one of the hearts in the Parade of Hearts displayed across Kansas City (right). The heart will be outside our shelter through August.
- ❖ We shared the heartwarming reunion of Benny the dog and his dad. Benny came in severely burned from a fire at a houseless camp and spent a month in our vet clinic recovering. The video was shared on TikTok and Instagram and had a reach of more than 2 million people combined on the platforms.
- ❖ In April, we had **491 news stories** and 68 broadcast mentions with a total reach of **761,567,983** million people!
- ❖ The Dodo featured the story of Horton on their Instagram page – which has been viewed more than 10 million times!



The story of Chug, the goat rescued from a bridge, was our third biggest news story in our organization’s history. We had more than 500 news stories about Chug, which was featured on national programs such as Good Morning America, The Associated Press, USA Today, The Washington Post, Yahoo News, and even on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert!

Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 74,000	134,000+ followers on Instagram
New Users- 68,000	200,000+ followers on Facebook
Sessions – 138,000	1.2 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 724,000	

Volunteer Program Updates

In April, **745** volunteers gave **4,430.17** hours of services, the equivalent of 25.56 full-time employees.

- ✓ 472 volunteers gave hours at KCCAC
- ✓ 54 volunteers gave hours at our Zona Rosa Adoption Center
- ✓ 81 volunteers gave hours at our Petco Cat Habitat locations
- ✓ 58 volunteers gave hours at fundraising events

Total value of volunteer hours in April: \$126,426.92 – a slight increase from last month.

Businesses and groups that volunteered in April brought 140 people to the campus and gave 401.5 hours of service – a value of \$11,458.81: *Salle Development, Honeywell FM&T, Kiewit, Saint Lukes Hospital of Kansas City, Kansas City Academy, Girl Scout Brownie Troup 3063, The Summit Church, and Liberty Academy.*



Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- ✓ **Total active volunteers: 2,066** -- including 61 newly active volunteers
- ✓ We received 332 new volunteer signups in April
- ✓ Four (4) new volunteer orientations were conducted for 61 attendees
- ✓ 20 new volunteers gave 213.10 volunteer hours last month, and 135 volunteers participated in 241.67 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 103 volunteers.
- ✓ Twenty-eight (28) court-ordered community service volunteers gave 101.75 hours in April, which is a value of \$2,903.92.

The week of April 21st – 27th was **National Volunteer Appreciate Week** and we celebrated the thousands of volunteers that help us every year build a more compassionate community for pets and people. The week's festivities included snacks for volunteers, banners, and an ice cream treat social after work one evening. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization, and we couldn't do everything we do without these amazing individuals and businesses!

Volunteer Appreciation
Week 2024!

**A Heartfelt
THANK YOU**
Volunteers are the heart
and soul of our organization.

KC PET PROJECT

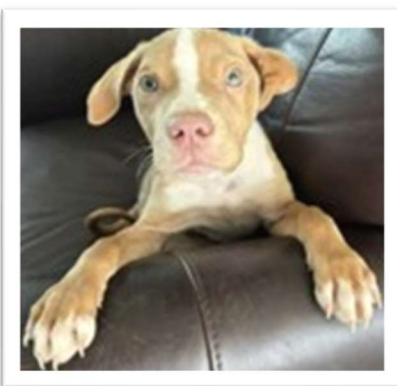
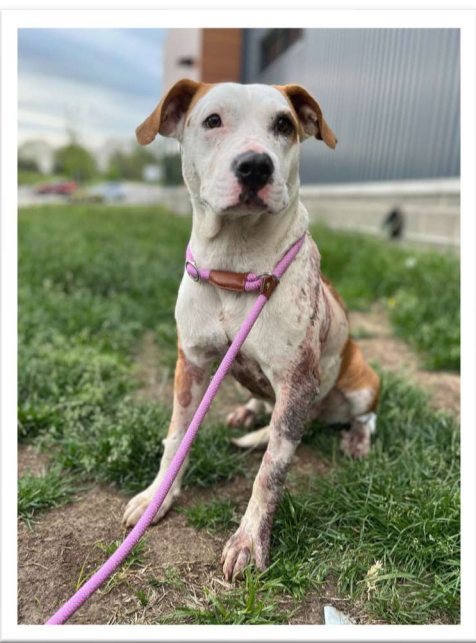


Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in April 2024

Surgeries		Medicine		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	35	Wellness exams	84	Parvo pups treated	18
Community Cats spayed	45	Emergency exams	70	Parvo pups graduated	16
Reclaimed pets neutered	17	Foster pet exams	22	Save rate for parvo	89%
Reclaimed pets spayed	9	Rechecks performed	218		
Shelter Animals Neutered	231	Medical concerns addressed	434	Clinic Administration	
Shelter Animals Spayed	232	Post-adoption exams	5	Communications with fosters	192
Speciality Surgeries	52	Other Exams	360	Communications with adopters	238
				Medications filled	445
Total Surgeries	621	Total Exams	1193		

Lifesaving Stories from the KCPP Veterinary Clinic

Artemis (right) was brought in by an Animal Services Officer after a mail carrier found a dog lying on a porch with an arrow sticking out of her chest. Our medicine and emergency team stabilized the patient, administered pain medication, and obtained x-rays before transferring her to our surgery team for emergency surgery. Dr. Lake found that the razor-tipped arrow from a crossbow had penetrated the thick muscle tissue that protects her chest and spine, breaking some of the bones of the vertebra before stopping in the muscle on the other side of the chest. Somehow, no major vessels, including her heart and lungs were hit, and this sweet girl is expected to make a full recovery.



Toby, (left) a puppy in the care of an experienced foster, faced a series of health issues. Initially treated with antibiotics for coughing, he then stopped eating. Despite stopping the antibiotics, his appetite did not return, leading to the use of an intravenous catheter for hydration. He slowly began eating and returned to his foster home to gain weight before adoption. However, he soon returned to the clinic due to a lack of appetite and weight loss. X-rays revealed a birth defect known as a *pericardial-peritoneal diaphragmatic hernia*, where his intestines had moved into his chest cavity, affecting his eating. Dr. Michael performed surgery to correct the hernia and reposition Toby's intestines, and Toby is now recovering and growing like a normal puppy.

Jeff Gordon (below) is an orange tabby that our Animal Services Officers picked up after a concerned citizen called and reported a cat that had been hit by a car. When the kitty arrived at our clinic, we noted a skull fracture and other injuries consistent with vehicular trauma. The kitty was circling compulsively to his left, and he was unable to see; he was suffering from a traumatic brain injury. While we don't want animals to suffer, our doctors realize animals do have an amazing capacity to heal. In Jeff's case, we decided to take a wait and see approach,

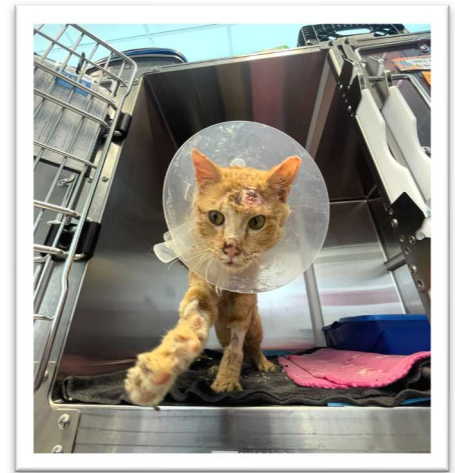
rather than euthanizing, and our patience was rewarded. The next morning, Jeff Gordon’s vision had returned, and the following day, he was able to stop circling long enough to eat. Jeff Gordon continues to improve and we’re hoping this sweet boy can make a full recovery.

Staff News from the Vet Clinic

Veterinary Assistant **Leanne Foley**, employed with KC Pet Project since 2017, has been improving her skills in our clinic while attending the Penn Foster Veterinary Technician program. Recently, Leanne was accepted into the competitive Veterinary Technician Internship Program at the Kansas City Zoo and will take a summer leave of absence to expand her expertise. Congratulations, Leanne!

Veterinary Assistant **Madison Olson**, part of KC Pet Project’s staff since 2017 and formerly at a large animal shelter in Texas, has been pivotal in ensuring that animals requiring surgery receive timely and safe care. With a decade of experience in shelter animal care, Madison is highly skilled in her role. This month, her aspiration to become a licensed veterinary technician moved closer to reality as she received a **full scholarship from Petco Love to the 2-year Penn Foster Veterinary Technician program!** Congratulations, Madison!

DaVonte Kelley (left) is a member of our clinic Animal Care team. DaVonte takes care of our hospitalized dogs and is known as our “dog whisperer.” Although DaVonte is *not* a cat person (by his own admission) he came to the rescue of a kitty that was loose on campus and found herself caught in the dog play yards surrounded by potential danger. DaVonte grabbed one of our blue humane traps and the kitty allowed him to put her inside and carry her to safety. The kitty, **Electa**, was adopted immediately at the end of her stray hold by a new family. Nicely done, DaVonte!



Pet Support Center – Pet Support Desk, Pet Helpline, and Return-to-Home

Customer Engagement Performance

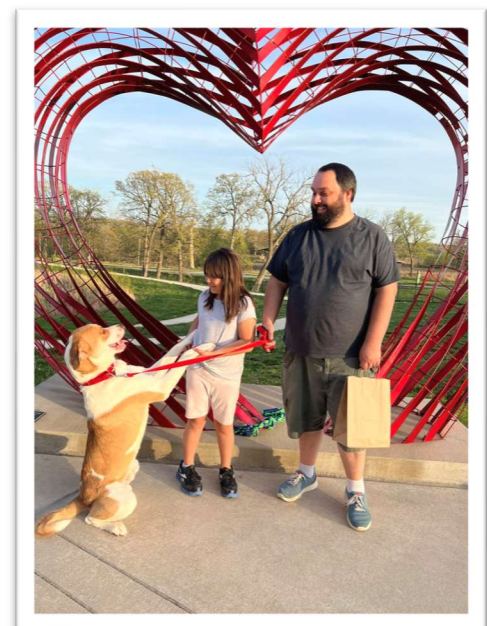
Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.2/5.00** (1,557 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (707 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (217 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **710** emails were received in April inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **547** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process.

We received **49** adoption updates last month, including these notes from adopters:

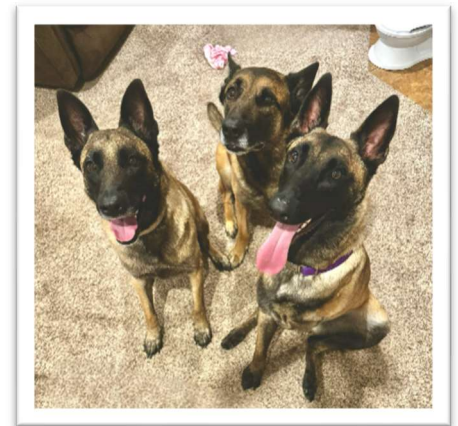
“If you’re looking for the perfect place to find your new best friend, go to KC Pet Project! I recently adopted my dog, Enid, from their KCCAC location. They were insanely kind and informative through the whole process. One kind volunteer even sat down to talk about my excitement while I waited! Such lovely people and so hardworking and dedicated to what they do. And they are very helpful after you adopt! I reached out for trainer recommendations to help with Enid. Thank you, KC Pet Project, for taking amazing care of my girl. We LOVE you!”





"Hello, me and my family were there on Sunday, and we adopted Monroe (left). I'm not sure if anyone ever reaches out to give you an update on the animals that get adopted. But this sweet girl has really come out of her shell since bringing her home. Still shy/fearful so taking those baby steps! I also wanted to give you some pictures to see how she's doing! Thank you again for all you do! -- The Keeney Family!"

picture of her! She's THRIVING! Brad is her owner and she's truly in the best home she could ever be in! She lives with her sister Remy and frequently visits her best friend retired K9 Tygo!"



"Our good friends adopted Dolly, the 3-legged Malinois last year (right) and I just wanted to send an updated

Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction & Services Provided

- ✓ **2024 Rating: 4.832/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.468/5.0 stars: 18 surveys submitted in April, 1,316 submitted since launch in September 2020

"Very impressed with the hospitality and genuine concern for sweet Dahmer's escape. Lovely office staff."

"Awesome service, very friendly and helpful."

- ❖ In April, the Pet Support Center staff assisted **1,371** KCMO residents with in-person services (an average of 46 families a day) 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.
- ❖ *Our average wait time for services in the Pet Support Center was **2:55 minutes**.*
- ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **121** animals whose owners originally contacted KCPP to surrender their pet(s), **71** animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, **82** were diverted through in-person conversations by our PSC staff, and 10 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter.

A total of 284 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter thanks to supportive services provided by KCPP staff!

- ❖ We took in **485** stray/lost animals from the public in April.

"Always pleased with the staff and overall conditions of the facility. Keep up the great work!"

The top 4 reasons pets are being surrendered in 2024:

1. Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (218 pets),
2. Lack of financial resources or inability to access resources for their pets, including costs for veterinary care and unplanned litters (209 pets).
3. Health of owner or health of pet (182 pets),
4. Housing Issues including cost of housing, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (181 pets).

Pet Support Call Center/Pet Helpline Performance

April 2024	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,109	571	3680	16%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	73	40	113	35%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	668	208	876	24%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	3,850	819	4,669	18%
OUT < Helpline – Main	1176	253	1429	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	336	64	400	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,365	285	1,650	N/A
Total Performance for April 2024	5,215	1,104	6,319	17%

Our Pet Support Center team answered **3,850** live phone calls, made **1,650** outbound calls, and resolved 207 voicemails.

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ Admissions staff reunited 17 lost pets with their owners PRIOR to impounding them thanks to identification.
- ❖ The team conducted 296 ownership investigations in an effort to send lost pets back home in April.
- ❖ 124 (19.7%) of the 629 lost animals brought to the shelter in April were returned to their owners. Nearly twenty-six percent (26%) of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 1.7% of lost cats arriving were reclaimed by their owners.

Rehoming Support Services

In April, our team received 122 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **41** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 3,904 requests for ReHome services since November 2021.*

- *We received 371 requests in April from residents seeking initially to surrender their pets to the shelter.*

Returned-to-Home: Two Lucky Dogs

One April morning two stray dogs were brought into Admissions – with one having a microchip identifying the dog as Legacy, a dog adopted from our Zona Rosa location in 2021. The phone number on the registration was no longer in service and the adopter appeared to live out of our area. KCPP’s Return-to-Home team tracked down a family member of the adopter who provided updated contact info for the new owner. The new owner was so grateful we found her because the family had been driving around searching for their lost dog for several hours. Within 30 minutes, both Lacey, formerly Legacy, and their other dog Milo were headed home.



Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Program Coordinator, reported **296** families benefitted from our four (4) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in April:

1. Pet Care Assistance Program (PCAP)

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$2,933.63** for 16 families (17 pets) was provided by KCPP in April.

- ✓ 14 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received

- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance granted: \$634.63
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$2,299.00

2. Pet Resource Assistance Program

Pet foods were shared with four (4) community pantry partners in the metro, including *Chestnut Avenue Resource Center, Don Bosco Center, and two local community cat caregivers.*

208 families with 430 pets benefited directly from these resources provided in April.

- ✓ 537 lbs. of cat food
- ✓ 1,642.5 lbs. of dog food
- ✓ 87 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 53 collars and 40 leashes
- ✓ 16 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 2 kennels/crates and 2 doghouses
- ✓ 18 dog toys, and 214 miscellaneous pet care items



3. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

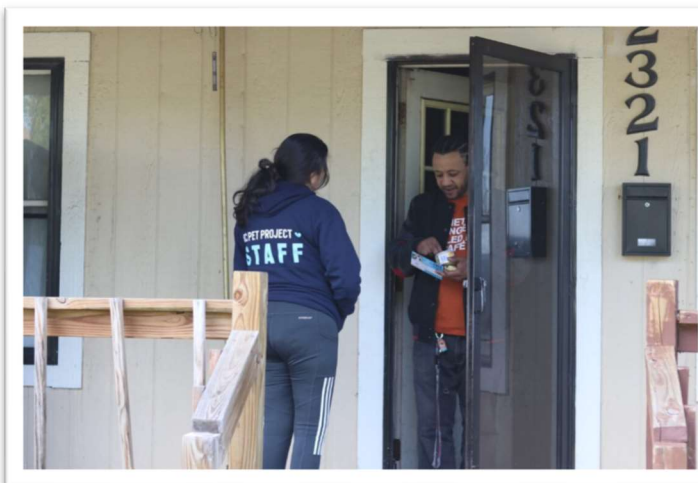
- ✓ 72% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in April were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ *Since June 2021, we have subsidized \$293,434.00 in reclaim fees for 2,793 families with 3,283 pets.*

In April, \$8,370.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 72 families with 89 pets.

4. Pets For Life (PFL) Program:

Mariana Vasquez, Pets for Life Coordinator, reported activity occurring in the program for the 64127 zip code.

- ✓ New clients met through active PFL outreach: 15
- ✓ New clients who contacted PFL or were referred to PFL by others: 1
- ✓ Number of new pets met: 42
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter appointments scheduled: 11
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter surgeries completed: 9
- ✓ Total number of touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 46



- ✓ Supplies given (leashes, food, shelters, etc.): 117 items
- ✓ Medications or services given (dewormer, nail trim, microchip, vaccines, etc.): 67
- ✓ Completion rate of spay/neuter: 81%
- ✓ Conversion rate of altered pets whose pet families request spay/neuter services: 95%

Keeping ‘Em Together: Benny and Kenneth

Benny the dog was brought to our clinic by Animal Services after responding to a call about a fire at a houseless encampment. Benny was lucky to survive the flames. His canine sister, Sugar, was found protecting him by laying on top of him but ultimately, she gave her life for him. The owners were devastated and just wanted to make sure that Benny made it home. Benny spent nearly a month in our clinic recovering and healing from his ordeal. Our clinic staff showered Benny with love and his owners were able to visit him during his recovery.

When it finally came time for Benny to go home, Benny was a little nervous to walk from the clinic into the lobby. But once he realized who was waiting for him, Benny was full of wiggles and kisses.

Benny’s family was so grateful for everything that our vet clinic was able to do for Benny and to be able to take Benny home after losing so much. “He is my world. He holds us all together, I don’t know what we’d do without him,” his owner said. We were all grateful to have been able to reunite these two.



Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 69
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 130
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters: 21
- ❖ Avg. daily number of dogs in canine playgroups: **170**

An average of 170 dogs every day participated in canine playgroups!

- ❖ 130 post-adoption support follow up emails sent
- ❖ 14 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ 53 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ Assisted 8 people with behavior help or lessons for recently adopted or foster dogs

We kicked off the month with the Manager of Behavior & Enrichment, Marissa Cox, hosting Canine Body Language training for our Animal Services Division. Marissa’s class included how to read a dog's body language while in the field to better assess situations to enhance safety and better assist the community. Members of Behavior & Enrichment Team also began a *Camp Maddie: Behavior Edition* series on *Coaching Dog-Dog Interactions*. The series wraps up in May. At the end of April, Manager Marissa Cox and Director of Canine Operations, Tabitha Urban, attended Trish McMillian's Defensive Dog Handling Workshop held in Kansas City.

Canine Operations & Adoptions

We had **999 separate individuals/families** at our KC Campus for Animal Care in April who were interested in meeting dogs available for adoption.

- ✓ Nearly **40%** of all visitors who met with a Canine Matchmaker adopted a dog that day.
- ✓ The average wait time for a Canine Matchmaker in April was 11 minutes.
- ✓ The average total time spent at KCCAC to meet and/or adopt a dog was 67 minutes.

459 dogs and puppies were adopted last month – that’s nearly a **25% increase** in dog adoptions from last April. *Dog adoptions are still up nearly 10% over this time in 2023.*

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of 252 dogs daily at our KC Campus for Animal Care in April.

We saw another notable decrease in adopted dogs being returned in April – with a **33.3% decrease** over the same month last year. For the first 4 months of 2024, returned adoptions are down significantly – with a **14.2% reduction** -- and we believe is due to the quality of matchmaking that is occurring between our Canine Care team members and potential adopters, as well as the post-adoption follow up that occurs.

In April, the Canine Care & Adoptions departments trained in dog walking, dog to dog introductions, and showing dogs to potential adopters. The Canine Care team continued monthly team meetings to increase communication and knowledge across the department. Foster-to-adopt arrangements continue to gain in popularity, with **14** dogs participating in the program.

KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey rating: **5.0/5.0** stars (5 surveys submitted in April)

"KC Pet Project is an incredibly impressive organization! The staff are very clearly passionate about their role in helping these pets! They are kind, knowledgeable, and above all, advocates for these pets. Thank you to each and every person who makes this organization work! And thank you to the behavior staff for the very helpful phone call upon adoption."

"Employees were super friendly and had great communication skills!"

"LOVED THE STAFF! I adopted a forever companion, and I couldn't be happier with my experience!"

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported **119 dogs** (29% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of April.

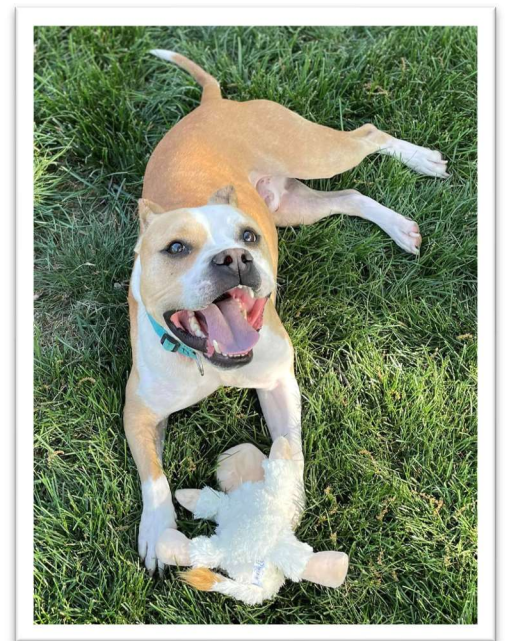
- ✓ During the month, **322** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes!
- ✓ We welcomed **102** new dog foster families.
- ✓ We had **68** dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.

We were able to get some great dogs into foster homes and on Dog Day Outs. We hosted our first *Marketing Info Session* to help our foster families learn how to market their foster dogs more successfully. The session was hosted and recorded on Zoom, so fosters that couldn't attend can still access the entire presentation.

Weasley, a foster dog that was mentioned in last month's story, was adopted from his foster home in April. We also had several notable dogs leave for foster last month including Sable, Crocodile, and Bubba! Sable came to us as an 11-month-old puppy, and she sat in the shelter for two months before finding a foster home. After just two weeks in that home, she was adopted! Crocodile went on what was supposed to be a weekend Dog Day Out, but after a couple of days his DDO volunteer knew she couldn't bring him back and decided to foster him.

Bubba (right) is another dog that was very shut down and struggling living in the shelter. He was originally with us back in 2021 when he came in with a severely embedded collar, and he ended up here again at the beginning of March. Since leaving for foster, he's really blossomed and has been able to show his fosters his goofy personality!

Volunteers took 203 dogs on a Dog's Day Out in April!



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

In April, 18 dogs and 4 cats were transferred to these shelters/rescue organizations in April: *Great Plains SPCA, Heart of America Humane Society, Joplin Humane Society, Mid America Bully Breed Rescue (MABBR), Midwest Animal ResQ (MARQ), Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawsitive Tails, Warriors' Best Friend Foundation, and Wayside Waifs.*

Small Animals & Transportation Program:

Our offsite adoption program continues to create lifesaving space at our main campus location by utilizing staff and volunteers to transport animals offsite to those locations. Sixty-four (64) puppies/small dogs and forty-six (46) large breed dogs were moved to off-site locations this month to our Zona Rosa Adoption Center.

We processed **12** small animal and farm animal adoptions last month – 5 chickens, 2 goats, 4 guinea pigs, and 1 rabbit.

Petco Cat Habitats | Whiskers Cat Café | Feline Lifesaving Transfer Program

Gage Mofield, our Petco Program Coordinator, oversaw the transfer of **67** cats/kittens from *Austin Pets Alive!*, *Independence Animal Services*, *Joplin Humane Society*, *Liberty Animal Shelter*, *Olathe Animal Shelter*, and *Permian Basin Animal Advocates*.

Many of our partner organizations are also seeing decreases in the numbers of available cats/kittens for adoption, thus reducing the numbers of cats/kittens we are able to transfer in. The average length of stay for cats in a Petco Cat Habitat in April was **3 days**, and the length of stay for kittens was still **less than 1 day** at the Habitats!

- ✓ We processed **66** cat/kitten adoptions from our Petco Cat Habitat stores, as well as **27** adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café.
- ✓ Petco Cat Habitat volunteers gave 234.3 hrs to cover shifts at the stores – a value of \$6,687.40 to our organization.
- ✓ The Olathe Petco store once again had the highest number of adoptions in April with 14 adoptions.



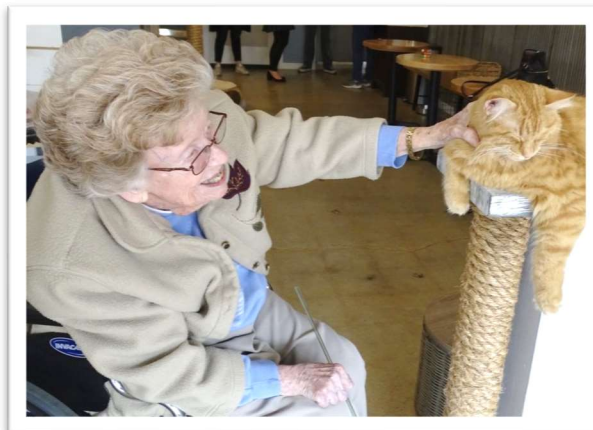
In April, the “Petco Cat Habitat All Knowing Binder” was created. This binder updates and standardizes daily care information across all of our Petco locations for both KCPP volunteers and Petco staff. Topics include Daily Care sheets, Department of Agriculture regulations, guideline sheets for each habitat type, Kitty Cold/Diarrhea decision flow charts to help improve education on cat/kitten medical concerns, and updated Petco Cat Habitat volunteer recruitment handouts.

Tree Trunks (photo right) first came to KCPP as a stray cat and was very nervous. In about a week, she quickly became a quiet, yet confident and independent cat ready to take over the habitat land! She was able to go to the Olathe Petco, where she found the family of her dreams -- and was ready to go into her carrier before her new family could finish singing her praises!

Program Spotlight - Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care’s Gift of a Day

Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care granted their client, Ann Clark, her *Gift of a Day* at Whiskers Cat Café! Ann's smile was contagious as she soaked up the joy of spending time with the sweet cats from KC Pet Project. A big thank you to Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care for sharing Ann's special day with us!

It was truly an honor to be a part of such a meaningful experience.



Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported “Kitten Season” arrived in April! We sent **150** (143 kittens and 7 adult cats) to foster homes last month.

At the end of the month, **144** cats/kittens (56% of the cats at KCPP) were in 40 foster homes, and we onboarded 18 new foster homes.

The first “bottle babies” arrived on April 6th and these kittens were followed by a flood of bottle babies throughout the month. We sent 58 bottle-baby kittens to foster homes – which is a **163%** increase over the number of bottle baby kittens we received last April. We’re so grateful for our Bottle Baby Squad volunteers for taking in these fragile babies!



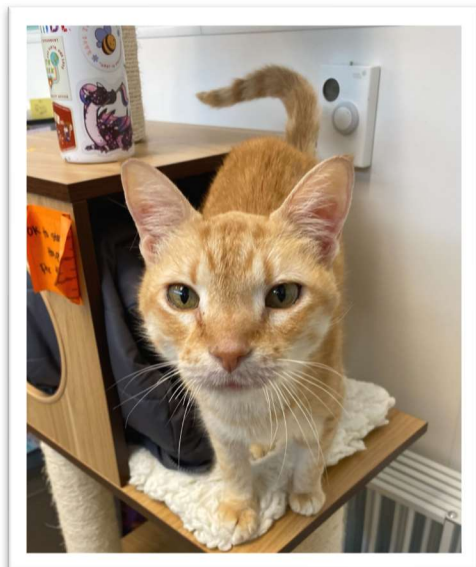
Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **469** cats/kittens in April. We had **213** cats adopted – a 13% decrease from last April due in part to fewer cats being available for adoption.

- ✓ **327** families arrived in April at our KCCAC location that were interested in adopting cats.
- ✓ The average wait time to see cats was 7 minutes.
- ✓ Nearly **24%** of all visitors who met with a Feline Matchmaker adopted a cat that day.
- ✓ Visitors spend, on average, nearly 35 minutes meeting cats before deciding to adopt.

Our Community Cat program and TRN (Trap/Neuter/Return) teams have been busy providing more spay/neuter surgeries than ever before in our organization’s history! Our numbers of owned/community/outdoor cats coming in for spay/neuter surgeries is already **90%** greater than this time last year – with **381** cats having already come through for services!

Pack (right) was transferred to us from another shelter at the beginning of March with concerns about his eyelid. He became too sick for surgery shortly after his arrival and he was treated in our vet clinic for three weeks before he was healthy enough for our doctors to perform entropion surgery. He was discharged from our hospital on April 5th and adopted on April 6th!



Matthew (left) was transferred to us from another shelter in late January and was seen by a veterinarian upon arrival. Matthew struggled with his health, was underweight, had frequent bouts of vomiting. He ultimately underwent exploratory surgery in our vet clinic which revealed non-cancerous lymph nodes. Despite his chronic concerns with GI symptoms, he continued to gain weight and was made available for adoption on the first of April. He found his new family on April 9th!

Marley (next page) was brought to the shelter in early March when her owner was forced to relinquish her. Marley did not adjust to shelter life and experienced extreme fear and stress. A month after she arrived, her owner reached out to KCPP and wished to reclaim Marley. Because Marley was still

too scared to let us touch her, and she had a loving owner who was able to take over her care, the decision was clear to reunite Marley with her owner.

Marley was overjoyed to be driven home by a member of our cat team after spending 6 weeks in our shelter, and her owner was equally overjoyed to get her back home with her. The photo (right) is Marley waiting for the door to her room to be opened by her mom.



Submitted by,

TJohnson

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