

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for December 2022 Activities

Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals for 2022	2022	2021	Difference
Adoptions	10,565	9,887	678 more
Total Intake	15,240	14,082	1,158 more
Returned to Owners	1,830	1,647	183 more
Live Release Rate	96.0%	96.4%	0.4% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	3,855	4,428	573 fewer
Stray animals brought in by public	5,154	3,767	1,387 more
Cats/kittens transferred IN	1,916	1,618	298 more
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	9,273	7,905	1,368 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	18.8 days	16.6 days	2.2 days longer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	20.1 days	24.3 days	4.2 days fewer

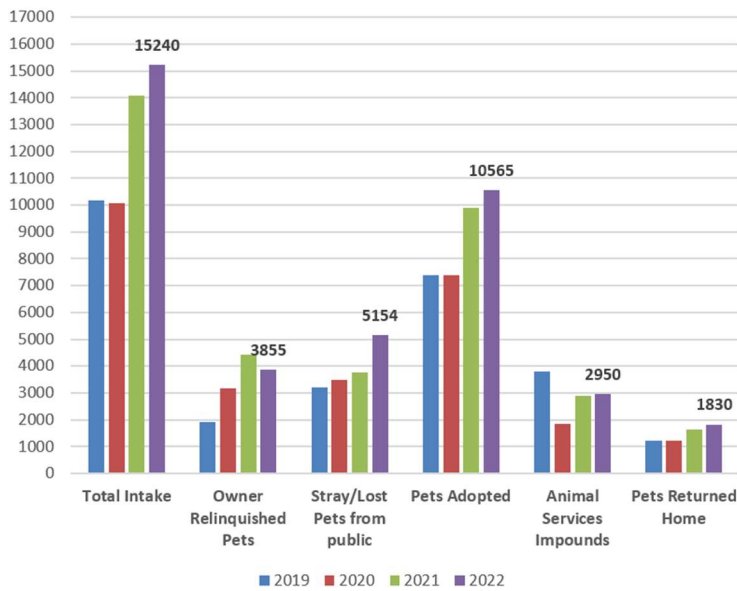
December 2022 & Year-End Totals - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,072** new dogs and cats that arrived in December (622 dogs, 450 cats). We also received 1 chicken, 3 guinea pigs, 1 bearded dragon, 7 rabbits, and 1 turtle. Animal Services Officers picked up and transported a raccoon, bats, a crow, an owl, and a robin to Lakeside Nature Center.
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed another 700 spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in December. In 2022, doctors performed a total of **9,808** surgeries in our shelter’s veterinary clinic – 1,344 more surgeries than last year. Doctors performed 952 examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter in December and treated 6 puppies in our shelter’s parvovirus ward.
- ❖ At the end of the December, 182 dogs/puppies (41%) and 93 cats/kittens (51%) were in foster homes.
- ❖ We provided spay/neuter and veterinary services for 68 community cats in December. A total of **873** owned pets and community cats received low-cost spay/neuter and vaccination services in 2022 from KCPP.
- ❖ We achieved an impressive **95.7%** save rate in December (94.2% dogs, 97.2% cats) and our save rate for 2022 ended at an incredible **96.0%**, despite taking in the highest number of animals in our city’s history (*5,100 more animals a year than we were taking in before we moved into our KC Campus for Animal Care in 2020*).
- ❖ In 2022, 1,830 lost/impounded pets were returned to their homes (an 11% increase) and an additional 642 lost pets were rescued by Animal Services Officers in the field and returned to their families without having to bring them to the shelter.
- ❖ The number of pets being surrendered by their owners has increased by nearly **100%** since 2019.

We provided care for 15,703 dogs, cats, and other pets in 2022.

10,725 pets were adopted in 2022(4,661 dogs, 5,904 cats, and 160 other pets).

Sheltering Data for Dogs & Cats 2019 - 2022



Data at-a-glance for Full Year 2022:

- Total intake of dogs and cats was the highest ever recorded in our 11-year history – **up 50%** since 2019.
- Numbers of pets being adopted is at the highest level in our 11-year history – **up 43%** from 2019 totals.
- Stray/lost pets are arriving at the highest level ever recorded – **up 61%** from 2019 totals.
- Numbers of lost pets being returned to their homes is at the highest level ever recorded – a **52% increase** since 2019.
- Our doctors are performing the largest numbers of spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in our organization’s history – **up 17%** in 2022. Spay/neuter services provided for community cats are **up 36%** over last year.

Kansas City Animal Shelter Historical Data for Dogs and Cats ONLY

	KC Pet Project																
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Intake	10,441	10,949	8,273	7,202	7,251	6,087	6,846	8,179	9,476	8,928	9,264	9,553	9,710	10,164	10,081	14,082	15,240
Adoptions	1,216	1,670	1,216	2,653	3,115	2,434	3,013	4,516	5,986	5,863	5,939	6,406	6,708	7,396	7,384	9,887	10,565
Euthanized	6,958	6,769	4,912	3,101	2,722	1,826	821	565	650	554	469	394	487	469	420	477	573
Transferred Out	928	599	966	416	349	901	1,583	1,148	1,024	929	980	820	690	477	500	527	636
Returned to Owners	1,040	1,397	939	879	931	895	955	1,062	1,244	1,217	1,455	1,341	1,310	1,205	1,220	1,648	1,830
Total Positive Outcomes	3,184	3,666	3,121	3,948	4,395	4,230	5,551	6,911	8,450	8,726	9,032	9,295	9,419	9,878	9,838	13,477	14,534
Live Release Rate	31.4%	35.1%	38.9%	56.0%	61.8%	69.8%	85.7%	92.4%	92.9%	93.6%	94.8%	95.7%	94.8%	95.2%	95.7%	96.4%	96.0%

Note: In 2009, 2010 and 1/2 of 2011 all transfers to rescue groups were being logged by the previous shelter operator incorrectly as "adoptions"

Animal Services Division Update

- Officers were dispatched to **1,304** call activities in December and closed 1,159 unique cases (a 7% increase in calls from last month).
- Officers issued 23 verbal warnings for violations and issued 5 official Notice to Correct Violation warning tickets to residents. Twenty-nine (29) municipal court citations were entered into the Thin Blue Line (TBL) system for approval and issuance by the City Prosecutor. **One case was submitted to the State Prosecutor’s office for felony animal abuse prosecution.**
- There were 9 Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Dog Declarations issued in December and 14 open Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous Dog cases in various stages of investigation - from evidence collection to awaiting a hearing from the municipal court judge.
- In December, our Cruelty Investigation Team closed **311** animal cruelty case activities for our community, including 6 reports of animal abandonment, 58 reports of animal neglect, and 13 reports of animal cruelty (abuse). Several pending cases are currently under review for state felony animal cruelty charges. *In 2022, the Cruelty Investigations Team investigated and closed **2,653** animal cruelty cases in KCMO.*

Officers were dispatched to 13,823 new calls for service in 2022 (comprised of 23,536 separate case activities) and closed 16,416 unique cases.

In 2022, Animal Services Officers issued 158 criminal citations through the municipal court for violations of Kansas City’s Code of Ordinances.

Total Calls by Case Type Responded to in December 2022

Calls related to stray/roaming animals continue to comprise nearly half of our monthly call volume from residents.

Case Type	December '22	November '22
Enforcement	50	33
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect	347	213
Other Services (PD/Fire/MAST)	104	102
Stray Animals/Animals at Large	648	547
Wildlife	37	45
Bite – Non-Domestic Animals (bats, etc.)	25	15
Bite – Domestic (dogs/cats)	93	97

Our Animal Services Dispatch team answered 43,985 live phone calls from residents, completed 14,672 outbound calls and resolved 3,191 voicemails in 2022. The Animal Cruelty Tips Hotline received 239 calls in 2022.

Stories From the Field

On December 21st, FOX4 Reporter Sean McDowell joined Field Supervisor Evan LaDue for a ride-along to see first-hand the work that the Animal Services Division does during frigid temperatures to help pet owners prevent animals from being left outside. The story aired on FOX4 on December 22nd. The social media posts to pet owners generated more 53 news stories and mentions in one week about pet safety in the winter months with a reach of more than 11 million people. On one day with below zero wind-chills, officers responded to 57 calls for animals left outside – handing out resources, dog houses, straw and supplies, and issuing 6 criminal citations.



Outreach and Community Support Activities

On December 11th, Animal Services partnered with Great Plains SPCA, The Rescue Project and Heart of America Humane Society to host our second annual, “Project Pet Warmth” in the Linwood YMCA parking lot to provide winter weather supplies, food, and resources to families and their pets in KCMO.

During the two-hour event, we were able to provide resources to **75 families** comprising **287 pets**, including 1,905 lbs. of pet food, 10 large Igloo dog houses, straw, and 29 wire crates to families so they can bring their dogs inside.



Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

Chief Communications Officer, Tori Fugate, reported the following activities occurred in December:

- ❖ *Our Home for the Holidays* Adoption Special was a month-long special in December and we found new homes for 528 cats, 445 dogs, and 24 other pets totaling **997** adoptions. FOX4 promoted the event with early morning live shots from our Campus.
- ❖ KC Chief’s player Derrick Nnadi hosted his second annual fundraising event at Bar K with auction items to raise money for KCPP.

- ❖ Three (3) TV stations sent reporters to cover our Project Pet Warmth community event and it was mentioned it on all four local networks.
- ❖ Christmas came early to the 270+ dogs at KC Pet Project’s Campus facility on Christmas Eve with an army of volunteers creating an incredible dinner for every dog in our building! Kibble, gravy, meat, rice, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, green beans, and dollop of Cool Whip served in metal muffin tins - with a Nylabone for dessert! Volunteers planned the entire event, raised the money for all the food and supplies, and made enough muffin tin dinners to have some left over to pass out tomorrow on Christmas Day as well. This was a beautiful, generous gift from so many people in our community who care so much about the hundreds of dogs in our shelter waiting for new homes.



*We had **1,922** media stories and news mentions in 2022. The estimated media reach for all media stories last year was an incredible **2,521,499,320** billion people!*

Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 73,549	We passed 90,000 followers on Instagram
New Users- 67,636	We are at 144,000 likes on Facebook
Sessions – 132,048	We have 1.2 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 699,053	

Community Education/Partnerships/School Visits

SCHOOL AND SCOUT GROUPS

- ❖ In 2022, Alex Ayala visited 15 schools and other community groups (approximately **750** individuals) to talk about our organization, programs, volunteering, and career opportunities. Six (6) businesses or organizations (approximately 150 people) rented our Education Pavilion rooms for events.
- ❖ **865** students from local schools, home school groups and Scouts came to our Campus in 2022 for our Youth Education programs. They make enrichment treats, read to animals, learn about our lifesaving work and how they can become young animal advocates in their communities.
- ❖ In 2022 we hosted **26** children’s birthday parties. These “parties with a purpose” are fun and educational for the guests – teaching children about the importance of keeping pets physically and mentally healthy, and how they can help more pets in shelters. Children got to “adopt” a stuffed dog or cat and received an Adoption Certificate for their new “pet.” (photo right)
- ❖ Each year we are the beneficiary of young people working on Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold award projects. These individuals create items or complete projects that help both our shelter and our community. In 2022 we were the recipients of 75 community cat shelters, 201 leashes, 17 dog houses, and 20 cat kennel scratch pads (made from Girl Scout Cookie Boxes).



- ❖ Alex worked with Southland CAPS, the Full Employment Council and ProX Summer Internship Programs and welcomed 16 high school interns in 2022. These interns worked in our Canine and Feline Care Departments, as well as Human Resources, Finance, Education, and Design.



EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ In 2022 we partnered with GoodPup, a virtual training program available to pet owners 24 hours a day. This program offers help to pet owners with the goal of helping pets stay in their homes.
- ❖ Our new MOU with the Kansas City Public Schools will allow us to be visiting elementary schools throughout the district to talk to students about responsible pet care and bite prevention.
- ❖ Through our partnership with North Kansas City School District, we visited with many of the elementary, middle, and high school groups to discuss our programs and services and how they can get involved to help pets in need.

Volunteer Program Updates

- ✓ In December, 381 volunteers gave 2,942.22 hours of services, the equivalent of 17 full-time employees.
- ✓ Total value of volunteer hours in December: \$83,970.96
- ✓ New Volunteer Shelter Tours Conducted: 9 (with 99 attendees)
- ✓ 18 new volunteers were onboarded, and 105 volunteers completed additional training

We had 2,736 volunteers give services to KCPP in 2022 for a total of 48,383 hours – the equivalent of 233 full-time employees at a total value of \$1,152,979.18! We hosted 108 shelter tour and welcomed 1,152 new volunteers.

Businesses and Groups that volunteered in December gave 53:30 hours of service with 66 people, including SAP, Liberty Academy, Lockton, R. Wellness Group, Modern Litho Kansas City, Scarbrough, Halbrook Wood Law, and Pro Athlete, Inc. **In 2022, 97 groups (with 873 people) gave a total of 1,637.50 hours of service to KCPP.**

"I loved what I saw, and I loved helping! I've never been to KC Pet Project, and it warmed my heart to see sooo many caring and loving staff and volunteers taking such good care of the animals. I feel they have a good temporary home at KC Pet Project!"

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

Total active volunteers: **2,736** individuals covered 5,357 volunteer shifts in 2022. We received a total of 2,240 new volunteer signups, including 210 new volunteer signups in December with 3 people wanting to volunteer specifically for Petco Cat Habitats.

News from the Volunteer Department

Mandy Irely, Volunteer Engagement Manager, and Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, spent time preparing for another successful year of volunteer services:

- ❖ The team created a new Volunteer Handbook with updated policies and procedures and more information about all the lifesaving programs and services offered by the organization. The new handbook is accompanied by an online form to serve as the Acknowledgement and Receipt of Volunteer Handbook.
- ❖ The team created a new onboarding and orientation process to launch in 2023. The new orientation will take the place of the previous shelter tours offered at various locations. All orientations will be hosted at the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care and will offer training on best practices for volunteering at an animal shelter, including reducing stress for shelter pets, cat body language, dog body language, and customer service basics.

48,383
HOURS OF SERVICES

1,152
NEW
VOLUNTEERS

97
VOLUNTEER
GROUPS

5,357
VOLUNTEER
SHIFTS

108
SHELTER
TOURS

VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK
LATE WINTER, JANUARY 2023

KC PET PROJECT ♥

Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in December 2022

Surgeries		Exams		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	38	Wellness exams	358	Parvo pups treated	6
Community Cats spayed	33	Emergency exams	29	Parvo pups graduated	4
Reclaimed dogs neutered	13	Foster pet exams	22	Save rate for parvo	67%
Reclaimed dogs spayed	10	Recheck exams	214		
Shelter Animals Neutered	311	Heartworm exams	36	Vet Clinic Communications	
Shelter Animals Spayed	261	Other exams	293	Emails answered	214
Speciality Surgeries	34			Foster Medical Concerns	106
				Calls answered	273
Total Surgeries	700	Total Exams	952	Total communications	593

News from our Veterinary Clinic

December closed out a very busy year in our clinic. More pets than ever before came in needing medical care. The surgery team performed **700** surgeries while the medicine and triage team examined **952** animals. Our surgery schedule included 34 specialty surgeries, including amputations, laceration and wound repairs, dental extractions, mass removals and foreign body removals.

Boyd (right) was surrendered on New Year's Eve by an owner who had him only briefly and said, "he's never been a normal puppy - he has always been sick." Boyd arrived in an emaciated state and had signs of a gastrointestinal blockage due to a foreign body, so he was moved into surgery immediately where Dr. Reinhardt **removed a stuffed teddy bear** from his small intestines (below). He had swallowed it whole! Unfortunately, Boyd was also our first emergency surgery of the new year after his gastrointestinal tract stopped working normally to move food through, probably due to residual damage left by the teddy bear. Boyd is currently recuperating in a foster home and doing well.

Princess Figgy Pudding (photo right) arrived on Christmas Eve as a dirty feral kitten with signs of neurological trauma, possible pelvic fractures, and no motor function of her tail. Despite her injuries, she learned to love people almost immediately and is now improving in a foster home.

Hubert (below right) is a dog our doctors diagnosed with a rare disease called Diabetes Insipidus. Diabetes Insipidus causes a dog—or cat, or human—to compulsively drink water, resulting in excessive urination. And when you're a large breed dog that has to urinate at all hours, that can be a really hard sell for a homeless dog that needs a new family. Fortunately, Hubert had a foster mom who was willing to medicate him to try to control his disease, and she loved Hubert so much that she officially adopted him in December! Getting a long-term medical foster a loving home was a great way to end the year.



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

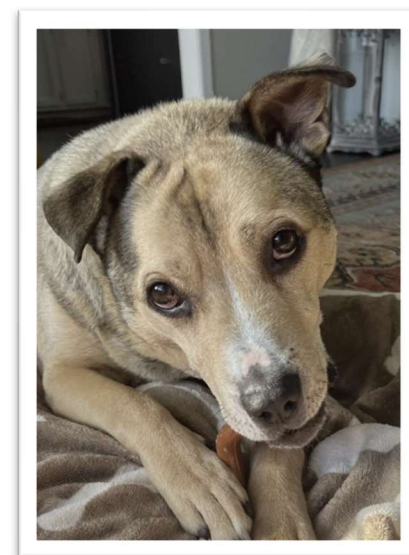
Customer Engagement Performance

Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.3**/5.00 (1,423 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4**/5.00 (601 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4**/5.00 (189 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **1,367** emails were received in December inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **867** emails were received through our Contact email address.

In December we received 66 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns. Here's what one adopter had to say this month:



*In 2022, doctors performed a record-setting **9,808** surgeries in our shelter's veterinary clinic – **1,344** more surgeries than last year – and performed **14,656** examinations on patients, including **204** puppies treated for parvovirus in our Parvo Ward.*

“Thank you for reaching out and checking on our new kitten! We adopted Wiley Griff from you all a few weeks ago. We renamed him KitKat and he’s adjusting to life with his human sisters and his Husky brother! Our Husky Zeek was not sure what to think at first and KitKat was pretty scared. We did a lot of desensitization, and we always provide supervision but now the brothers are getting along pretty well. Thank you KCPP for helping us find the PURRFECT KitKat!

Pet Support Center - Customer Satisfaction Survey

- ✓ **2022 Rating: 4.56/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.63/5.0 stars: 17 surveys submitted in December; 330 submitted since launch in September 2020

“I had a great experience at KC Pet Project. The staff was understanding and helpful. They offered me a cat carrier to take back and pick up a cat I had found, which made a world of difference. An amazing facility all around.”

“I’m sorry to have forgotten the names of those who assisted me...it was more than a week ago. BUT, everyone who DID assist me was very professional and caring. I first entered the front entrance and was pleasantly greeted...then directed to find my way to the back entrance. Once I arrived at the back entrance I was greeted in a very professional, respectful, and caring manner. Thank you for all your help!”

Pet Support Center Performance

December 2022	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,796	705	4,501	16%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	31	92	123	75%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	523	132	655	20%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	4,350	929	5,279	18%
OUT < Helpline - Main	1,010	132	1,142	12%
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	404	102	506	20%
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,414	234	1,648	14%
Total Performance for December 2022	5,764	1,163	6,927	17%

- ❖ In December, the Pet Support Center took in 409 stray pets over the counter from members of the public (a 33% increase from December 2021).
- ❖ In 2022, the Pet Support Center team assisted 8,661 individuals/families with in-person services and had 89,485 interactions with pet families.
- ❖ A total of 185 pets stayed with their families in December instead of coming into the shelter thanks to subsidized support and safety net programs.

The top 3 reasons pets were surrendered in 2022 were:

- 1) Health of the animal or health of the owner/family (1,228 pets),
- 2) Lack of resources and the inability to afford pet-related care (1,092 pets),
- 3) Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (663 pets).

In 2022, our Pet Support Center team answered 57,245 phone calls, and completed 18,437 outbound calls for a total of 91,505 Helpline Calls (a 3% increase from 2021).

Housing-related owner surrender currently remains the fourth largest cause for relinquishment (582 pets). *Reasons include cost of housing, loss of home, moving/relocating, and pet-restrictions.*

- ❖ We assisted **934** KCMO residents with in-person services in December including pet relinquishment, microchipping, stray animal impounds, lost and found/return to home, pet licensing, records requests, taking in sick or injured pets, pets being reclaimed, and providing pet resources such as basic pet care supplies as well as supportive programs through Keep 'Em Together, KC.

In 2022, 2,460 pets were able to stay out of the shelter system through pet support services.

Pet Support Center Department Updates:

- ❖ We created an automatic Community Cat Appointment Reminder. Once a Community Cat spay/neuter appointment is scheduled, clients will automatically be emailed information regarding their appointment and what to expect at the time of pick-up. This ensures clients are receiving the information they need and increases department/client communication.
- ❖ Community Programs Administrator, Alyssa Willett, worked with the Animal Services Division to finalize written Dead-on-Arrival (DOA) procedures. This provides direction to staff in the event animal cruelty is suspected, and the written procedures were updated to reflect the responsibilities of both the Pet Support Department and Animal Services Division regarding those situations.

Our 2022 focus on low cost/free microchipping resulted in 87% of reclaimed pets leaving with a microchip (730 microchips were implanted at time of reclaim, compared to 513 in 2021)!

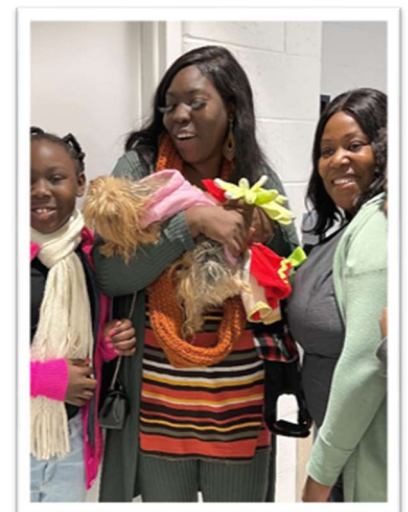
Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 133 Lost Pet Reports and 66 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 58 in-depth microchip investigations for stray animals in our care. *In 2022, our team completed 1,065 in-depth microchip investigations in an effort to return lost pets to their home.*
- ❖ Lost pets reclaimed in December had been missing for an average of only 1 day! 115 (21%) of the 545 stray animals brought to the shelter in December were returned to owners, which is a 4.5% decrease from last month. 26.5% of lost dogs that arrived were reunited with their families.
- ❖ ***Our Returned-to-Owner rate for lost pets was 28% in 2022. The number of lost pets being returned to their homes in 2022 was at the highest level ever recorded – a 52% increase since 2019.***

Return-to-Home – Long Lost Princess

One of the most memorable reunifications our Pet Support Center Team had in December was for a 5-pound yorkie named Princess. Princess was brought to the shelter as a stray after being seen rummaging for food in the cold. She looked as though she had been alone for some time – she was matted, dirty, and incredibly thin. When she arrived, Princess was taken directly to our veterinary clinic for medical care, and our team found that Princess had a microchip. We immediately began working to contact the owner registered on the microchip, and Princess' amazing story began to unfold.

Thanks to her microchip registration, we were able to contact Princess' family. They had not seen her in seven months! One sunny day back in May, the family had taken their children and Princess to a nearby park for a picnic. During the family festivities, Princess disappeared into thin air and the family was devastated! They were determined to find her, but after spending a month looking for her, they began to accept the fact they might not see Princess again. The family was ecstatic to hear that not only was she found, but she was safe! The emotional and joyous reunion was one we will never forget.



Rehoming Support Services - In December, our team received 168 requests for private rehoming. Eligible pet owners posted 101 owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website for rehoming support services.

Our Rehome Support Services helped 971 families and their pets seek new homes privately in 2022 (without surrendering their pets to the shelter).

Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, reported **375** families benefitted from our four (4) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in December:

Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling \$1,516.75 for 7 families (7 pets) was awarded in December:

- ✓ 10 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC veterinary assistance: \$0.00
- ✓ Pet medical assistance granted: \$556.87
- ✓ Reclaim Fee (Shelter Reunification) assistance granted: \$807.88

In 2022, our Pet Care Assistance Program granted \$51,208.10 in financial assistance for 238 families with 280 pets, a 5.13% increase from 2021.

In 2022, 3,054 families with 5,616 pets were supported by Keep ‘Em Together KC programs (a 382% increase from last year).

We provided \$144,493.10 in financial assistance to KCMO residents in 2022 – a 50% increase from 2021.

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

- ✓ 3 families with 9 pets applied for temporary care assistance in December. Two families were referred to outside agencies for support.
- ✓ 8 new safety net foster application was received in December.
- ✓ There were no families/animals enrolled in the Home Away from Home program at month-end.
- ✓ 171 applications were received in 2022. Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided **6,859** days of temporary care for a total of **83** families with **124** pets. Home Away from Home currently has a highly successful **92%** reunification rate.

3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

- ✓ Total Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program awards to pet families in December: \$8,035.00
- ✓ 77 families with 81 pets benefitted from the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program last month.
- ✓ 71% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in December were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.

In 2022, 902 families with 1,052 pets were directly impacted by our Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program and received \$93,285.00 in subsidized fees from KCPP – a 96% increase from last year!

Pet Resource Assistance Program

Pet foods were shared with five (5) community pantry partners in the metro, including *the Don Bosco Center, Amethyst Place, Chestnut Avenue Resource Center, and two local community cat caregivers*. **291 families with 664 pets** benefitted directly from these resources provided in December:

7,921.50 lbs. of dog food and treats and 1,630 lbs. of cat food and treats
725 lbs. of kitty litter
16 collars and 15 leashes
16 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
42 kennels/crates, 34 outdoor dog houses/cat shelters, and 30 bales of straw
142 engraved pet ID tags
105 miscellaneous pet care items

In 2022, 190,411 pounds of pet foods (95.2 TONS) and 7,713 pet care items were distributed to 12 community partners and 1,364 households with 3,213 pets.

These resources donated to KCMO residents in 2022 were valued at \$500,000.

News from the Keep 'Em Together, KC Program

- ❖ Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, and Jaime Gomez, Pets for Life Coordinator, attended Pets for Life Mentorship Partner Training in Los Angeles, California. The 2-day workshop, hosted by the Humane Society of the United States, covered many of the foundational tools and resources needed for a successful and sustainable Pets for Life program. The Pets for Life program will launch in early 2023.
- ❖ We reopened our *Home Away from Home* temporary care boarding program in December, including a new Foster Manual, a new landing page on the KC Pet Project website, more accessible program forms using JotForm, and new foster engagement and recruitment efforts. We will begin accepting new applications in January 2023.
- ❖ Derek Melies, Keep Em Together KC Coordinator, began a new partnership with Chestnut Avenue Resource Center. We deliver 1-2 large bins of dog food to the organization on the first and third Thursdays each month. The food is being hand delivered to individuals living in surrounding neighborhoods in the 64128 zip code.

In 2022, our Keep 'Em Together KC program delivered record-breaking impact for Kansas City residents, including a **478%** increase in the number of pets supported through our four subsidiary programs, including **732** pets seen at our community clinics in 2022.

Keeping 'Em Together: Rusty

Rusty and his owner found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time late one night and Rusty suffered a gunshot wound to the head. A KCPP Animal Services Officers was dispatched to the scene and he rushed Rusty to an overnight emergency hospital, then back to our shelter's vet hospital the next morning for care. Despite his life-threatening injury, Rusty instantly became a staff favorite due to his sweet, affectionate personality.

Rusty's owner called daily to get updates on his buddy, describing Rusty as "the only family I have." He was relieved to hear Rusty was improving, and in an incredible stroke of luck, the bullet seemed to have passed through his skull without any negative effects. After Rusty's wounds healed, it was finally time for this family to be together again. Rusty's owner got him as a tiny puppy and this was the longest amount of time they had ever been apart.

Our Keep 'Em Together KC program allowed us to subsidize the cost of Rusty's emergency medical care. On the day they were reunited, Rusty ran straight into the arms of his owner and his owner said, "he is my best friend, and I don't know any other way of life without him."



KEEP 'EM TOGETHER, KC



Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 82
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 105
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters by Behavior Team: 34

An average of 155 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups in December.

Behavior follow-up support for adopters: 105 post-adoption follow up emails were sent, 16 phone consultations performed, 48 behavior support email correspondences, 4 free behavior lessons given to adopters, and 7 free behavior consultations with families and fosters were conducted in December.

In 2022, the Canine Behavior & Enrichment team assessed 823 dogs, sent 1,447 adoption follow up emails, responded to 921 behavior email inquiries, and provided 439 behavior support calls. An average of 130 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups.

Canine Foster Care Program

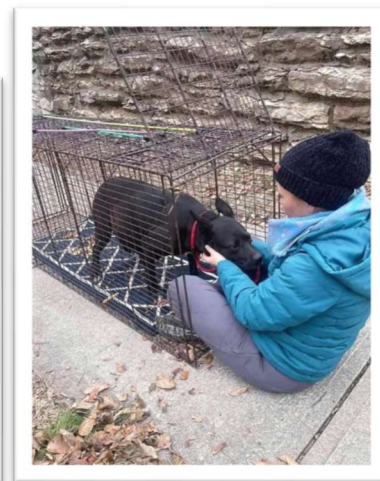
Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported 182 dogs (41% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of December. During the month, **241** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes – including 69 puppies under 8 weeks old (and nursing moms with puppies).

- ✓ Volunteers took **94** dogs on a Dog's Day Out last month
- ✓ We welcomed 16 new dog foster families in December
- ✓ We had 67 dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes

2022 Canine Foster Totals:

Average number of dogs in foster homes each month: 158
Dogs adopted directly from foster homes: 555
Total dogs sent to foster homes: 2,452 (includes 910 Dog Day Outs)
New dog foster families: 386

In December, we continued to see a high number of pregnant dogs and dogs with new puppies coming into the shelter. One of those dogs was Olive (right), who was pregnant and roaming a neighborhood in KCMO. Several Good Samaritans tried to catch her but were unsuccessful. They enlisted the help of KC Dog Trappers to trap Olive before she had her puppies out in the bitter cold. Once at the shelter, we sent Olive to a foster home to have her puppies. Only a few days later, Olive gave birth to **16 puppies!** Olive's foster family reports she and all her puppies are doing well.



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

Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 26 animals were transferred out to other organizations in December.

Organizations we transferred animals to in December:

Chain of Hope, Columbia Second Chance, Critter House KC, Great Plains SPCA, Lakeside Nature Center, Melissa's Second Chances, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Unleashed, Wayside Waifs, and Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary.

649 animals were transferred out from KCPP to 46 different rescues or shelters in 2022.

Our small animal program processed **22** adoptions in December – 6 rabbits, 1 chicken, 1 turtle, 11 rats, and 4 guinea pigs.

160 small or barnyard animals were adopted from KCPP in 2022 – including chickens, a cockatiel, ducks, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, bearded dragons, rabbits, rats, a hermit crab, sheep, snakes, turtles, and a goat.

Canine Operations

Canine Care team cared for an average of **243** dogs every day at the KC Campus for Animal Care in December. New staff members continued to train in dog walking, adoption matchmaking, and dog-to-dog introductions.

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

- ❖ Danielle Jones, Feline Lifesaving Program Coordinator, reported we transferred in **135** cats in need from other area shelters/agencies in December, including our established regional partners like Joplin Humane Society, Best Friends of NW Arkansas, and Paws for a Cause, as well as local partners like Liberty Animal Shelter, Gladstone Animal Control, Midwest Animal Res-Q, Lee’s Summit Animal Control. This included kitties with medical cases like ringworm and Feline Leukemia (FeLV), all of whom have now found homes!
- ❖ We trained 3 new Petco Cat Habitat volunteers last month. We have 275 active volunteers in this program currently, and these incredible community volunteers gave 718 hours of time in December at 10 Petco store locations.
- ❖ In December, we processed 168 cat adoptions from Petco Cat Habitats and 24 cat adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café.

2022 Summary: **321** volunteers in our Petco Cat Habitat program gave **11,934 hours** transporting and caring for cats/kittens across all metro Petco stores – a 36% increase in hours over last year.

2,757 cats/kittens were adopted from one of 11 Petco store Cat Habitats in 2022 – that was 47% of our total cat adoptions processed last year. Cats/kittens spent an average of just 3 days in a Petco store before being adopted by new families!

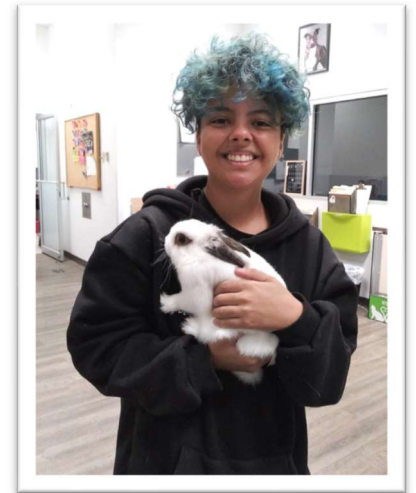
Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported we sent 55 cats/kittens to foster homes (6 adults, 49 kittens).

- ❖ At the end of the month, we had 39 active foster homes, including 9 new foster homes that were onboarded in December.
- ❖ 78 cats and kittens were adopted directly from foster homes last month! At the end of the month, 93 felines (**51%** of all cats/kittens) were in foster homes.

2022 Summary: This was the year of kittens! We saw a 30% increase in the amount of “bottle baby” kittens (under 4 weeks of age) coming into the shelter. Our Bottle Baby Squad did a fantastic job saving these tiny, vulnerable babies and we are grateful for their dedication.

In total, our Feline Foster Care Program sent 2,606 cats/kittens to foster homes in 2022 – and a whopping 2,408 of them were kittens under 8 weeks old!



In 2022, we transferred in 1,916 cats and kittens to KCPP from 18 partner shelters – from local shelters/agencies as well as southern Missouri, southern Oklahoma, southeast Louisiana, Iowa, and Arkansas. Since launching this lifesaving program in 2015, we’ve helped other organizations save 7,238 cats! Many of the cats we transferred in had little or no opportunity for a live outcome at their previous agency/organization and some cats had special medical needs that would have resulted in them being euthanized before arriving at KC Pet Project.

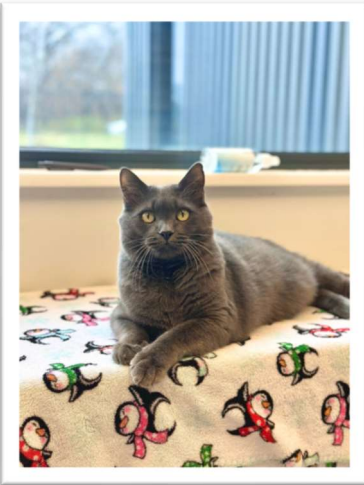
We sent 476 “bottle baby” kittens under 4-weeks old into 71 foster homes in 2022.

One heartwarming foster home adoption story from December is a cat named **Toast** (right). Toast arrived on October 6, 2021 and spent more than a year as a hospice foster. He came in with an injury to his right front leg and terrible skin issues due to a severe flea allergy. We soon discovered he was also in congestive heart failure.



Doctor's prescribed rest and a calm environment due to his medical conditions. But after a short time in his foster home, he was doing so well we had to move him to a second foster home because he was actually too playful with the other cats in the home! Toast's foster family fell in love with him and decided to adopt him themselves the day before Christmas Eve. We couldn't imagine a better present for this special kitty!

Feline Operations



In 2022, KC Pet Project took in **7,554** cats. We saw fewer cats being surrendered by their owners, but saw an increase in the number of stray cats brought in. An analysis of this trend revealed many "stray" cats were being brought in by people living in surrounding cities – Independence, Gladstone, North Kansas City, Belton, Raymore, Lee's Summit, and cities in Johnson County. Many people reported that they had tried surrendering cats to their local shelters but were turned away. Loss of housing and the inability to pay for medical care for their cats were the two most common reasons cats were surrendered to us by their families.

The number of cats/kittens adopted in 2022 (**5,904**) was similar to last year, but several program changes in feline foster operations resulted in our ability to decrease the number of days a cat/kitten was in a foster home by nearly 7 days! The overall effects of these changes were a decrease in foster length of stay, lower average numbers of cats in foster care, and more available foster homes for incoming kittens. This also reduced illness and increased the number of available kennels in the shelter.

The numbers of cats/kittens adopted at Zona Rosa and our Petco Adoption Center increased in 2022. Kittens were adopted quickly from all adoption locations this year, resulting in few kittens available at the end of the year.

The Top Five (5) Off-site Adoption Locations (outside our main Campus location) for 2022:

- ✓ Zona Rosa (798 adoptions)
- ✓ Whiskers Cat Café (422 adoptions)
- ✓ Liberty Petco Store (317 adoptions)
- ✓ Blue Springs Petco Store (270 adoptions)
- ✓ Petco Adoption Center @ 95th Street (264 adoptions)

We transferred in 85 cats/kittens with ringworm, as well as 24 additional cats with medical conditions their original shelter or rescue was unable to treat – providing the veterinary care these cats/kittens needed to save their lives.

Changes were made to reduce fear, anxiety and stress in cats having surgery in our shelter's vet clinic. All cat surgeries are now performed first thing in the morning (before any dog surgeries begin). Positive results included cats/kittens waking from surgery earlier – thus being able to leave the building quicker, and saving multiple hours a day in staff time and more time available to assist adopters during peak evening hours.

In 2022, the feline team implemented a Fear/Anxiety/Stress (FAS) rating scale for cats arriving to objectively assess how a cat is feeling upon entering the shelter. The lower the FAS score, the quicker a friendly, adaptable cat will be able to move to an offsite location and hopefully get adopted quickly. Cats with a higher FAS score are housed at our main Campus and staff work to lower their shelter stress. This FAS score can be re-evaluated day by day to monitor how well the cat is adapting to shelter life.

We provided low cost spay/neuter services for 851 Community Cats in 2022 -- a 35% increase.

The combination of all the program changes made in 2022 reduced not only the average length of stay for cats, but also the daily number of cats in our care each month. Despite taking in nearly the same number of cats as last year, the average number of cats in our feline program on a daily basis remained lower than 2021 totals all year – an incredible accomplishment given the thousands of cats cared for in 2022.

Huck (the beautiful gray kitty in the photo above) was adopted in December after being in our shelter nearly an entire year! He was surrendered by his owner on December 26, 2021 and had a very difficult time adjusting to life in the shelter. Our staff worked with him for months, and we were all thrilled to finally see his playful personality shine through.

Tilly and Tiger Grey (right) came in as an older bonded pair in July 2022. They were both shy and would frequently become too stressed to eat, so our staff would sit with them to comfort them. They were adopted together on December 5th! **Houdini** (far right) came into our shelter in April 2022, and his diabetic status made it harder for him to find a new home. But a great couple fell in love with him in December and promised to keep him happy and healthy in his new home!



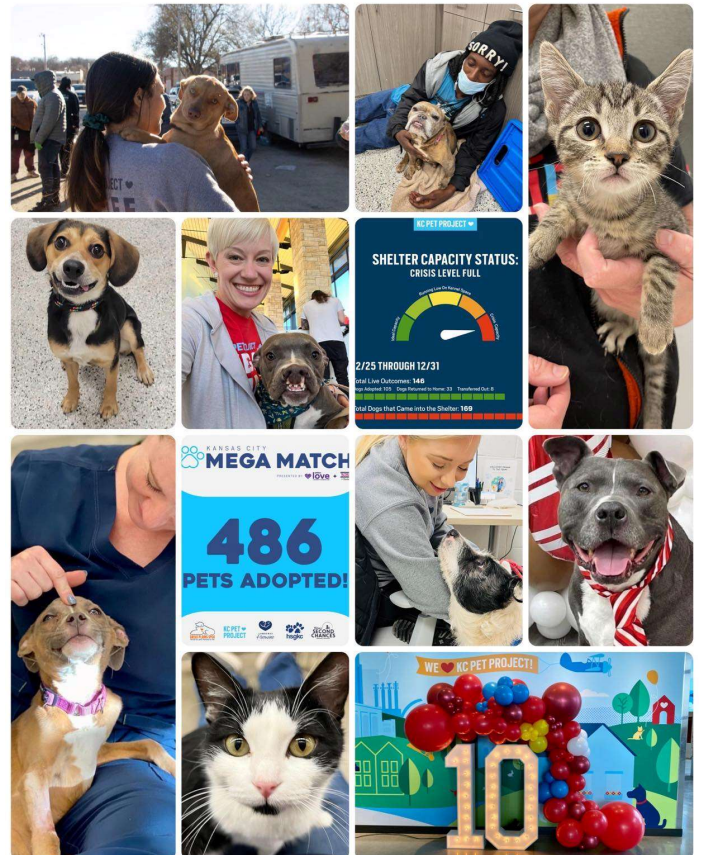
Retail Operations/Roasterie Café/Customer Experience

Bria Sweeney, Manager of Retail Operations and Roasterie Café, reported a significant increase in sales via our online store in 2022.

- ❖ The Charlie Hustle t-shirts benefiting KC Pet Project and the Monopoly Game – Kansas City edition became available for sale in our shelter’s retail stores in December.
- ❖ Our Adoptions Team worked to translate all our documents from English to Spanish in 2022.

Other Notable Happenings in 2022

- ❖ KC Pet Project was named Best Place to Work (for companies with 50+ employees), Best Place to Adopt a Pet, and Best Nonprofit in 2022 by readers of Kansas City Magazine and The Pitch’s *Best of Kansas City* edition.
- ❖ KC Pet Project was honored to win another Philly Award through Nonprofit Connect, celebrating excellence in marketing, video production, social media, fundraising events, websites, newsletters, and brand management. We won GOLD in the category of Social Media Campaign for our story of Simon (the matted Shih Tzu).



Submitted by,

T. Johnson

Teresa Johnson,
President/CEO & Chief Lifesaving Officer, KC Pet Project