

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for January 2024 Activities

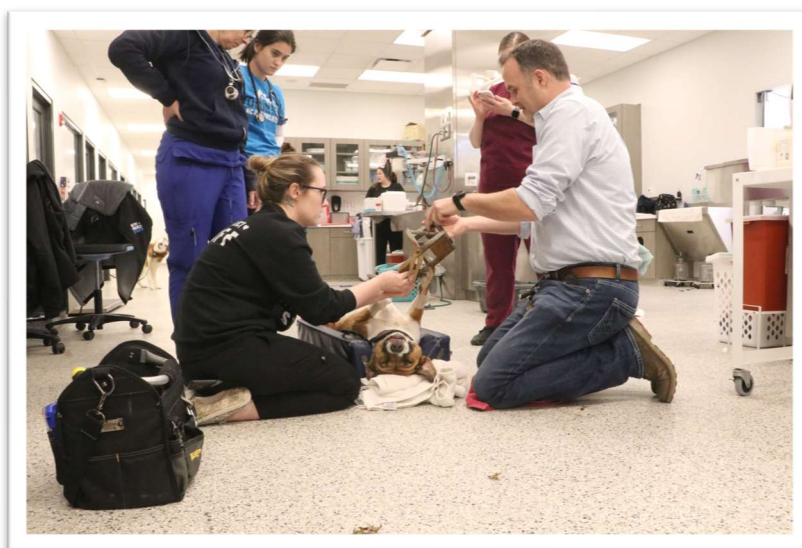
Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals for January	2024	2023	Difference
Total Intake	1,301	1,176	125 more
Adoptions	852	770	82 more
Returned to Owners	140	148	8 fewer
Live Release Rate	92.5%	95.2%	2.7% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	242	171	71 more
Stray animals brought in by public	434	456	22 fewer
Cats/kittens transferred IN	167	269	102 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	811	597	214 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	20.9 days	20.8 days	0.1 days longer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	15.2 days	14.0 days	1.2 days longer

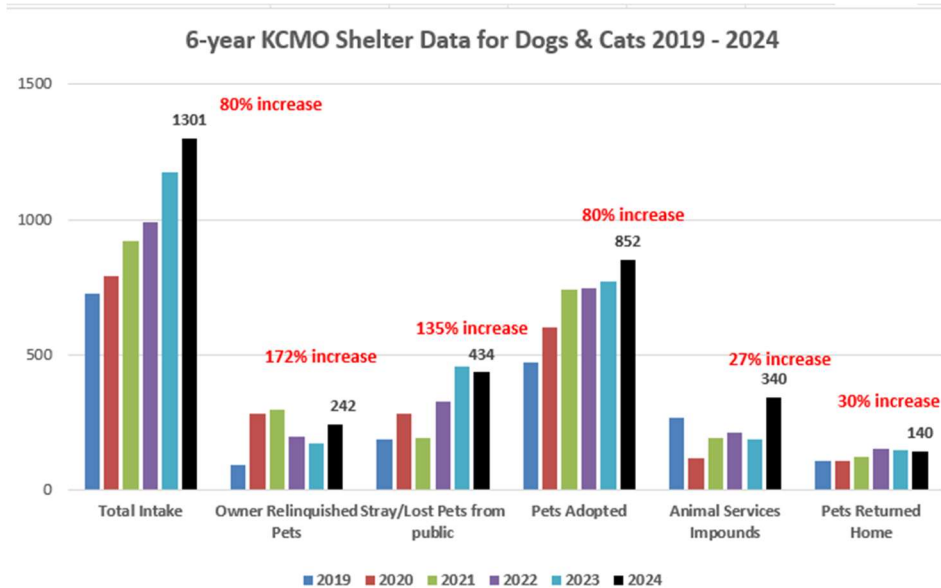
January 2024 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,301** new dogs and cats that arrived in January (792 dogs, 509 cats), along with 18 chickens, 2 gerbils, 3 goats, 8 guinea pigs, 4 rabbits, 1 rat, and 2 turtles.
- ❖ **852** pets were adopted in January (463 dogs, 389 cats, and 11 other pets).
- ❖ Despite the continued increase in the number of animals arriving and the length of stay increasing for dogs and cats, we achieved a **92.5%** Save Rate in January (90.2% dogs, 95.7% cats).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed **858** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in January. Doctors performed **1,441** medical examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter – including pets arriving with medical emergencies (right).
- ❖ We provided low cost spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 87 community cats last month.
- ❖ We provided free spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 14 owned dogs that were reclaimed and reunited with their families.
- ❖ **356** dogs/puppies and 27 cats/kittens were sent to foster homes in January!

We took in 792 dogs in January – the 2nd highest number of dogs EVER received in one month in our shelter's history.



Data Trends 2024



Intake for dogs and cats is still running at the highest level recorded in our 12-year history – increasing steadily with an overall **80% increase** in the number of animals arriving over the past 6 years.

Adoptions are still at the highest levels in our 12-year history – **up 80%** over the past 6 years.

Stray/lost pets brought in by the public are still at the highest level ever recorded in Kansas City – **up 135%** from 2019 totals.

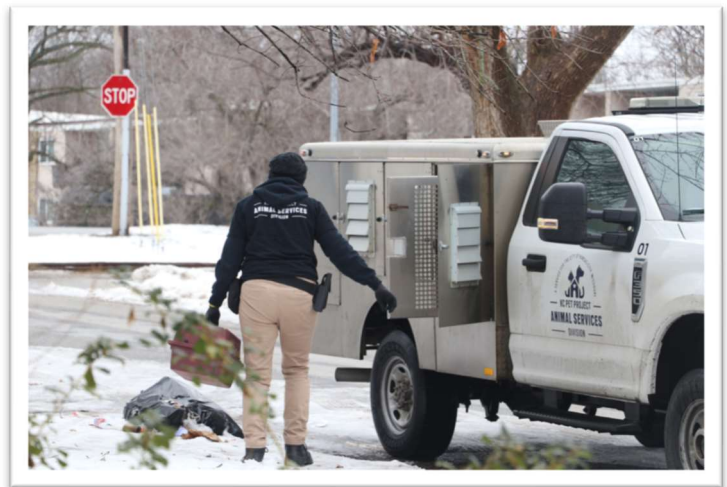
Pets Surrendered by their Owners have **risen 172%** over 2019 totals.

Our **Live Release Rate** (save rate) has decreased due to the unprecedented numbers of dogs arriving, with the level of dog euthanasia 97% higher than in January 2023. **Our Live Release Rate for dogs in January was 90.2%.**

Animal Services Division Update for January 2024

Officers worked **1,890** case activities last month, travelling a total of **15,119** miles throughout the city, impounding **361** animals, and returning an additional **12** lost pets back to their homes without having to impound them.

- ❖ We saw a **171%** increase in the number of animals brought in last month due to cruelty/neglect. Our team handled a **200%** increase in calls from residents reporting neglected pets in cold weather in January.
- ❖ We saw a **332%** increase in the number of pets signed over in the field by owners who were no longer able to humanely care for their pets.
- ❖ Our Animal Cruelty Investigations Team investigated and closed **367** animal cruelty cases.
- ❖ Our Dispatch team answered 2,858 phone calls, made 909 outbound calls to residents, and resolved 126 voicemail messages.



Enforcement & Criminal Deterrent Efforts by our Animal Services Division

In January, officers issued twenty-nine (**29**) **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 January:

- 1) failure to provide adequate animal care,
- 2) dogs creating a public nuisance,
- 3) failure to display or obtain a city license,
- 4) dogs running at large, and
- 5) abandonment of a pet

Animal Services Division – Total Case Activities for January

Officers worked **1,375** unique cases in January 2024 and were dispatched to **1,890** total case activities -- composed of all calls from residents received through the 311 Call Center or direct calls to Animal Services dispatch team, online reports submitted via the website by residents, and the additional follow up activities required to resolve cases or ensure compliance.

				
Calls from Residents Resulting in Cases	Online Reports Received by ASD	Case Follow Up Activities Performed	Total Case Activities for the Month	% of Calls resulting in Case Creation
1,146	229	515	1,890	40.1%

Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ Our *Sweatin' Off the Shelter Pounds* adoption special ran January 22nd-28th and 201 pets were adopted during the event.
- ❖ We launched our public-facing online **Canine At-Risk List** featuring all dogs on our internal at-risk list. All adoption fees for these dogs have been waived.
- ❖ Tori and Chief Ryan Johnson worked with the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) on promotions for the Fox TV show **Animal Control**.
- ❖ The General Manager of 810AM sports radio heard our shelter was at crisis capacity and ran free promo ads for us during the AFC Championship week.
- ❖ Tori and Teresa Johnson met with the new Director of Housing for Kansas City, MO, Blaine Proctor, and the Houseless Coordinator for the City to discuss the data around pets and housing in 2023. Human Animal Support Services (HASS) team members helped compile the data and the presentation. We look forward to continuing our dialog with them on what we can do to make KCMO more inclusive for pet owners as it pertains to housing policies.
- ❖ Our TikTok video went viral of a dog named Horton who was found abandoned, along with a deceased dog, in a home after the tenant had been evicted. The video has been viewed by more than **4.3 million people**. Our team is working with The Dodo to feature his story, and we had an article about his rescue featured in Newsweek.
- ❖ On January 15th, Brittany Mahomes stopped by with her children, Sterling and Bronze, to bring some donations to KCPP and to give our dogs some treats. Bronze was particularly fond of the kitties!
- ❖ KC Pet Project was featured in a national publication, *Philanthropy.com*, for our fundraising through TikTok. Tori has received many messages from fundraising professionals around Kansas City who saw us featured in the article. We were recommended for the article through Classy, our fundraising platform.
- ❖ We had a lot of media coverage discussing pet safety, urging pet owners to bring their pets inside, highlighting the work of our Animal Services Team and how our shelter is at capacity. We had 26 news stories on those topics and were mentioned during TV/radio broadcasts an additional 50 times.



In January, we had 42 news stories and 141 broadcast mentions with a total reach of **263,328,416 million people**.

- We did live shots with Fox 4 on *Healthy Tips for the New Year for You and Your Pets*.
- We had a huge media response to pets left in cold weather and gave many interviews on pet safety and the work of our Animal Services team.
- KSHB did a ride along with our officers on what they are doing in the community to help keep pets safe.

Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 70,000	119,000+ followers on Instagram
New Users- 64,000	169,000+ followers on Facebook
Sessions – 135,000	1.3 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 1,300,000	

Volunteer Program Updates

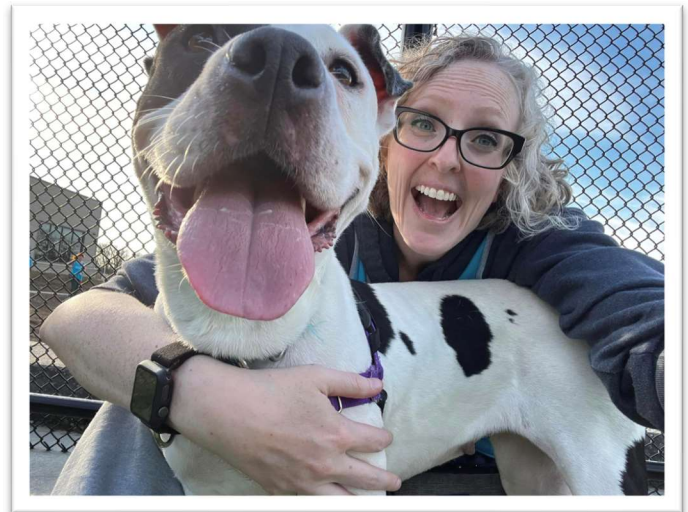
In January, **556** volunteers gave **4,179.84** hours of services, the equivalent of 24 full-time employees.

- ✓ 349 volunteers gave hours at KCCAC
- ✓ 66 volunteers gave hours at our Zona Rosa Adoption Center
- ✓ 99 volunteers gave hours at our Petco Cat Habitat locations
- ✓ 9 volunteers gave hours at our Petco Adoption Center

Total value of volunteer hours in January: \$119,262.42

Seventy-seven (77) new volunteers gave 281.87 hours in December and 142 volunteers participated in 233.85 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 89 volunteers.

Businesses and groups that volunteered in January, bringing 91 people to the Campus, and giving 158.5 hours of services: *National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Sporting KC, Farmers Insurance, Alternative Resource Center, Transition Center of Kansas City, Liberty Academy, and multiple Girl Scout troops.*



Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- ✓ **Total active volunteers: 2,132**
- ✓ We received 310 new volunteer signups in January
- ✓ Four (4) new volunteer orientations were conducted for 60 attendees
- ✓ 74 new volunteers gave 168.37 of in-person volunteer hours in January, and 119 volunteers participated in 410.01 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 97 volunteers.
- ✓ Twenty (20) court-ordered community service volunteers gave 228.83 hours in January, which is a value of \$6,530.81.

News From the Volunteer Department

In mid-January, the volunteer team re-introduced our monthly **Volunteer e-Newsletter**, complete with information on new volunteer opportunities, volunteer and department highlights, upcoming events, and more! As we continue to experience a high influx of dog admissions into our shelter, staff and volunteer mentors have been working diligently to train volunteers to handle our shelter dogs that need a bit more support. This month, in partnership with the Behavior and Enrichment team, 6 volunteers completed and passed their **blue level training** and three more completed their 3-week prerequisite course before taking their blue-level walking test! These are intensive but critically important training workshops for volunteers who have dedicated themselves to the walk program to help support the dogs and staff at the

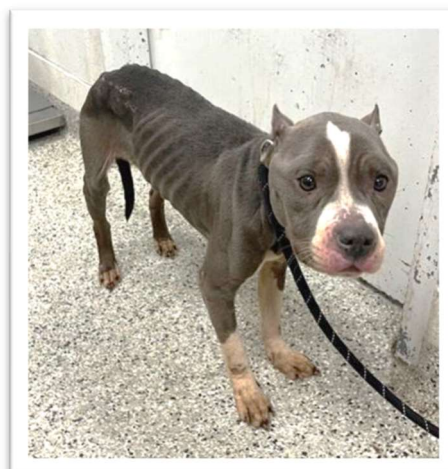
shelter. Our corporate and youth group service programs are starting to ramp up for spring, and we are excited to announce we are already booking programs and group volunteer opportunities well into June 2024!

Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in January 2024

Surgeries		Medicine		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	41	Wellness exams	159	Parvo pups treated	1
Community Cats spayed	46	Emergency exams	78	Parvo pups graduated	0
Reclaimed pets neutered	8	Foster pet exams	25	Save rate for parvo	0%
Reclaimed pets spayed	6	Rechecks performed	286		
Shelter Animals Neutered	373	Medical concerns addressed	545	Clinic Administration	
Shelter Animals Spayed	337	Post-adoption exams	11	Foster concerns addressed	214
Speciality Surgeries	47	Other Exams	337	Adopter concerns addressed	292
				Medications filled	339
Total Surgeries	858	Total Exams	1441		

News from the Veterinary Clinic

The new year brought harsh weather conditions, with dangerously low temperatures leading to a surge in intake numbers as animals were brought in from the cold. January saw a record number of emaciated animals requiring specialized care from our medical teams. While healthy animals can withstand the cold better, emaciated ones are at higher risk of death. We implement careful warming procedures and conduct thorough exams and lab work to address any underlying medical issues. Our feeding protocols are closely monitored to prevent complications from overfeeding, which can be fatal for starved animals. Despite the challenges, our experienced team implements tailored refeeding schedules to nurse these animals back to health, making the rewarding process of seeing them ready for adoption even more gratifying.



Strawberry Tart (above left) was brought in by Animal Services after someone reported seeing her thrown from a vehicle. She was able to go into a foster home until she was healthy enough to be spayed and made available for adoption.

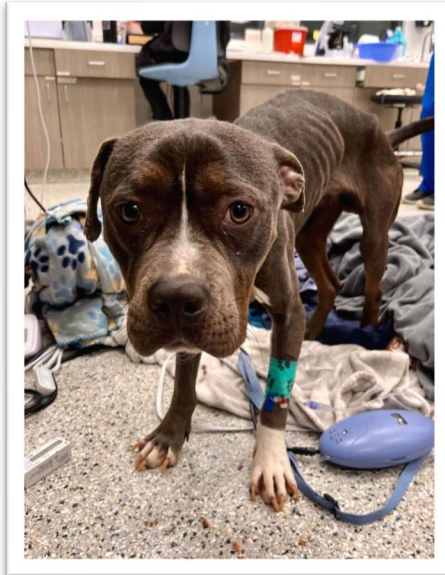
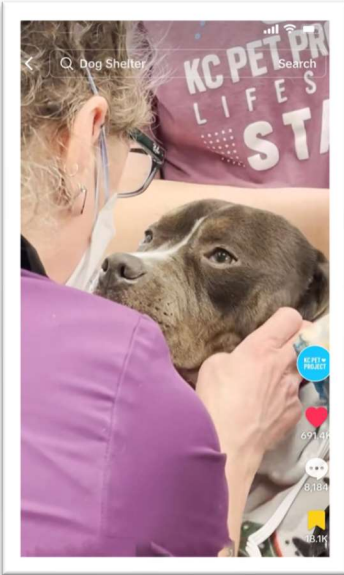
Juliet Capulet (above center) came in on January 8th after being abandoned on our shelter property. She was emaciated, urine-stained, and had many open wounds on her body. Bloodwork revealed she was very ill, and after a week in our hospital on antibiotics, she was ready to continue healing in a foster home.

Shabboya (above right) came in on January 23rd after being brought in with her puppies. She was severely emaciated, having given everything she had to her puppies. Her puppies immediately went into a foster home while our vet clinic

worked to get Shabboya healthy enough to go into a foster home in February.

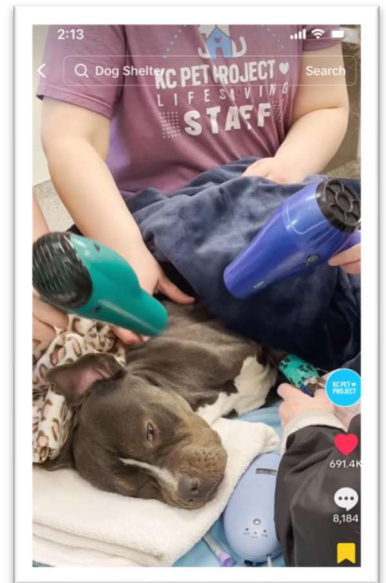
Lifesaving Stories from our Veterinary Clinic – Horton’s Rescue

Horton's journey to us began on a frigid January day, rescued from an abandoned house by our Animal Services team after being found nearly frozen in an unheated basement along with another dog that was already deceased. His temperature too low to register, unable to move and barely conscious, our dedicated medical team embarked on a determined mission to reignite the flicker of life within him – warming him with hair dryers and blankets.



Doctors looked into his eyes and spoke words of encouragement to him as our clinic team worked to save him from the brink of death.

Signs of life began to slowly emerge and eventually he was able to eat a few bites of food and stand on his own. Yet, as we witnessed his miraculous recovery, our hearts ached to think someone left behind these sweet dogs to suffer a cruel fate of hunger and cold. Horton is recovering well, and he should be available for adoption soon.



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** (1,531 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (691 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (214 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **1,001** emails were received in January inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **1,075** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process.

We received **60** adoption updates last month, including this note from an adopter:

“We are so happy together. Pipsqueak brings me so much joy. She gets along fine with three legs. She does pretty good on her potty training. She’s smart and will get it. All my friends love her too. She has adapted very well. Thanks so much for helping me find a perfect match.”



Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction & Services Provided

- ✓ **2024 Rating: 4.88/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.68/5.0 stars: *19 surveys submitted in January, 1,244 submitted since launch in September 2020*

“The staff is exceptional! I was treated with patience & respect.”

“I brought a stray cat in that had some injuries. I brought the cat to Admissions and though they were busy, all staff were friendly, responsive, helpful and kind and efficient. I was specifically helped by Steve who was very helpful and understanding. I was well informed and taken care of. Steve was kind, patient and helpful. Thank you for the easy, delightful experience.”

- ❖ In January, the Pet Support Center staff assisted approximately **1,333** KCMO residents with in-person services 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 **5:14** minutes.*
- ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **97** animals whose owners originally contacted KCPP to surrender their pet(s), **73** animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, **80** were diverted through in-person conversations, and 4 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter. **A total of 254 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter thanks to supportive services provided by KCPP.**
- ❖ We took in **411** stray/lost animals from the public in January.
- ❖ Pet Support Center staff diverted **80** animals from being surrendered through walk-in and in-person services for community members who visited the Admissions Department at our Campus in January.
- ❖ Community Programs Administrator, Alyssa Willett, provided group training for PSC staff covering how to process owner surrenders, at-risk intakes and general processes for accurate record and data keeping in the department. Staff also attended refresher training in dog handling.

Rehoming Support Services

In January, our team received 116 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **57** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 3,562 requests for ReHome services since November 2021.*

- *We received 393 initial requests in January from residents seeking to surrender their pets to the shelter – a 14% increase from last month.*

The top 4 reasons pets were surrendered in 2024:

1. Lack of financial resources or inability to access resources for their pets, including costs for veterinary care and unplanned litters (68 pets),
2. Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (63 pets),
3. Health of owner or health of pet (54),
4. Housing Issues including cost, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (40 pets).



Pet Support Call Center/Pet Helpline Performance

January 2024	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,323	461	3,784	13%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	56	19	75	25%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	619	130	749	17%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	3,998	610	4,608	13%
OUT < Helpline – Main	1,031	198	1,229	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	193	62	255	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,224	260	1,484	N/A
Total Performance for January 2024	5,222	870	6,092	14%

Our Pet Support Center team answered **3,998** live phone calls, made **1,484** outbound calls, resolved 176 voicemails, and completed a total of 8,214 interactions with families in January.

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 68 Lost Pet Reports and 52 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 291 in-depth microchip/ownership investigations for stray animals in our care.
- ❖ 133 (20%) of the 661 lost animals brought to the shelter in January were returned to their owners. Nearly twenty-three percent (23%) of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 8% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners.

Returned-to-Home: Puppy Found at Airport After 7 Weeks

On January 30, 2024, a 1-year old pitbull mix named **Puppy** was miraculously reunited with her family by our Return to Home staff. She had gone missing on December 5, 2023, from her home and her family worried they would never see her again.

On January 23, 2024, Puppy was picked up by one of our Animal Services Officer when they responded to a police arrest call at the airport. It is not known how she came to be where she was, but she was living with a new owner under a new name. Puppy's original owner said she checked the album of Found Pets posted on the KC Pet Project – Lost & Found Facebook Page every day and it finally paid off! She recognized Puppy immediately, and after being missing for 7 weeks, Puppy finally was returned to her relieved family.



Keep 'Em Together, KC Program Updates

Tara McNamara, Keep 'Em Together Program Manager, reported **270** families benefitted from our four (4) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in January:

1. Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$2,694.00** for 14 families (15 pets) was provided by KCPP in January.

- ✓ 16 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received
- ✓ Home Away from Home Reunification Fees: \$0.00
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance granted: \$0.00
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$2,684.00

2. Pet Resource Assistance Program

Pet foods were shared with three (3) community pantry partners in the metro, including *Chestnut Avenue Resource Center*, and two local community cat caregivers.

182 families with 356 pets benefited directly from these resources provided in January.

- ✓ 932 lbs. of cat food
- ✓ 1,359 lbs. of dog food
- ✓ 50 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 26 collars and 20 leashes
- ✓ 16 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 10 kennels/crates and 1 dog houses
- ✓ 10 dog toys, and 125 miscellaneous pet care items

3. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

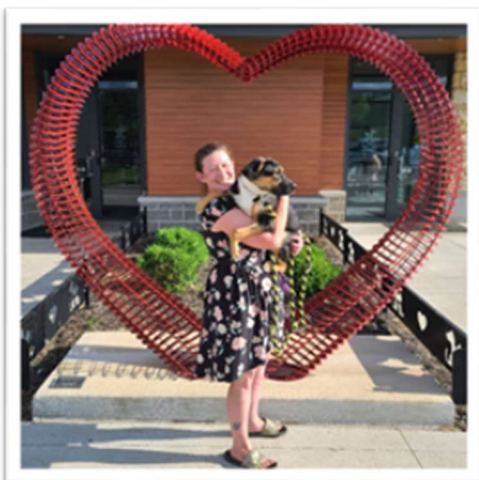
- ✓ 66.2% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in January were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ *Since June 2021, we have subsidized \$268,004.00 in reclaim fees for 2,558 families with 3,009 pets.*

In January, \$8,275.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 72 families with 88 pets.

4. Pets For Life Program:

Tara McNamara, Keep 'Em Together Case Manager, reported that the Pets for Life Program Coordinator position has been filled by Mariana Vasquez. Mariana has been learning the Pets for Life program, meeting with mentors from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and beginning to reestablish relationships with previous PFL clients living in the 64127 zip code.

In addition, we are working to establish an official partnership with Pet Resource Center of KC to provide the spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary care for the owned pets in this program. We already have several families in need of services for their pets.



Keeping 'Em Together: Lisa and Kleatus

When Lisa noticed her beloved puppy Kleatus was not acting normal and seemed to be sick, she wasn't sure to what to do. She brought her puppy to our clinic for help. Lisa worried about the cost of taking him to an emergency vet. After some diagnostic tests and observation by our vet clinic team, Kleatus had improved and was cleared to go back home. Lisa was so happy to get the call that she could come pick up her buddy!

"Kleatus is a joy to my family, he gives us purpose in life," is how she responded when asked what Kleatus means to her and her family. Through programs like our Pet Care Assistance Program, Lisa was able to receive financial assistance from KCPP to help Kleatus return home where he belongs.

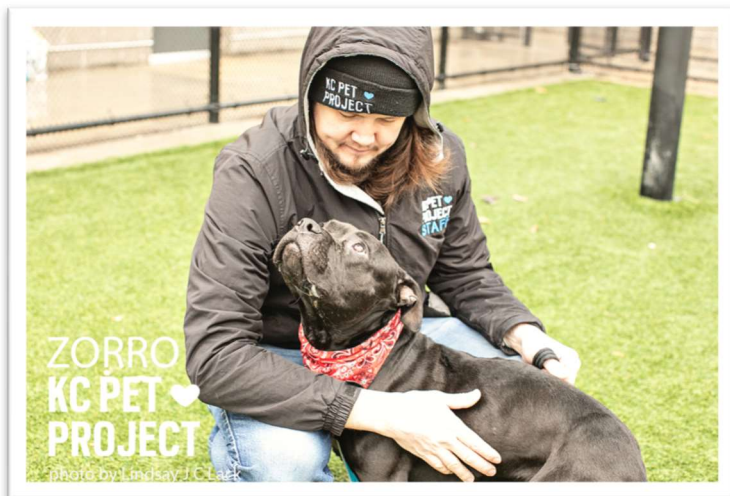
Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 70
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 109
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters: 13
- ❖ Avg. daily number of dogs in canine playgroups: **153**

- ❖ 109 post-adoption support follow up emails sent
- ❖ 9 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ 56 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ Assisted 11 people with behavior help or lessons for recently adopted or foster dogs

Stevie Nix was previously adopted from us when she was about 3 months old but was returned to us 3 months later due to behavior issues. Our Behavior Team questioned if she would be an adoption candidate. While working with her on her handling sensitives, they began muzzle conditioning her. It was crucial to start a training plan for her, and with the knowledge that Behavior and Enrichment team manager, Marissa Cox, gained at *Dogs Playing for Life*, our team was able to create a plan for Stevie. The team spent 4 weeks teaching Stevie “place”, “sit” with distractions, distance, and duration, acclimation to the muzzle, and established a protocol to introduce her to new people. Once available for adoption, it only took 9 days before she had an interested adopter who had a lifestyle/home right for her. This adopter and his family came every day for two weeks to work with the Behavior Team until the day finally came that Stevie was ready to leave with them.

We received this update just last week – “Stevie is doing amazing; she goes to work with me every day! She has warmed up to everyone in the house finally. She was a freak over the snow, and we could barely keep her inside. She loves to dig and dig in it. Thanks so much guys for all the effort and patience you put in with these dogs.” 😊



Canine Operations & Adoptions

We had 840 visitors at our KC Campus for Animal Care in January who were interested in meeting dogs available for adoption.

- ✓ Nearly **46%** of all visitors who met with a Canine Matchmaker adopted a dog that day.
- ✓ The average wait time for a Canine Matchmaker in January was 17.8 minutes.
- ✓ The average total time spent at KCCAC to meet and/or adopt a dog was 68 minutes.

463 dogs and puppies were adopted in January – a **30% increase in dog adoptions over last January!**

The Canine Care & Adoptions teams endured brutally cold temperatures last month while training in dog walking, dog to dog introductions, and showing dogs to potential adopters. Topics at the January team meeting included the upcoming 2024 Department of Ag inspection and the dog walking program. Canine Adoptions stayed busy with "Fee Waived Wednesdays", as well as a successful Sweatin' Off the Shelter Pounds adoption special. Foster-to-adopt arrangements continue to gain popularity, with 12 dogs currently in the program.

KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey rating: **4.82/5.0** stars (11 surveys submitted in January)

"Great experience. Love my new dog!"

"Lauren was a wonderful and helpful foster mom, KCPP helped me in such detail with all questions I had."

"They are so great there, from the friendliness of people wanting to adopt to the love they show the dogs!!"

"EXTREMELY pleased with KC Pet Project. I went in on Monday to look and told them I'd be back over the weekend to fully decide and that I just wanted a week to think about who I wanted. I got no judgment on the decision, and when I

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of 267 dogs daily at our KC Campus for Animal Care in January.

came back and wanted to see three dogs, I was met (again) with no judgment when I fell in love with the first and didn't even want to see the others. KCCAC's facility is super clean and appears to be newly renovated. But the cleanliness was the first thought I had, as well as my dad. I really loved KC Pet Project, so I had no issue driving two hours to get there twice."

"Marissa and her entire behavioral team was amazing to work with."

"Totally wonderful service all around. Impressive facility and responsive staff."

"We adopted a really sweet girl from there today we are very happy with her and our experience. We would consider adopting from there in the future."

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported **156 dogs** (30% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of January.

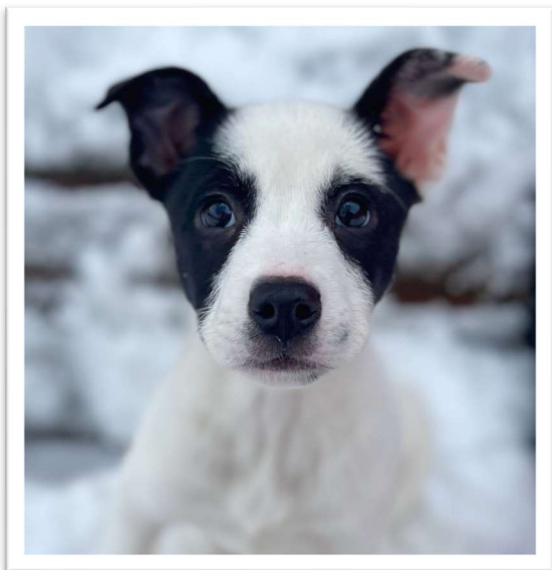
- ✓ During the month, **356 dogs/puppies** were sent to foster homes!
- ✓ Volunteers took **143 dogs** on a Dog's Day Out last month.
- ✓ We welcomed **93** new dog foster families in January.
- ✓ We had **76 dogs/puppies** adopted directly from foster homes.

The foster team started off the new year on a positive note! We saw many returning fosters come back to pick up foster dogs after the holiday season as well as many new fosters begin to get involved in our Dog Day Out (DDO) program and long term fostering. During the brutally cold weekend earlier in the month, we had an impressive number of DDOs where our volunteers got the dogs out of the shelter and took them home for a cozy day in a comforting environment.

Cristobal (right) went into a foster home in January following his FHO surgery. His foster has been so dedicated to him that she has started taking him to physical therapy sessions in addition to doing home exercises to help him with his recovery! He's been making great progress, and he gets to wear very stylish sunglasses for his PT sessions.



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



Chelsae Rohrbach, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 41 dogs and 2 cats were transferred to these rescue organizations in January:

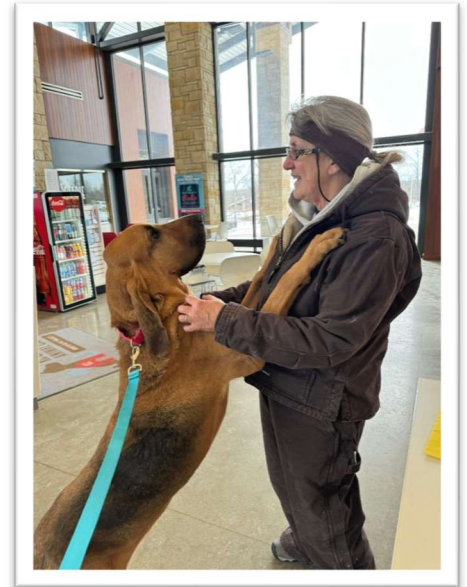
American Belgian Malinois Rescue (reestablished old partnership), Boxer Paws Rescue, Chain of Hope, Columbia Second Chance, Critter House KC, Hound Haven Rescue (new partnership), Kansas City English Bulldog Rescue, Maple Woods Community College Vet Tech Program, Mid America Boston Terrier Rescue, Mid America Bully Breed Rescue, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Wayside Waifs, and Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Small Animals & Transportation Program:

An incredible ninety-one (91) puppies/small dogs and sixty-two (62) large dogs were moved to our Zona Rosa Adoption Center or Petco Adoption Center in January! We processed **11** small animal adoptions last month – 1 chicken, 8 guinea pigs, and 2 rabbits.

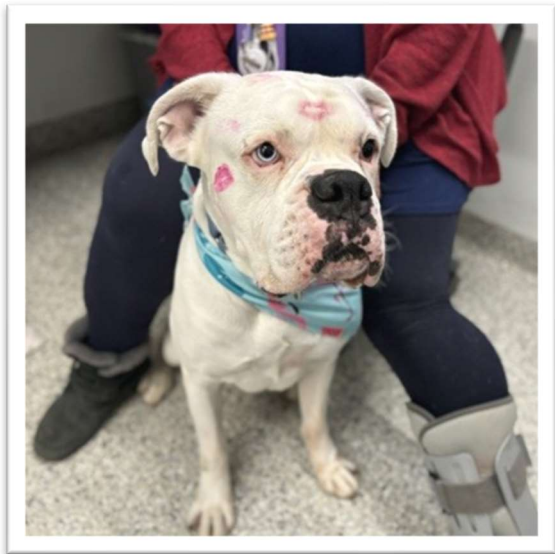
Rescue Partnership Stories

On January 2nd, we received two 7-year-old bonded bloodhounds, Henry and Hazel, whose owner tragically passed away. Shortly after their arrival, we were contacted by **Hound Haven Rescue** who had been working with the owner to take in the dogs since the owner's health was declining. Hound Haven knew Henry and Hazel very well, knew the breeder that they came from, and were determined to get them up to Iowa as soon as possible and into the loving arms of their foster. **Hank** (right) was excited to meet his foster/driver before leaving the shelter for his new home. Happy trails Henry and Hazel!



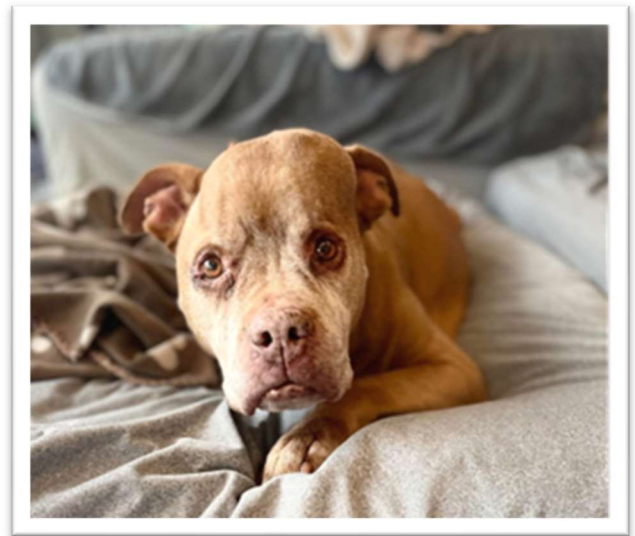
In mid-December 2023, **Alfredo** (below) arrived at our shelter as a stray from Animal Services. We soon discovered he had an injury to his jaw that would require very expensive specialized surgery. Our friends at **Boxer Paws Rescue** had been interested in Alfredo since he first arrived and once he was cleared to be

sent to rescue, they jumped at the chance to take him into their program. Alfredo has since been seen by a canine dentist and his road to recovery looks bright. Alfredo was a staff favorite while here at KCPP and we are so grateful to Boxer Paws for getting him the medical care he needed.



Nova (right) arrived in early January as an elderly stray dog brought in by Animal Services. Although she had two microchips, we could not locate a current or former

owner. She had a large, lobular, adhered mass on her head and several dermal masses on her body. Our clinic team determined that the mass on her head was not causing her pain and she was quite happy. We reached out to our friends at **Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary**, and they were happy to bring her into the senior hospice program. For the remainder of her life, we can be assured Nova will be loved and cared for.



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

Gage Mofield, our Petco Program Coordinator, oversaw the transfer of **167** cats/kittens from *Joplin Humane Society, Austin Pets Alive!, Permian Basin Animal Advocates, Best Friends Animal Society of Northwest Arkansas, Lee's Summit Animal Control, North Kansas City Animal Control, and City of Raymore Animal Control.*

- ✓ The average length of stay for cats/kittens in a Petco Cat Habitat in January was just **3 days!**
- ✓ We processed **124** cat/kitten adoptions from our Petco Cat Habitat stores, as well as 43 adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café.
- ✓ The Barry Road Petco store had the highest number of adoptions in January (22).

We have hundreds of cats and adoptions that take place at all the Petco stores each month thanks to the incredible Petco store employees! The employees see numerous cats and kittens go in and out of the stores every week, month after month going home with their forever families, but one cat finally caught the eye of store manager Glen at our

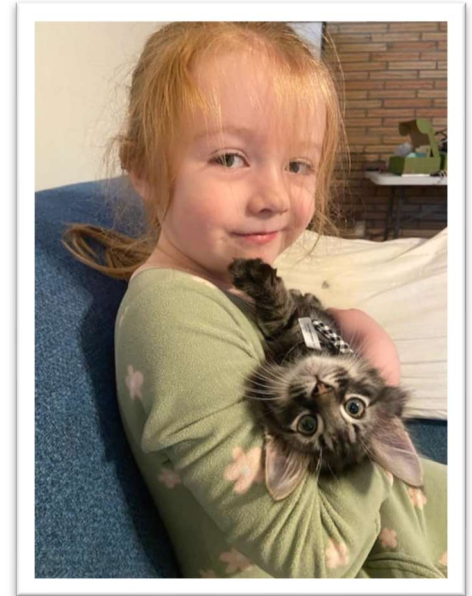
Belton Petco Store. Congratulations to Glen and Nala, the first cat he's adopted since he started working at the store several years ago!

Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported winter resulted in smaller numbers of kittens in need of foster homes in January. We sent only **27** (24 kittens and 3 adult cats) to foster homes last month.

At the end of the month, **32** cats/kittens (16% of the cats at KCPP) were in 15 foster homes, and we onboarded 13 new foster homes in preparation for our upcoming kitten season in 2024.

Even though kittens slowed down, we already started getting mama cats with kittens coming into the shelter. The first family to come in looking for foster was brought in by Animal Services on January 23rd, and a mom and her premature kittens soon followed on the 25th. We are so grateful that these tiny babies still have their moms to care for them. So far, we've seen a **33% increase** in the number of kittens *under 2 pounds* that have come in compared to last January, and we're ready for the challenges 2024 will bring.



Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **509** cats/kittens in January. We had **389** cats adopted – a 6% decrease from last January.

- ✓ **377** families arrived in January at our KCCAC location that were interested in adopting cats.
- ✓ Average wait time to see cats was approximately 16 minutes.
- ✓ Nearly **43%** of all visitors who met with a Feline Matchmaker adopted a cat that day!
- ✓ Visitors spend, on average, nearly 40 minutes meeting cats before deciding to adopt.

Ice Melt (right) arrived as a stray on January 15, 2024, during extremely cold weather. His body temperature was dangerously low, and he was hospitalized until he was stable. He charmed everyone with his sparkling personality and by the end of his stray hold he was ready to be made available for adoption.

Thanks to social media coverage, but mostly his wonderful personality, he was adopted just **8 minutes** after arriving on the adoption floor!

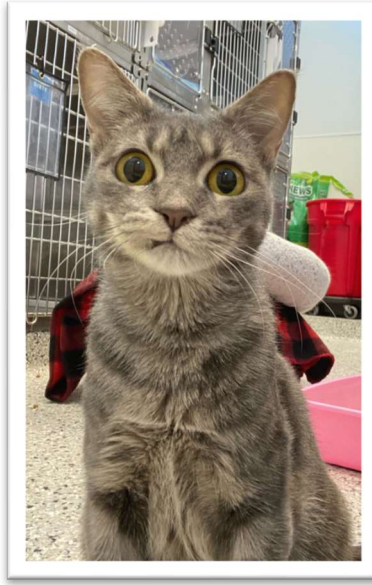


Seamus (left) arrived through Animal Services in early December and spent a month in our vet clinic being treated for persistent upper respiratory issues. He also had a dental procedure when he was strong enough and was finally cleared for adoption five weeks after he arrived.

But it only took him five days to convince someone he needed to go home with them!



January was really a flood of great adoptions of cats who needed extra medical attention from our terrific vet clinic staff. Here are just a few of the grateful faces that benefited from our skilled veterinary team's lifesaving work in January:



Submitted by,

TJohnson

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