

# KC PET PROJECT

## Impact Report for February 2024 Activities

### Sheltering Statistics:

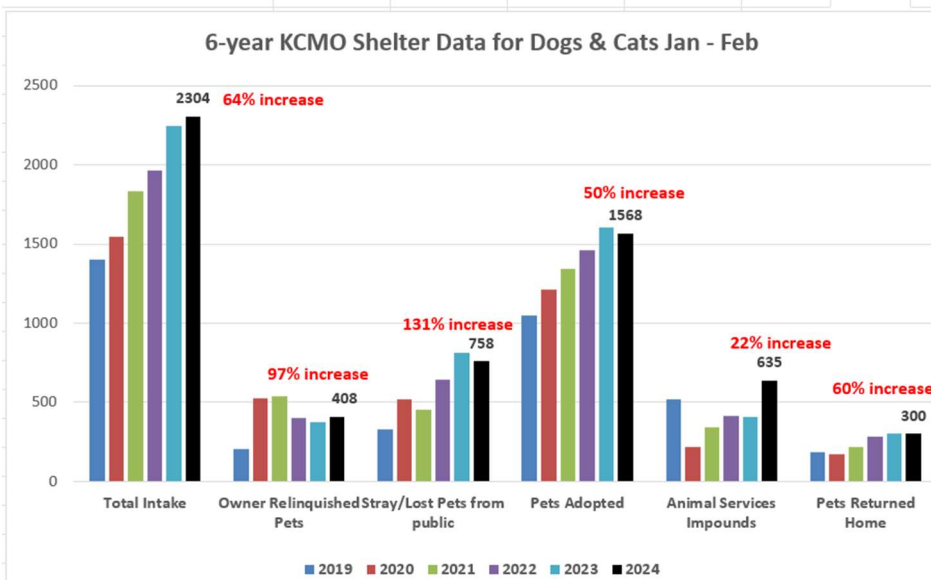
Dog & Cat Totals for Jan - Feb	2024	2023	Difference
Total Intake	<b>2,304</b>	2,243	61 more
Adoptions	<b>1,568</b>	1,603	35 fewer
Returned to Owners	<b>300</b>	300	No change
Live Release Rate	<b>93.7%</b>	95.5%	1.8% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	<b>408</b>	375	33 more
Stray animals brought in by public	<b>758</b>	811	53 fewer
Cats/kittens transferred IN	<b>261</b>	460	199 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	<b>1,433</b>	1,098	335 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	<b>18.8 days</b>	22.4 days	3.6 days fewer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	<b>13.6 days</b>	13.1 days	0.5 days longer

### February 2024 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,003** new dogs and cats that arrived in February (668 dogs, 335 cats), along with 1 parrot, 3 chickens, 9 guinea pigs, 1 pig, and 1 rabbit.
- ❖ **747** pets were adopted in February (489 dogs, 227 cats, and 31 other pets) – including **Horton** (below), the dog we were able to save after he was found abandoned inside an unheated home and near death from hypothermia.
- ❖ We achieved a **95.1%** Save Rate in February (94.8% dogs, 95.8% cats).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed **662** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in February. Doctors performed **976** medical examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter – including 18 puppies and young dogs admitted to our Parvo Ward with deadly parvovirus and pets arriving with medical emergencies.
- ❖ We provided low cost spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for **95** community cats last month.
- ❖ We provided free spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for **33** owned dogs that were reclaimed and reunited with their families.
- ❖ **301** dogs/puppies and 21 cats/kittens were sent to foster homes in February.



## Data Trends 2024



**Intake** for animals is still running at the highest levels recorded in our 12-year history – with a **64% increase** in the number of animals having arrived over the past 6 years.

**Adoptions** are also still at the highest levels in our 12-year history – **up 50% 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 131% from 2019 totals.**

**Pets Surrendered by their Owners** have **risen 97%** for the period over 2019 totals.

Our **Live Release Rate** (save rate) has decreased due to the unprecedented

numbers of dogs arriving, with the level of dog euthanasia 56% higher than the same period in 2023. **Our Live Release Rate for dogs so far in 2024 is 92.5%.**

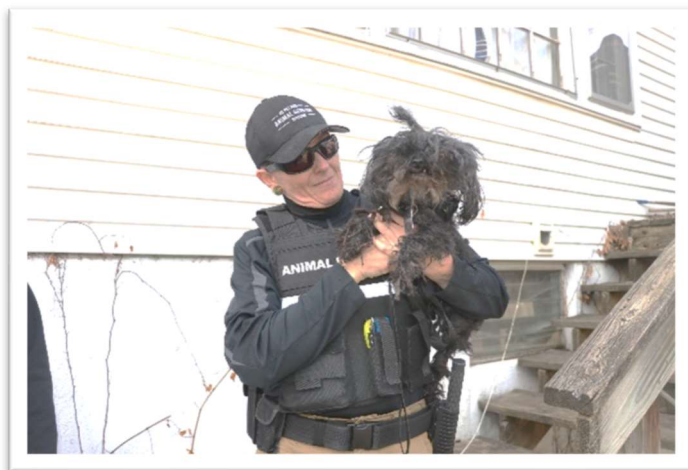
## Animal Services Division Update for February 2024

Officers worked **2,050** case activities last month, travelling a total of **16,660** miles throughout the city, impounding **300** animals, and returning an additional **17** lost pets back to their homes without having to impound them.

- ❖ We saw a **48%** increase in the number of animals impounded last month after their owners abandoned them in a home/yard.
- ❖ Our Animal Cruelty Investigations Team investigated and closed **235** animal cruelty cases.
- ❖ Our Dispatch team answered 3,655 phone calls, made 828 outbound calls to residents, and resolved 141 voicemail messages.

## Enforcement & Criminal Deterrent Efforts by our Animal Services Division

In February, officers issued **forty-five (45) 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 February:

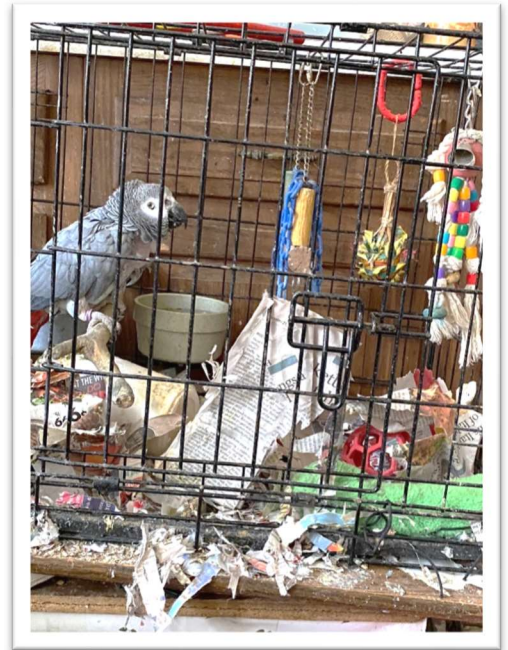
- 1) failure to provide adequate animal care,
- 2) dogs creating a public nuisance,
- 3) failure to display or obtain a city license,
- 4) failure to comply with dangerous dog ordinance requirements, and
- 5) dogs running at large

Citations were also issued for not spaying/neutering pitbull-type dogs, and pitbull breeding violations. **One (1) case of animal abuse was referred to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office for state-level prosecution.**

In February, the Cruelty Investigations Team obtained two search warrants from the Municipal Court to enter property and seize animals that were victims of abuse and neglect. This resulted in the successful rescue of five animals.

The first search warrant was to remove a small breed dog who was reported to have been abandoned inside a home and subjected to neglect in the 10800 block of Oak Street in Kansas City, MO. During the execution of this warrant, investigators not only discovered a very matted, elderly dog (above), but also discovered an African Grey parrot in a maggot filled cage (right) within the home. Every room was filled with debris and was uninhabitable inside, and both the dog and the parrot required medical attention at our shelter and specialized care.

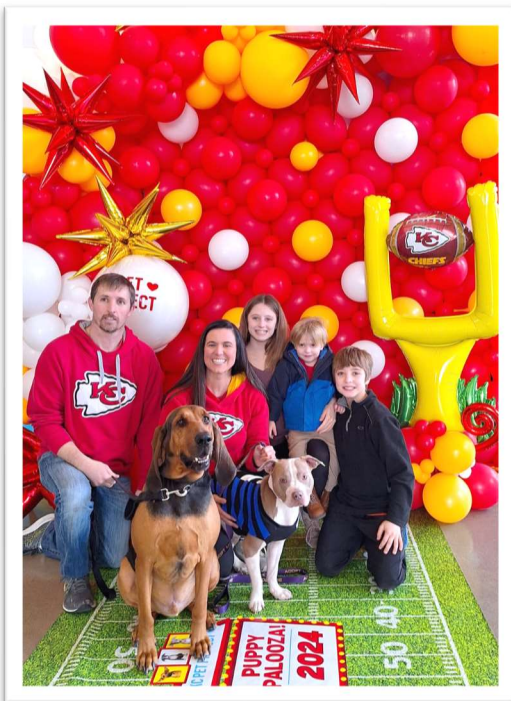
The second search warrant was for **investigation of alleged cockfighting** where approximately 25 roosters, cockfighting paraphernalia, and supplements marketed to cockfighters were uncovered by our animal cruelty investigators during a routine welfare check in the 100 block of N. Brighton in Kansas City, MO. Several birds were removed from the property and this case has been referred to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office for state level cruelty charges. Cockfighting is illegal in Missouri and is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year and/or a maximum \$5,000 fine. A second offense may be charged as a felony punishable in state prison for up to three years and a fine up to \$25,000.



## Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ In celebration of the KC Chief's appearance in the Super Bowl, we held our "Road to Vegas" adoption special from February 1<sup>st</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> featuring \$87 puppies and \$15 adult dogs. We had 346 dogs adopted during the special (including Missy below)!
- ❖ For the Super Bowl, we had a wager with the Humane Society of Silicon Valley (HSSV). The "losing" shelter had to purchase treats for the humans and the pets at the other shelter and the CEO had to post a video congratulating the winning city shelter. HSSV sent us Ghirardelli chocolates, sourdough bread, dog and cat treats and toys for our pets. They also named a litter of puppies after Chiefs players (and Taylor).
- ❖ Our **Have a Heart KC** campaign launched in February to bring in new monthly supporters. Each person who signed up as a monthly donor will receive a custom KCPP decal.
- ❖ Tori worked with Fairfax County Shelter and Humane Rescue Alliance in DC on volunteer communication strategies.



- ❖ In February, we had 51 news stories and 54 broadcast mentions with a total reach of **725,888,692 million people!** The story of Horton the dog reached millions of people and was featured on MSN.com.
- ❖ We did live shots at the shelter with Fox 4 the morning of the Super Bowl that featured our adoption special.
- ❖ We were the beneficiary of Minsky's *Love Your Pets* week.

- ❖ Tori was a panelist in the Maddie's Fund/UC Davis "Back Where They Belong" webinar series on helping lost pets get back home. She was asked to speak about KC Pet Project's website and the resources we have listed to help lost and found pets get back home.
- ❖ Tori gave a presentation to Nonprofit Connect's Volunteer Management Institute on "Communications with Your Volunteers."
- ❖ We hosted a student for Nonprofit Connect Shadow Day, a day where college students visit nonprofits to learn about all they do. Our student was from the University of Central Missouri and learned about retail and she assisted our staff with taking dog photos for marketing.
- ❖ Two dozen staff members from the Nebraska Humane Society (below) and Best Friends Animal Society traveled to KC on February 28<sup>th</sup> to spend the entire day with our management team to learn more about our lifesaving programs and services!



Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 71,000	131,000+ followers on Instagram
New Users- 65,000	197,000+ followers on Facebook
Sessions – 136,000	1.3 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 633,000	

## Volunteer Program Updates

In February, **629** volunteers gave **4,572.37** hours of services, the equivalent of 26.37 full-time employees.

- ✓ 435 volunteers gave hours at KCCAC
- ✓ 59 volunteers gave hours at our Zona Rosa Adoption Center
- ✓ 84 volunteers gave hours at our Petco Cat Habitat locations
- ✓ 7 volunteers gave hours at our Petco Adoption Center

Total value of volunteer hours in February: \$129,910.28 – a 9% increase from last month

**Businesses and groups** that volunteered in February brought 125 people to our Campus and gave 346 hours of service – a value of \$9,874.84: *UMKC Pre-Dental Society, Commerce Trust Company, Cox Automotive, Turner Middle School, New Mark Middle School, Charlie’s Car Wash, Faith Christian Academy, Transition Center of Kansas City, Liberty Academy, Girl Scouts*

## Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

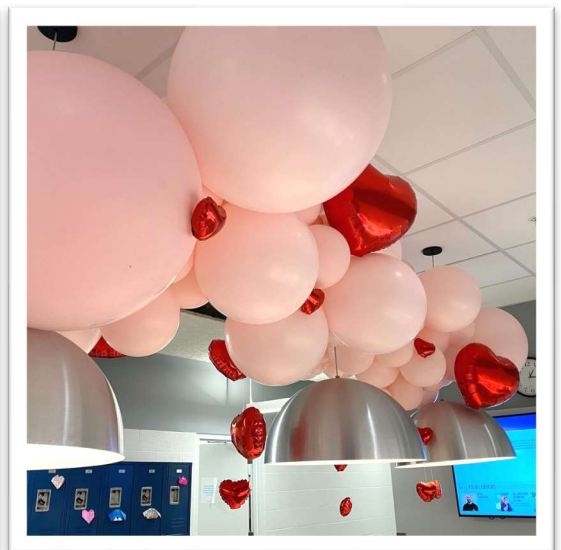
- ✓ **Total active volunteers:** 1,998; including 61 newly active volunteers
- ✓ We received 233 new volunteer signups in February
- ✓ Four (4) new volunteer orientations were conducted for 61 attendees
- ✓ 61 new volunteers gave 317.31 volunteer hours last month, and 119 volunteers participated in 225.28 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 98 volunteers.
- ✓ Nineteen (19) court-ordered community service volunteers gave 165.28 hours in February, which is a value of \$4,717.09.

## News From the Volunteer Department

February ushered in unusual springtime weather and brought our volunteers back to our main campus in full force - which meant longer volunteer dog walks and some sun time on the Catio's with our feline friends!

For Valentines Day, staff were treated to an afternoon party, complete with a balloon display from Up, Up, and Away and a huge spread of sweet treats, take-home goodies, and Valentines cards from a local school!

We’ve also been incredibly lucky to receive a weekly cookie delivery from Eileen’s Colossal Cookies, thanks to one of our longtime volunteers, Teddy Wright!



Our Federal Community Service Program kicked off this month, and we are excited to be the first animal shelter in the Kansas City area to pilot this program! Our community service folks take on many of the tasks that help make our shelter thrive, including most of our custodial tasks around our main campus. Our program equitably supports our community members and connects them to our lifesaving work in a way that directly supports our operations.



Ever wonder who creates the amazing window art murals around our canine area? This is none other than two of our own interns, Kelsey and her daughter Emma! Kelsey and Emma update all of the wonderful murals that decorate our dog suites (photo above right) and indoor meet-and-greet rooms. This wonderful contribution of time and talent to our shelter cultivates a fun and welcoming atmosphere for visitors, potential adopters, and our own staff and volunteer team!

### Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in February 2024

Surgeries		Medicine		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	44	Wellness exams	95	Parvo pups treated	18
Community Cats spayed	51	Emergency exams	62	Parvo pups graduated	17
Reclaimed pets neutered	15	Foster pet exams	17	<b>Save rate for parvo</b>	<b>94%</b>
Reclaimed pets spayed	18	Rechecks performed	211	<b>Clinic Administration</b>	
Shelter Animals Neutered	247	Medical concerns addressed	364	Foster concerns addressed	232
Shelter Animals Spayed	247	Post-adoption exams	6	Adopter concerns addressed	189
Speciality Surgeries	40	Other Exams	221	Medications filled	386
<b>Total Surgeries</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>Total Exams</b>	<b>976</b>		

### News from the Veterinary Clinic

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it sure didn't bring any fewer homeless pets needing our dedicated veterinary staff to make them feel better.

**Kernel** (right) arrived at our shelter on February 23<sup>rd</sup> after he and his brother were found in an abandoned house, left behind after an eviction. Thankfully, a maintenance worker was checking out the home, found the dogs, and immediately called our Animal Services team. Our Cruelty Investigation Officers sprang into action and brought the pups to the shelter for care.

Both dogs arrived in stable condition but were shy and scared. Our Canine Intake staff were able to perform their intake examinations and administer vaccines, but during their interaction with Kernel, they noted he seemed "off." He was lethargic and appeared weak as he was walking around the room.



They quickly alerted our veterinary clinic. Kernel was definitely not feeling well. He was dehydrated, pale, and weak. Our doctors ran bloodwork and found some abnormalities, so our veterinary assistants took x-rays to look for more answers.

When they saw his x-rays, our doctors identified a large, abnormal pattern of gas in his small intestines. This, along with his bloodwork, pointed to a foreign body obstruction. After a full night of intravenous fluids to prevent shock, antibiotics to prevent sepsis, and analgesics to prevent pain, Kernel was prepped for emergency surgery. Exploratory surgery can be risky and identifying where and what the blockage is can be the biggest challenge. However, our incredible Dr. Reinhardt quickly found and removed the blockage – a CORN COB! We see corn cobs quite often as foreign bodies, and thankfully we found this one in time before it became fatal.

The day after his surgery, Kernel was standing and so happy to see us. He made rapid progress while recovering in our hospital and after several weeks we were able to make him available for adoption. He left our care with a new lease on life and a name that will remind us of his story. 😊



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

### Customer Engagement Performance

#### Google Ratings:

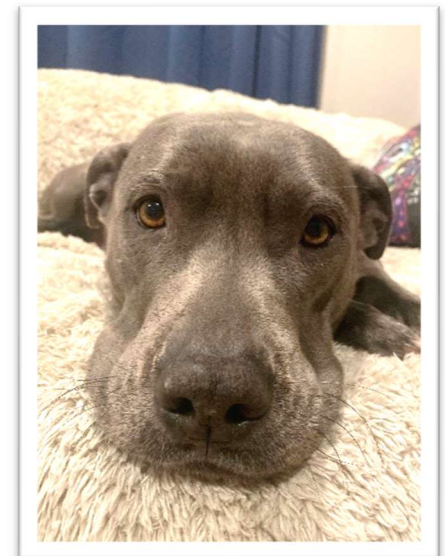
- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.3/5.00** (1,539 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (697 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (214 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **677** emails were received in February inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **915** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process.

We received **70** adoption updates last month, including this note from an adopter:

*“I adopted Sofia (right) on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. She has brought SO MUCH JOY into my life. She is the wiggliest, cuddliest, sweetest dog I’ve ever met. We are working with a trainer on building some basic manners, reducing fear response with men, and leash training. She is excelling! When I adopted her, she was missing a lot of fur on her hind end from untreated allergies and fleas; she has grown back nearly all her fur and has also put on about 8-10 lbs. to reach a healthy weight. She is a brand-new pup.”*

*“We adopted Eisley (now Lyla Lae) as a buddy for our dog Robin. Robin is deaf and his hearing buddy died suddenly of a stroke. I wanted an older dog, but my son insisted on Lyla and refused to leave without her. She is having a wonderful time with her new brothers and is fearless. We soon discovered that Lyla is also deaf! She can now train to learn sign language with Robin. Our family knows that deafness won't hold them back from adventures.”*



### Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction & Services Provided

- ✓ **2024 Rating: 4.89/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.68/5.0 stars: 44 surveys submitted in February, 1,269 submitted since launch in September 2020

*“This team is amazing – thank you for your help!”*

*“Very pleasant staff. Showed care and concern for all the animals. Very good.”*

*“This place was more than amazing. I can’t express how much you have helped me with the cost of my pets. I would not have been able to get them back. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”*

- ❖ In February, the Pet Support Center staff assisted approximately **1,209** KCMO residents with in-person services (an average of 42 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 **7:40** minutes.*
  - ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **102** animals whose owners originally contacted KCPP to surrender their pet(s), **104** animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, **81** were diverted through in-person conversations by our PSC staff, and 6 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter.
- A total of 294 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter thanks to supportive services provided by KCPP staff.***
- ❖ We took in **304** stray/lost animals from the public in February.

**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 (161 pets),
2. Housing Issues including cost of housing, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (124 pets).
3. Health of owner or health of pet (116),
4. Lack of financial resources or inability to access resources for their pets, including costs for veterinary care and unplanned litters (100 pets)

**Pet Support Call Center/Pet Helpline Performance**

February 2024	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	2,968	449	3417	13%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	64	23	87	26%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	623	197	820	24%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	3,655	669	4324	15%
OUT < Helpline – Main	966	173	1,139	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	313	96	409	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,279	269	1,548	N/A
<b>Total Performance for February 2024</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>5,872</b>	<b>16%</b>

Our Pet Support Center team answered **3,655** live phone calls, made **1,139** outbound calls, resolved 229 voicemails, and completed a total of 6,641 interactions with families in February.

**Return-to-Home Team**

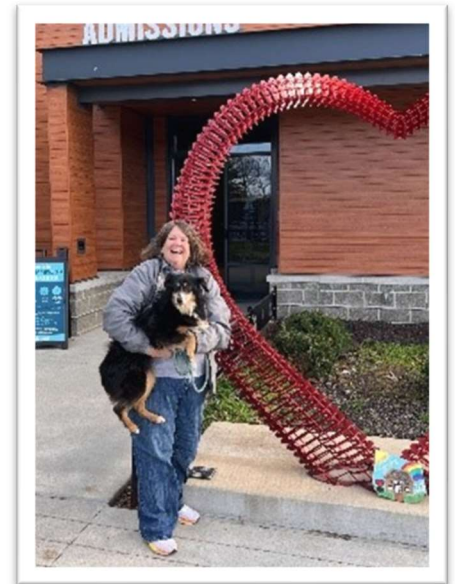
- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 108 Lost Pet Reports and 45 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 293 in-depth microchip/ownership investigations for stray animals in our care.



- ❖ 148 (28%) of the 538 lost animals brought to the shelter in February were returned to their owners. Nearly thirty percent (30%) of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 5% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners.
- ❖ Pet Support Center staff attended a two-day online Animal Summit Conference in February. The “Back Where They Belong: A Solution-Sharing Summit to get Animals Home Faster, Easier, Better” conference was held on consecutive Wednesday afternoons in February. Staff learned best practices for reuniting lost pets with their families both before the animals arrive at the shelter, and once they have been brought in.

### Returned-to-Home: Jimmini’s Return

**Jimmini** (right) is an Australian Shepherd that was adopted by a nice woman from a rescue, however; Jimmini jumped out the car window at a gas station before she could even make it home! Her new owner came to the shelter almost daily to check and see if she had been found. Finally, her efforts paid off -- and Jimmini was brought to the shelter by a Good Samaritan 12 days after she went missing! Her new owner was elated and so grateful to finally take her home.



### Rehoming Support Services

In February, our team received 122 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **51** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 3,684 requests for ReHome services since November 2021.*

- *We received 390 initial requests in February from residents seeking to surrender their pets to the shelter.*

### Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Tara McNamara, Keep ‘Em Together Program Manager, reported **313** families benefitted from our four (4) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in February:

#### 1. Pet Care Assistance Program (PCAP)

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$1,958.23** for 9 families (11 pets) was provided by KCPP in February.

- ✓ 12 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance granted: \$579.23
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$1,379.00

#### 2. Pet Resource Assistance Program

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

**215 families with 381 pets benefitted directly from these resources provided in February.**

- ✓ 621 lbs. of cat food
- ✓ 1,858.5 lbs. of dog food
- ✓ 80 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 35 collars and 20 leashes
- ✓ 19 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 4 kennels/crates and 1 doghouse
- ✓ 8 dog toys, and 110 miscellaneous pet care items

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***A new community partner was added in February -- Sidney and Mike’s Angels. This group provides food and other supplies to the unhoused in downtown Kansas City. The Keep ‘Em Together, KC initiative is now helping this organization provide pet food to those pet families in need.***

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### 3. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

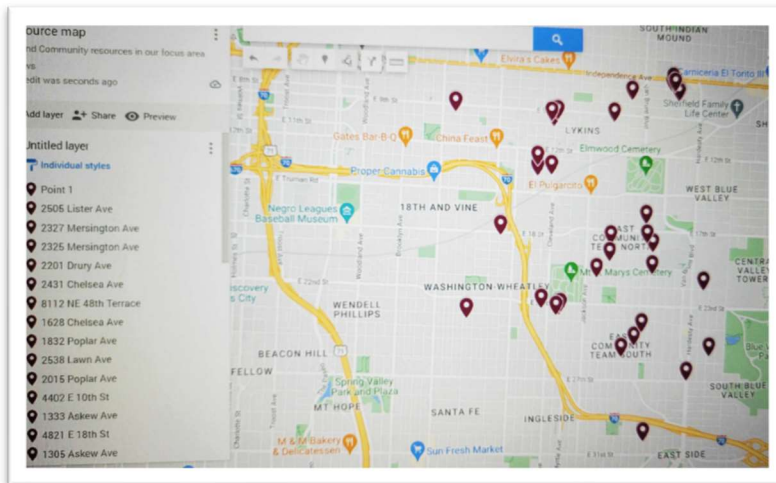
- ✓ 70% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in February were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ Since June 2021, we have subsidized \$277,874.00 in reclaim fees for 2,647 families with 3,110 pets.

**In February, \$9,810.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 89 families with 101 pets.**

### 4. Pets For Life (PFL) Program:

Mariana Vasquez, Pets for Life Coordinator, reported Pet Resource Center of KC (PRC) is our new veterinary partner for the program. PRC will be providing spay/neuter services and some minor veterinary services to our Pets for Life families. Surgeries are already being scheduled for clients.

- New Clients met: 40
- Number of pets met: 90
- Number of spay/neuter appointments scheduled: 9
- Number of touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 50
- Supplies given to clients: 149 items, including kennels/food/collars/leashes/toys
- Medications or services given: 3



### Keeping 'Em Together: Raymond and Misty

In January, right before a miserable cold front had Kansas City in negative temperatures for days, an elderly gentleman came into KCPP looking for his 2 dogs, Misty and Major. Our Return-to-Home Coordinator, Laura, walked him through the entire shelter looking for them. He became emotional when he realized that they were not there. He stated he kept to himself, and Misty and Major were the only family he had. Laura learned that he doesn't get out much or use social media, so he couldn't really get the word out about his missing dogs. After he left, Laura got to work. She found a Facebook post that someone had found Major and was able to facilitate Major's return home. Laura continued working on locating Misty, knowing freezing weather was on the way.



Two days later, our Animal Services team received a report of an injured dog shivering outside the yard of an abandoned house. An Animal Services Officer rushed to pick up the dog for medical treatment – and that dog turned out to be Misty! She had several serious injuries, and her body temperature was extremely low. Our vet clinic team was able to stabilize Misty and treat her injuries.

We reached out to the owner, and he was so thankful that she was found and was safe. Misty had a long road to recovery before she could go home. After a month in our hospital ward, Misty was finally

ready to return home. Once the owner got the call, he rushed to the shelter, overjoyed to be reunited with Misty. He expressed his gratitude to all who supported our Keep 'Em Together program that helped cover the cost of Misty's lifesaving treatment and help him get his beloved family member back home.

## Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 53
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 128
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters: 22
- ❖ Avg. daily number of dogs in canine playgroups: **168**
  
- ❖ 128 post-adoption support follow up emails sent
- ❖ 12 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ 38 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ Assisted 6 people with behavior help or lessons for recently adopted or foster dogs



Last month, we began a new partnership with **Jog Dat Dog**, a mobile gym for dogs. Jog Dat Dog comes twice a week and pairs up with our Behavior and Enrichment team to provide exercise for dogs in our care utilizing slat mills (a self-powered treadmill for dogs). In February, the Behavior and Enrichment Team was the beneficiary of a **new slat mill**, generously donated by one of our supporters, and implemented it into our work. The team is thrilled to have these additional resources to provide enrichment and drive expression for the most at-risk dogs in our care.

## Canine Operations & Adoptions

We had 937 visitors at our KC Campus for Animal Care in February who were interested in meeting dogs available for adoption.

- ✓ Nearly **43%** of all visitors who met with a Canine Matchmaker adopted a dog that day.
- ✓ The average wait time for a Canine Matchmaker in February was 12 minutes.
- ✓ The average total time spent at KCCAC to meet and/or adopt a dog was 65 minutes.

**489** dogs and puppies were adopted last month – that's a **1% decrease in dog adoptions from last February**.

The Canine Care & Adoptions teams trained in dog walking, dog to dog introductions, and showing dogs to potential adopters. Topics at the February team meeting included the upcoming 2024 Department of Ag inspection, playgroup protocols, submitting digital medical concerns, and employee satisfaction. Canine Adoptions stayed busy with "Waived Fee Wednesdays", as well as a successful Road to Vegas adoption special. Foster-to-adopt arrangements continue to gain popularity, with 13 dogs currently in the program.

**KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey** rating: **4.86/5.0** stars (3 surveys submitted in February)

*"I will forever adopt from KC Pet Project!"*

## Canine Foster Care Program

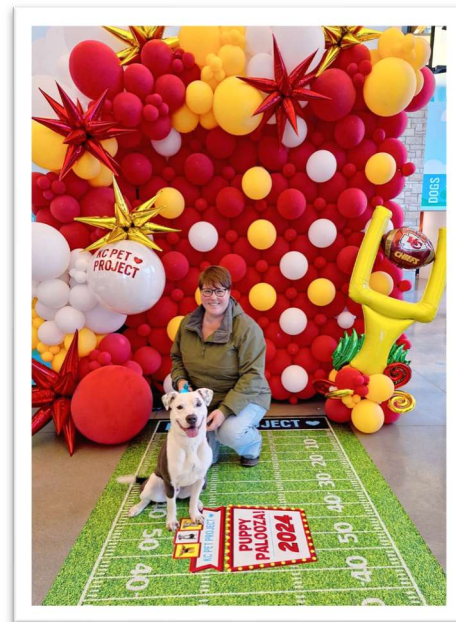
Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported **134 dogs** (30% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of February.

- ✓ During the month, **301** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes.
- ✓ Volunteers took **172** dogs on a Dog's Day Out last month!
- ✓ We welcomed **83** new dog foster families.
- ✓ We had **67** dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.

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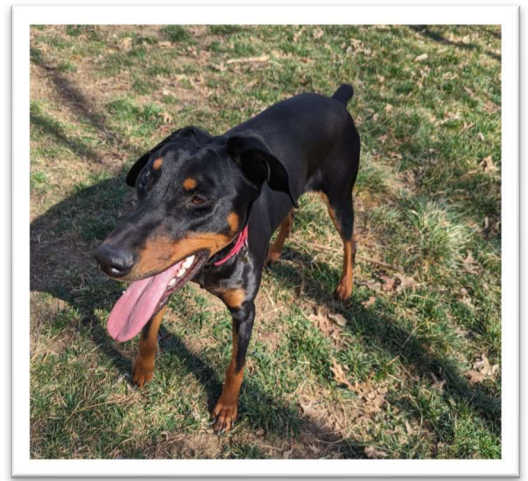
***Our Canine Care team cared for an average of 257 dogs daily at our KC Campus for Animal Care in February.***

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In February, the Foster Department hosted an information session on fostering moms and puppies. In preparation for warmer weather, we're attempting to get more fosters that can take bottle babies and nursing moms. We had a couple of our most veteran mom and pups fosters that helped with the presentation. We plan to host additional sessions in the upcoming weeks, including one on bottle babies.

**Little Debbie Dobie** (right), was a Doberman with a neurological condition that went into a foster home in mid-February. Little Debbie's condition affected her balance and depth-perception, but she didn't let that slow her down at all. She went into a home with another Doberman that she quickly bonded with and learned from, and after a couple of weeks, Little Debbie Dobie found her forever home!



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

Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 30 dogs were transferred to these rescue organizations in February: *American Belgian Malinois Rescue (AMBR)*, *Columbia Second Chance*, *Great Plains SPCA*, *Mid America Boston Terrier Rescue*, *Midwest Schipperke Rescue*, *Missouri Pit Bull Rescue*, *Pawsitive Tails*, *The Rescue Project*, *Wayside Waifs*, and *Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary* (who took **Boo** – shown below – the little matted dog found by Animal Services abandoned inside a home along with a parrot).

We formed a new rescue partnership with Midwest Schipperke Rescue.

### Small Animals & Transportation Program:

Seventy-two (72) puppies/small dogs and fifty-two (52) large dogs were moved to our Zona Rosa Adoption Center or Petco Adoption Center in February!

We processed **31** small animal adoptions last month – 16 chickens, 2 gerbils, 9 guinea pigs, 3 rabbits, and 1 rooster.



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

Gage Mofield, our Petco Program Coordinator, oversaw the transfer of **94** cats/kittens from *Austin Pets Alive!*, *City of Raymore Animal Control*, *Gladstone Animal Control*, *Independence Animal Services*, *Joplin Humane Society*, *Liberty Animal Shelter*, and *Permian Basin Animal Advocates*.

The average length of stay for cats in a Petco Cat Habitat in February was 4 days, but the length of stay for kittens was **less than 1 day** at the Habitats. We routinely get calls about kittens going up on our website before they even make it to the stores!

- ✓ We processed **58** cat/kitten adoptions from our Petco Cat Habitat stores, as well as 22 adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café.
- ✓ The Liberty Petco store had the highest number of adoptions in February (11).
- ✓ **84** volunteers gave 677.28 hours of service in our Petco Cat Habitats – a value of \$19,329.67 and the equivalent of nearly 4 full time employees.
- ✓ 28% of all adoptions in February occurred through a Petco store.

At Whiskers Cat Cafe, Elliott and Auggie (formerly **Alec** and **Rupert** - right), found their forever home together! Elliott, the shy but loving adult cat, blossomed in confidence with his new buddy Auggie by his side. Auggie eagerly embraced his role as companion, and they quickly formed a beautiful friendship.



## Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported we began to see a small number of kittens coming into the shelter in February. We sent only **21** (16 kittens and 5 adult cats) to foster homes last month.

At the end of the month, **32** cats/kittens (22% of the cats at KCPP) were in 12 foster homes, and we onboarded 10 new foster homes in preparation for our upcoming kitten season in 2024.



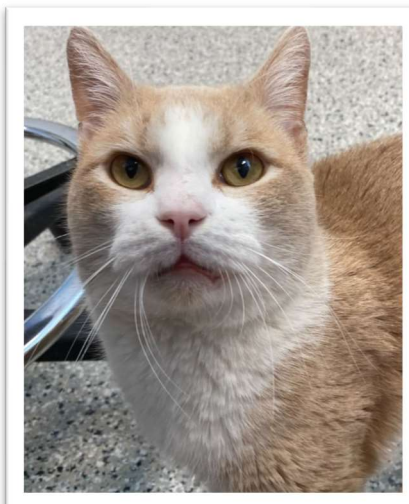
On February 11<sup>th</sup>, we were contacted by Athens Humane Society in Georgia for advice and guidance on rebuilding their foster program and were able to send resources and information on how our program operates. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, we had the opportunity to chat with foster coordinators from Nebraska Humane Society, who are planning on expanding their foster program to include bottle baby kittens.

We were able to answer questions and provide training regarding bottle baby care and how our **Bottle Baby Squad** operates. It's always a rewarding experience to share what we've learned and how we've developed our lifesaving programs with other shelters.

## Feline Operations

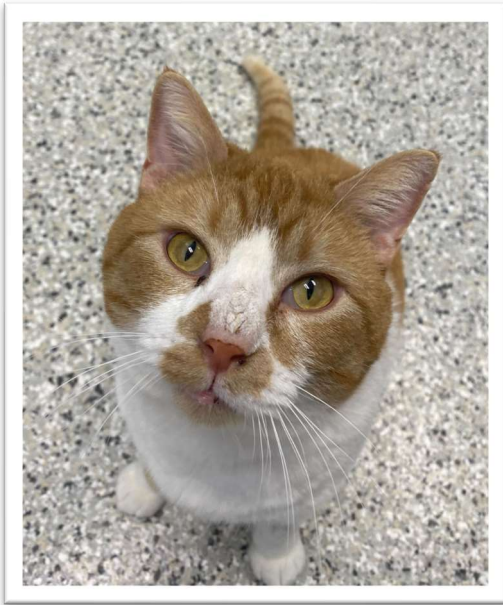
Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **335** cats/kittens in February. We had **227** cats adopted – a 33% decrease from last February.

- ✓ **303** families arrived in February at our KCCAC location that were interested in adopting cats.
- ✓ The average wait time to see cats was approximately 10 minutes.
- ✓ Nearly **32%** of all visitors who met with a Feline Matchmaker adopted a cat that day.
- ✓ Visitors spend, on average, nearly 38 minutes meeting cats before deciding to adopt.



**Grunkle Stan**, a 14-year-old senior kitty, was adopted this month! He spent 6 weeks with us getting healthy enough for adoption. We also sent **Gibby** (left) home this month; he needed a few dental surgeries and spent just over a month with us.

**Dale** (below) was transferred to us from Joplin Humane Society at the end of January. We noted he had exaggerated head movements and observed him for several weeks. His big, playful personality won over the entire staff, and he was adopted less than 24 hours after being made available.



**Chipmunk** (right) arrived in November, under 2 lbs. and injured. She was with us for two and a half months in our hospital to resolve her medical issues, but this cutie found her new family in February.



**Asiago Ranch Chicken Club, Son of Baconator, and 6 Piece Spicy Chicken Nuggets** (below) were adopted this month! These three were part of an “over the limit” case and were brought in via our Animal Services team on October 30, 2023. They were all very shy

around people and needed help from our staff to feel brave enough to solicit attention from strangers. We were all proud to see these three beautiful kitties find new homes in February!



Submitted by,

*TJohnson*

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