

KC PET PROJECT

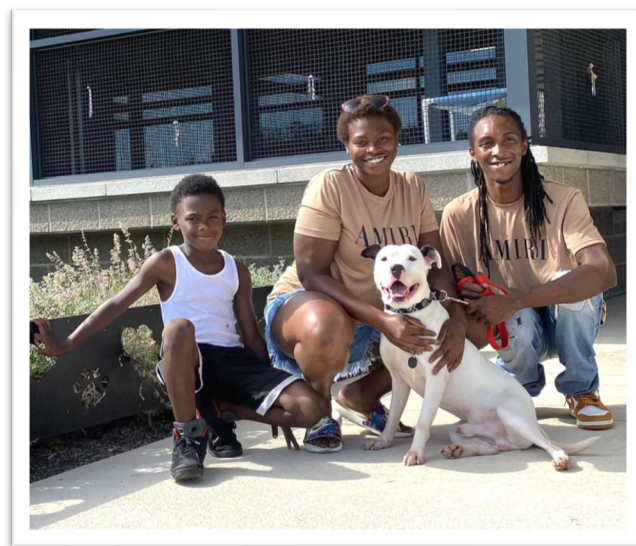
Impact Report for July 2023 Activities

Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals Jan - July	2023	2022	Difference
Adoptions	5,557	5,735	175 fewer
Total Intake	8,936	8,767	169 more
Returned to Owners	1,226	1,126	100 more
Live Release Rate	93.1%	96.6%	3.5% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	1,844	2,311	467 fewer
Stray animals brought in by public	3,651	2,709	942 more
Cats/kittens transferred IN	794	1,175	381 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	4,784	4,508	276 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	20.2 days	17.2 days	3.0 days longer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	17.2 days	18.5 days	1.3 days fewer

July 2023 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ July was the toughest month we've seen at KC Pet Project in nearly 11 years. More dogs arrived than ever before in our city's history (**818** dogs), fueled by a 24% increase in dogs being brought in as strays. We received or provided care for **1,443** new dogs and cats that arrived in July (818 dogs, 625 cats), along with 17 guinea pigs, 2 rabbits, 1 lizard, 1 parakeet, and 5 pigs.
- ❖ **1,003** pets were adopted in July (437 dogs, 554 cats, and 12 other pets). Adoptions of dogs and cats continued to be less than the numbers of new pets arriving – with 160 fewer total adoptions than last July. As of July 31st, the number of dogs being adopted is 10% higher than last year at this time, but the number of cats being adopted has fallen by 14%.
- ❖ Despite the enormous increase in stray dogs and cats arriving and length of stay increasing for dogs, we still achieved a **91.6%** Save Rate in July (90.2% dogs, 93.0% cats).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed a record **1,049** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in July. Doctors performed **1,335** examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter and treated 27 puppies and young dogs in our shelter's parvovirus ward.
- ❖ We provided spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 87 community cats in July (for a total of **462** low-cost surgeries for community cats this year).
- ❖ We provided free spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 30 owned dogs in July that were reclaimed and reunited with their families (for a total of **200** reclaimed dogs that have left spayed/neutered this year).



Data Trend for Jan – July 2023:

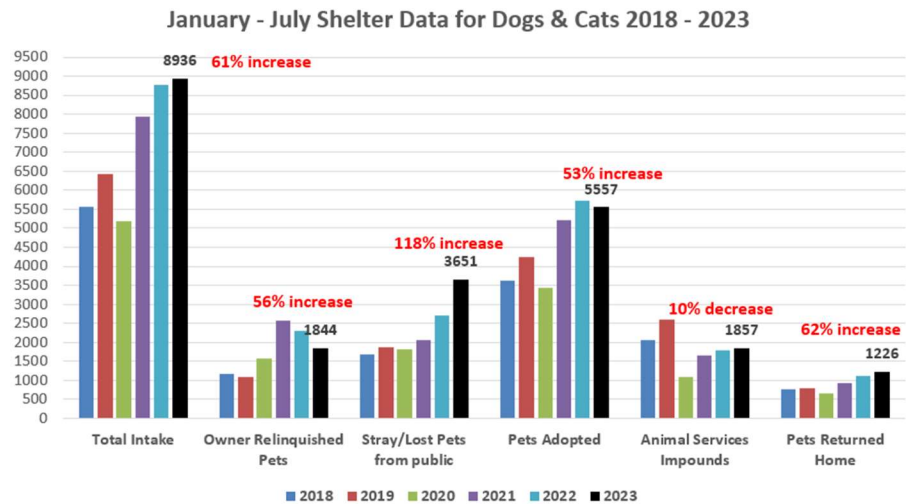
Total intake of dogs and cats is still running at the highest level recorded in our 11-year history – increasing steadily every year for a **61% increase** in the number of animals arriving over the past 5 years.

The number of pets being adopted has slowed significantly but is still at the highest level in our 11-year history – **up 53% over the past 5 years**.

Stray/lost pets brought in by the public are arriving at the highest level ever recorded in Kansas City – **up 118% from 2018 totals**. The number of stray animals arriving is already **35%** higher than last year’s record setting numbers.

Lost/impounded pets being returned to their families through our Return-to-Home Team are up **62%** over 2018 totals.

Our Live Release Rate (save rate) has unfortunately decreased due to the unprecedented numbers of dogs arriving, with the level of dog euthanasia 137% higher than in 2022. Our Live Release Rate for dogs in 2023 is **92.5%**.



Animal Services Division Update

Officers worked **1,990** case activities in July, travelling a total of **14,516** miles throughout the city, impounding **368** animals, and returning an additional 17 pets back to their homes without having to impound them.

Calls from Residents Resulting in Cases	Online Reports Submitted by Residents	Case Follow Up Activities Required	Total Case Activities for the Month
1,394	137	459	1,990

In the first 7 months of 2023, **455 criminal citations** have been issued through Municipal Court.

Dispatchers answered 3,705 phone calls and had a call abandonment rate of only 5% - 7%. For the month of July, the average wait time for residents trying to connect with an Animal Services Dispatcher was **27 seconds** – whether callers went through the 311 prompt or residents called us direct.

Calls regarding evictions and animals being abandoned or left behind after someone moved out increased significantly in July, with a **90%** increase in the number of animals being brought in by Animal Services Officers as having been “abandoned.”

On July 26th, Chief Ryan Johnson gave an interview to KSHB 41 reporter Abby Dodge as they ran calls for dogs left in extreme temperatures. We saw an increase of 15% - 30% in calls reporting neglect during high temperature days.

368 animals were impounded by officers in July, an increase of 32% over last month, with the largest increases due to abandonment, medical emergencies (humans), police arrests, and owners having to sign pets over in the field when they were unable to provide medical care for them.

Our Animal Services Division announced state-level felony animal abuse charges filed and the arrest of a local man who intentionally abused a bulldog named Rom. The dog had two broken legs and severe internal injuries, and later died from his injuries. The perpetrator was also charged in a KCMO murder case that same week and is being held in the Jackson County jail without bond.

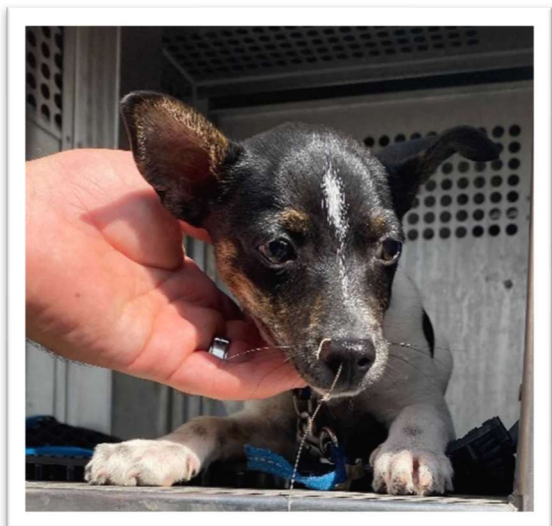
- ❖ Animal Services Officers received *Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Training for First Responders* through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, as well as a supply of Narcan and field resources from the Addiction Science Team of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. This certification provides officers with lifesaving training and tools to recognize signs of opioid overdose when in the field.

Stories From the Field – Dog Shot After Family Leaves Door Open

In July, this poor dog (right) was **shot in the chest and pepper sprayed** by a person in the neighborhood after family members accidentally left their back door open and their dog wandered outside and down the street. KCPD was on scene regarding the shooter, and our Animal Services Officers retrieved the injured dog (who was microchipped) and contacted the distraught owner. KC Pet Project’s veterinary team treated the dog’s injuries and performed surgery to remove the bullet from the dog’s chest. The dog recovered and was able to be reunited with his family.



Stories from the Field – Injured Dog Rescued from Hot Car



On July 1st, Animal Services Officer (ASO) Copeland was called to a location to rescue a Chihuahua that had been left unattended in a parked vehicle in hot weather.

When Officer Copeland arrived, he found the dog not only suffering from high temperatures inside the vehicle, but the **dog had a fishhook punctured through his nose** from jumping around frantically inside the vehicle (left).

ASO Copeland transported the dog to KC Pet Project's vet clinic where it received treatment for the injury. The dog’s owner was located and was issued municipal citations.

Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ July was one of the toughest months for marketing our pets because we were constantly full. We communicated with transparency throughout the month about the space crisis we were experiencing and how our community could help us.
- ❖ We hosted our annual Red, White and Woof Pet Adoption Special from June 28th - July 5th with fee-waived adoptions on most pets and 288 dogs and cats found homes during the special.
- ❖ We hosted a cat-only adoption event on July 7th- 8th in honor of the Taylor Swift concert and 62 cats found homes during the

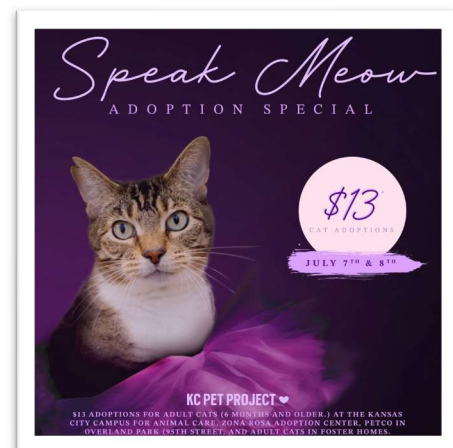
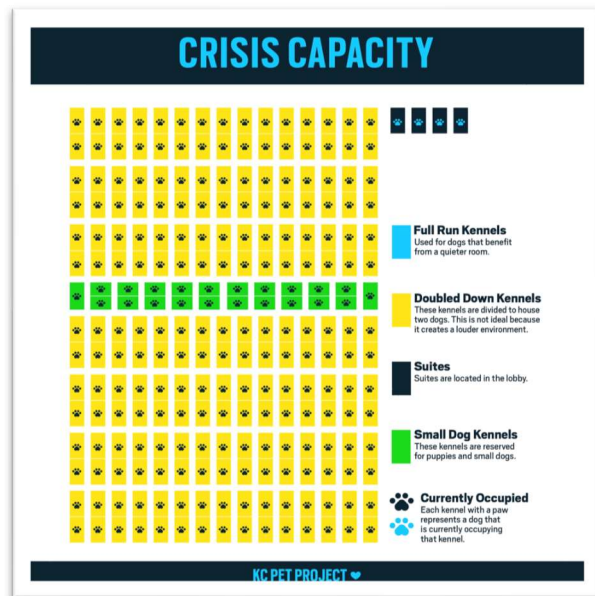
KC PET PROJECT DOG CAPACITY CRISIS

DOGS IN AND DOGS OUT - JULY 5-11

DATE	NUMBER OF DOGS IN
7/5	25
7/6	40
7/7	29
7/8	32
7/9	30
7/10	24
7/11	20
TOTAL DOGS IN: 200	
TOTAL DOGS OUT: 168	

event. Our drawing for two donated Taylor Swift tickets raised an incredible \$60,000 to help us care for more than 1,100 pets in our shelter system.

- ❖ We hosted a \$30 adoption special July 20th – 23rd in honor of KC Pet Project Day and 153 pets were adopted during the special. KC Pet Project Day was July 21st and our day-long campaign raised \$50,000 to help us care for the record number of pets entering our shelter. Tito’s Handmade Vodka matched up to \$10,000 in donations. Throughout the day we talked about many stories of pets that have been saved by our teams during the summer months, including Tilly the cat and Caliente the dog.
- ❖ We hosted a **State of the Shelter Town Hall** on Zoom at the end of July for our board, staff, and volunteers to communicate about our capacity crisis. More than 100 people joined the call to learn more about our internal capacity for care and rising intake.
- ❖ We highlighted ways residents could keep their pets safe during the 4th of July holiday and had many media opportunities, including morning live shots with Fox 4.
- ❖ We hosted a Petco Open House event at our Petco Adoption Center for adopters and volunteers and had dozens of people stop by to see our space and learn about volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford in Ontario, Canada consulted with Tori about marketing strategies for their organization.
- ❖ City officials from Sugarland, Texas consulted with Teresa and Tori about the process for outsourcing their animal shelter and animal control to a nonprofit or outside agency.
- ❖ We hosted corporate teams from Mars, Pedigree, Pedigree Foundation, and Adopt-a-Pet at KC Pet Project for a day, touring our facility and learning more about our programs, including pet adoptions and fostering (right).
- ❖ The marketing team of Animal Rescue League of Iowa consulted with Tori on best practices for how to post dogs that are urgent or at-risk of euthanasia.
- ❖ We launched a campaign to collect donations for our Keep ‘Em Together, KC - Resource Assistance Program and were able to get many needed items for our program.
- ❖ We had 17 news stories, 107 mentions during news broadcasts, and 124 media mentions in July for a total reach of **38,704,590** million people.



Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 79,759	103,000+ followers on Instagram
New Users- 69,519	166,000+ likes on Facebook
Sessions – 139,546	1.3 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 683,456 (web traffic was up 8% in July)	

Community Education/Partnerships/School Visits

- ❖ We had 10 events that were held at our Campus facility in July, including two (2) birthday parties and a professional pet grooming conference, welcoming 110 members of the public for various activities in our Education Pavilion.
- ❖ Our Pro X student interns that have been with us 6 weeks this summer presented their final internship presentations live on stage in front of 2,000 attendees at the Pro X Showcase at the Kansas City Music Hall. As a part of their Pro X Summer Experience, student interns developed proposals to address issues and problems that affected their host organizations.

A total of 120 Pro X intern groups made presentations and five (5) of these groups were made up of KC Pet Project interns. Two of our KCPP interns WON grand prize awards for their presentations which provided scholarship money for their college educations. We're SO proud of them!



Volunteer Program Updates

Mandy Irey, Volunteer Engagement Manager, reported the following updates for KC Pet Project's volunteer department:

- ✓ In July, **920** volunteers gave 6,263.57 hours of service, the equivalent of 36.15 full-time employees!
- ✓ Total value of volunteer hours for the month: \$178,762.28
- ✓ Eight (8) new Volunteer Orientations were conducted for 124 attendees (a 13.6% increase from last month).
- ✓ 101 new volunteers gave 661.15 hours in July and 399 volunteers participated in training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 335 volunteers.

Businesses and Groups that volunteered in July gave 946.3 hours of service (composed of 318 people): *Botanic Business Services, Heartland Coca Cola, EMC Insurance, Lincoln University, Crittenton Children's Center, Jewish Community Center, Easterseals, Burns & McDonnell, BCP Tech, Lockton, BranchPattern, Sporting KC, Target, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Research Medical Center Laboratory*

Corporate Volunteer Spotlight: Lockton

KC Pet Project was the recipient of an incredible gift from more than **110** Lockton employees who came out in groups over a week in July to donate **388** hours of time and brought multiple carloads of supplies to support nearly every area of our organization. They did landscaping, kennel cleaning, worked in our vet clinic, made enrichment treats, and supported feline care and canine care departments. The company sponsored and is paying all pet adoption fees for any employee who adopts a pet from KCPP, and **at least 25 Lockton employees adopted a pet** during or following their visit in July. These amazing, hardworking volunteers helped us knock out SO much work every day they were on site. We SO appreciate everyone from Lockton who volunteered, adopted, and donated supplies to help our shelter!





Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- ✓ Total active volunteers: **1,907** individuals, including 106 *newly active* volunteers.
- ✓ We received 314 new volunteer signups in July.

“Caitlyn was great! Kudos to her – she was very understanding and informative!”

“Linda was awesome! She answered all my questions – I was nervous at first, but after her help I feel very confident!”

News From the Volunteer Department

- ❖ St. Paul’s Episcopal Day School sponsored a KC Pet Project blanket drive in July; students from the school delivered homemade blankets to the Campus for our shelter pets.
- ❖ The Volunteer Department team hosted our fourth event in our Continued Learning Series. July’s topic of learning was Keep ‘Em Together, KC. Atlas Gatten, Director of Community Programs, along with other members of the Keep ‘Em Together and Pets for Life team gave presentations on all the community programs and pet support services currently offered at KC Pet Project and how the programs impact pet families in our community.
- ❖ The Volunteer Department underwent an assessment and strategy meeting to analyze the current needs of the department and opportunities for growth and sustainability – ensuring the volunteers are set up for success and have the necessary tools and resources they need.

Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in July 2023

Surgeries		Exams		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	42	Wellness exams	826	Parvo pups treated	27
Community Cats spayed	45	Emergency exams	83	Parvo pups graduated	23
Reclaimed dogs neutered	18	Foster pet exams	75	Save rate for parvo	85%
Reclaimed dogs spayed	12	Rechecks performed	351		
Shelter Animals Neutered	422			Vet Clinic Communications	
Shelter Animals Spayed	467			Post-Adoption concerns	135
Speciality Surgeries	43			Foster Medical Concerns	220
				Other concerns address	38
Total Surgeries	1049	Total Exams	1335	Total communications	393

News from our Veterinary Clinic

Our shelter veterinarians have already performed **4,784** spay/neuter surgeries so far this year – nearly 300 more surgeries than last year at this time.

Enchanted's Rocky Start

Enchanted (right) came to KCPP in early May 2023 after she and her eight siblings were found at an abandoned house by a neighbor. The litter was too small to thrive on their own, so the finder called KCPP Animal Services for help. Animal services officers brought the litter to the shelter where they received medical exams, vaccinations and immediately left for foster homes.

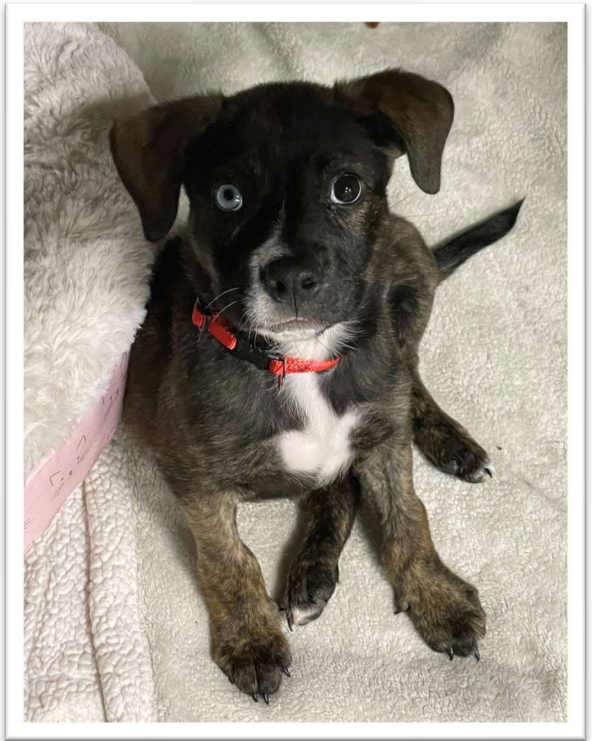
Enchanted's foster mom noticed the puppy was beginning to have diarrhea, lethargy, and wasn't feeling well. We scheduled a vet clinic appointment, provided some anti-diarrheal medications, and sent her back to her foster home for more love and rest.

About a week after her vet clinic appointment, Enchanted began vomiting and having more diarrhea. Only this time, it was black and tarry, which can be a sign of bleeding in the upper gastrointestinal tract. Her foster mom was very concerned and immediately brought her to our clinic for more diagnostics and hospitalization. Doctors took x-rays and found something far from routine -- **Enchanted was eating ROCKS!** A LOT of big rocks! We started her immediately on intravenous fluids and scheduled her for an exploratory surgery the following morning.

The night before surgery, Enchanted passed some of the rocks, and we noted during surgery that although the rocks had done some damage while moving through, there weren't any perforations, or holes in the intestines. It was clear that the rocks had

been in there for quite some time. After a couple days of healing, IV fluid therapy, and of course, love and rest, she was sent back to her foster home for continued monitoring. The foster quickly noticed Enchanted began not only trying to eat rocks again, but also grass, sticks, and other things she shouldn't eat. Our doctors diagnosed Enchanted with **Pica** - a condition where a person (or animal) compulsively swallows non-food items. But the question was, why?

Doctors ran additional bloodwork and determined Enchanted had an iron deficiency. This could be the reason she was so drawn to rocks. KCPP Veterinary Assistant, Leanne, took Enchanted home for a few days to monitor her response to her new medication and make sure she wasn't allowed to eat anything that wasn't food. With iron supplementation, Enchanted's odd cravings soon subsided, and she began acting like a normal puppy again. A family met her and immediately fell in love and adopted her. Nothing about Enchanted's story was routine, but there's nothing routine about our days in KCPP's vet clinic -- except we always expect the unexpected.



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

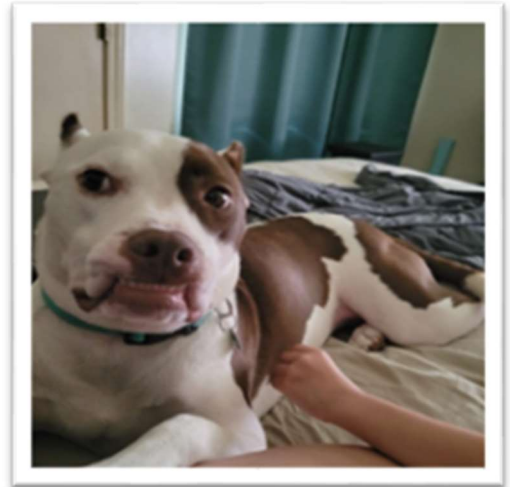
Customer Engagement Performance

Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.3/5.00** (1,490 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (651 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (202 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **591** emails were received in July inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **778** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process. We received 58 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns – including this one:

“**Freya** (right) has been the best addition to this family I could ever ask for. It's been a month and a half, and I see her comfort with us grow every day. It took her a week to not jump off my daughter's bed when I came around. I guess she thought she wasn't allowed. It took 2 weeks for her to get in my bed, no matter how hard I tried. It took her until last week to sleep all night with me. Each day though we see her feel safer and more comfortable doing the things a family pet should be able to do. She is the sweetest and most loving girl. She is amazing with my 8-year-old and 14-year-old. She loves being close to her people and gets so happy when we come home. She's got this little underbite and her lip gets stuck behind her bottom teeth sometimes and it's the cutest innocent face. She likes to sit as close to us as physically possible and then gently put her paw on your arm or a shoulder to get her pets before laying her head on a lap. Freya really is the most perfect dog and our best friend. I'm so glad she's allowing us to be her forever home. Thank you!”



Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction Survey

- ✓ **2023 Rating: 4.76/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.71/5.0 stars: 63 surveys submitted in July; 860 submitted since launch in September 2020

“I am very grateful for KC Pet Project assisting me when I had trapped a feral community cat and needed him TNR'd ASAP. I was feeling defeated, unable to find a place that provides this service, when the kind folks at KCPP graciously helped me get this cat in the same day, and even addressed wounds to his face that needed cleaned out that were incurred during his time in the live trap. I am so grateful for the service provided. Thank you all for everything! Mr. Kitty is now back out in the neighborhood and will have a better life because of you all.”

“Love the Admissions staff! It was a tough decision and a rough day, so I thank you for all your help and support.”

In July, the Pet Support Center staff assisted approximately **1,221** KCMO residents with in-person services -- bringing the total for 2023 to more than **6,681** residents/families who came in for pet relinquishment services, stray animal impounds, microchipping, lost and found/return to home, pet licensing, bringing in sick or injured pets, pets being reclaimed, and for pet resources such as basic pet care supplies as well as supportive programs through Keep 'Em Together, KC.

- ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **125** animals whose owners originally contacted KCPP to surrender their pet(s); 89 animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, and 14 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter. ***A total of 228 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter due to supportive services provided.***
- ❖ We took in **621** stray/lost animals from members of the public (*a 27% increase from July 2022*).

Rehoming Support Services

In July, our team received 125 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **74** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 2,861 requests for ReHome services since October 2021.*

The top 4 reasons pets have been surrendered so far in 2023 were:

1. Lack of financial resources or inability to access resources for their pets, including costs for veterinary care and unplanned litters (629 pets),
2. Health of the owner or health of pet (359 pets),
3. Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (352 pets),
4. Housing Issues including cost, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (307 pets).

Pet Support Call Center Performance

July 2023	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,940	751	4,691	16%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	76	31	107	29%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	765	161	926	17%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	4,781	943	5,724	16%
OUT < Helpline - Main	1,077	150	1,227	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	355	102	457	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,432	252	1,684	N/A
Total Performance for the Month	6,213	1,195	7,408	16%

Our Pet Support Center team received 5,724 phone calls, completed 1,684 outbound calls, and resolved 484 voicemails in July with a call abandonment rate of 16%.

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 147 Lost Pet Reports and 78 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 119 in-depth microchip investigations for stray animals in our care.
- ❖ 164 (23.5%) of the 696 lost animals (not including 167 kittens) brought to the shelter in July were returned to their owners. **26.7% of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 2.5% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners.**
- ❖ Animal Services Officers have reunited **171** lost pets in the field so far in 2023, keeping those pets with their families and out of the shelter. *The number of lost/impounded pets being returned to their families through our Return-to-Home Team and our Animal Services Officers is up **85% over 2018 totals!***



Collaboration Spotlight – Rose Brooks and Synergy Services

Team members from Rose Brooks and Synergy Services spent a day with our Pet Support Center team as part of KC Pet Project’s ongoing collaboration within the **Identify-Connect-Unite (ICU)** initiative. Team members from the advocacy agencies shadowed our team at the Admissions desk and in the Pet Helpline to learn about the various touchpoints and experiences our Pet Support Center team has with members of the community, and to help design effective protocols in administering lethality assessment questions as part of daily interactions with our community.

The goal was to find ways to safely engage with the public, and proactively connect pet owners to resources for victims of domestic violence and/or intimate partner abuse, should they be at-risk and in need of supportive services.

“While shadowing staff at the shelter, the Rose Brooks and Synergy Services teams saw first-hand the impact the Identify-Connect-Unite initiative actually has by witnessing a true lifesaving success story for a KCMO resident that resulted in diverting the surrender of a beloved pet, keeping the pet family together, and connecting the pet owner directly to a Hotline Advocate.”

Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Atlas Gatten, Director of Community Programs, reported **307** families benefitted from our five (5) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in July (a 9% increase from last month):

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

- ✓ 24 families with 34 pets applied for temporary care assistance in July.
- ✓ 9 new safety net foster applications were received.
- ✓ 2 families (4 pets) were reunited in July.
- ✓ No new families were enrolled in the program in July; currently 1 family with 2 pets are enrolled in HAFH.

593 applications have been received since the program launched in February 2021. Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided 4,909 days of enrollment and 7,633 days of temporary care for a total of 88 families with 134 pets. Home Away from Home currently has a **93% reunification rate**.

2. Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$3,215.19** for 23 families (31 pets) was provided by KCPP in July.

- ✓ 27 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received.
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance granted: \$150.00
- ✓ Home Away From Home Reunification Fees: \$106.00
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$2,959.19

3. Pet Resource Assistance Program

Derek Melies, Keep ‘Em Together Coordinator, reported pet foods were shared with three (3) community pantry partners in the metro, including *the Don Bosco Center, Chestnut Avenue Resource Center, Pets For Life, and two local community cat caregivers*.

282 families with 547 pets benefitted directly from these resources provided in July:

- ✓ 2,360 lbs. of cat food and 20 lbs. of cat treats
- ✓ 2,398 lbs. of dog food and 17 lbs. dog treats
- ✓ 86 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 62 collars and 35 leashes
- ✓ 24 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 6 kennels/crates
- ✓ 157 miscellaneous pet care items

\$10,585.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 99 families with 122 pets in July.

4. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

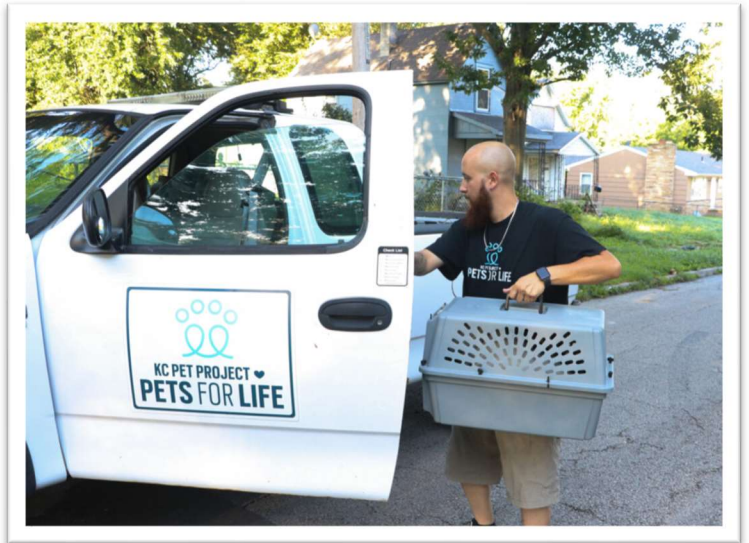
- ✓ **74%** of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in July were reclaimed by owners who took advantage of the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ **Since July 2021, we have subsidized \$215,514.00 in reclaim fees for 2,066 families with 2,445 pets.**

5. Pets For Life Program

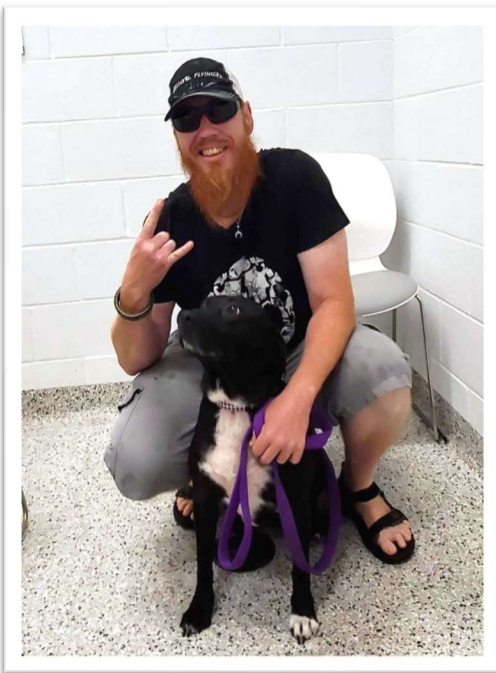
Jaime Gomez, Pets for Life Coordinator, reported our Pets for Life (PFL) program had the following impact for the month of July:

- ✓ New clients met through active PFL outreach: 2
- ✓ Number of new pets met: 5
- ✓ Total touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 33
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter appointments scheduled: 6 (4 dogs, 2 cats)
- ✓ Supplies given (leashes, food, shelters): 54 items
- ✓ Medications or services given (dewormer, nail trims, microchips, vaccines, etc.): 10

There are currently **30 clients (with 47 pets)** receiving ongoing support from Pets for Life in the Kansas City, Missouri community of 64127, since the program was launched in March 2023.



Keeping 'Em Together: Jeremiah and Nova, Babs, and BB



Finding affordable and pet-friendly housing is an issue that more and more people in our community are facing. Like many of those that apply for Home Away from Home, Jeremiah did not want to surrender his 3 beloved pets. ***But living in his vehicle as spring turned to summer was not the life that he wanted for them either.***

Babs was just a kitten when he found her 13 years ago. She has been with Jeremiah through so many life events. BB is the 10-year-old daughter of Babs. Nova is a 9-year-old dog who Jeremiah adopted 8 years ago. We worked to find temporary caregivers for Jeremiah's pets until he could secure a more permanent place they could live. This trio did have to be separated, but we were able to find foster homes for all of them through our **Home Away From Home (HAFH)** program. Babs and BB were able to stay together, and Jeremiah received regular updates (stories and photos) on how they were doing. Nova went to another amazing foster.

As part of our program, dog owners can have visits (like a Dog Day Out) with their pets. Nova's foster was kind enough to schedule weekly visits for Nova and Jeremiah. On visit days, Nova got to hang out at the shelter for a little bit between being dropped off and picked up. Nova loved to walk around greeting everyone. For Nova, coming to the shelter was no longer a scary experience, it meant she would see her dad. During the family's time in Home Away from Home, there were unexpected challenges that led to Jeremiah having to use the full 90 days when he initially thought he would only need 30 days. Throughout it all, Jeremiah worked to get a place where he could bring his pets home. And when that day came, all 4 of them went home together – happy to be reunited as a family once again.

News from the Keep 'Em Together, KC Program

Atlas Gatten, Director of Community Programs, met with Human Animal Support Services and the team from BestyBnB to continue efforts to launch KC Pet Project's newest initiative: **Community Connections**. The goal is to help begin bridging the service gap that currently exists between basic human services and animal welfare programs – with the goal of establishing animal services as a standard part of the local continuum of human services to keep pets and people together.

Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 54
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 81
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters by Behavior Team: 2

An average of 161 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups in July

- ❖ 54 post-adoption support follow up emails were sent to adopters
- ❖ 16 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ 38 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ Assisted 6 people with behavior help for their foster dogs

KO Owings joined our Behavior and Enrichment Team in July from Louisville, KY. She brings eight years of experience working in other shelters and we're excited to have her here in KC on our team!

Canine Operations & Adoptions

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of 272 dogs every day at the KC Campus for Animal Care in July.

The Canine Care & Adoptions departments trained in dog walking, dog-to-dog introductions, and showing dogs to potential adopters (matchmaking). We are still struggling with staffing shortages, with eight vacancies on the Canine Care team and one vacancy on the Adoptions team. "Waived Fee Wednesdays" helped many dogs find homes, as well as other successful adoption specials throughout the month. Both teams showed their continued resilience as they persevered through thunderstorms, lightning taking out a rooftop air-conditioner, and a shelter without electricity on July 31st.

KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey rating: **4.84/5.0** stars (9 surveys submitted in July, 243 responses to date)

"I was very impressed with the facility and even more impressed by the staff. Even though I came on a "Free Dog" day, staff were friendly, helpful and efficient. All in all, it was a good experience."

"Kyle worked with me and I felt very comfortable leaving with my new love."

"Thank you for all you do for our community's pets ❤️"

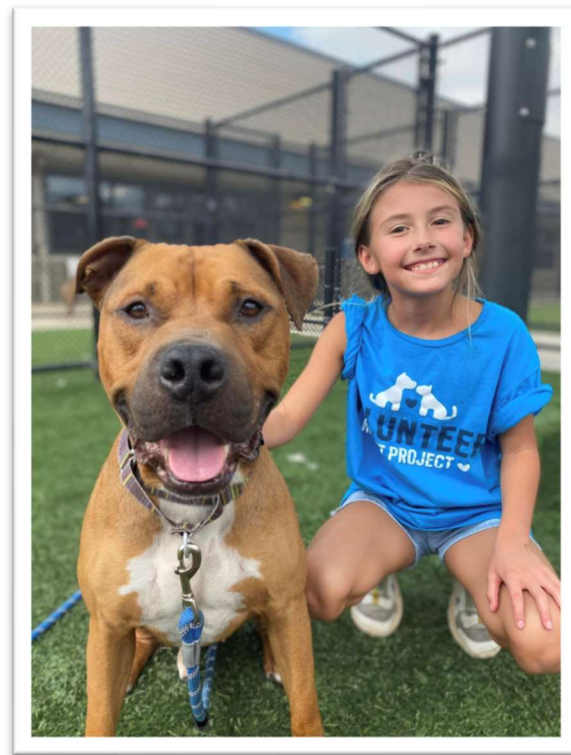
Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported 153 dogs (32% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of July. During the month, 345 dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes!

- ✓ Volunteers took 202 dogs on a Dog's Day Out last month.
- ✓ We welcomed 27 new dog foster families in July.
- ✓ We had 33 dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.

Hometown Heroes Heating and Cooling became our official sponsor for our **Dog Day Out program** at KC Pet Project!

Our Dog Day Out Program allows volunteers or the public to take a dog out of the shelter for the day, a few hours, for the

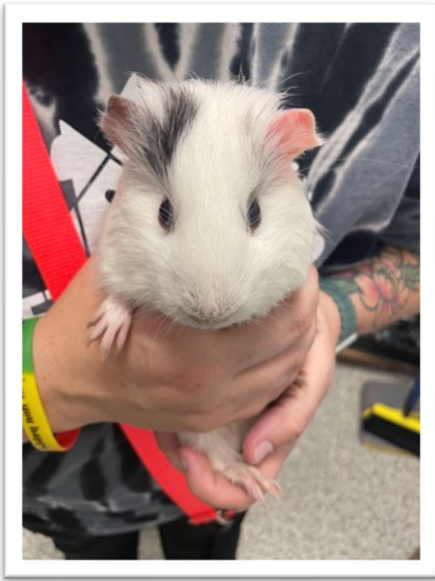


weekend – however long you want! This program gives our dogs a much needed “break” from the stress of the shelter. Hometown Heroes is providing backpacks for our volunteers to help carry everything they need for a Dog Day Out.

On Saturday, July 22nd, we hit a new record for the number of dogs who went on a Dog Day Out in a single day! Thanks to our hard-working staff and volunteers, **33 dogs** were able to get a much need break from the shelter! We also had several of our at-risk dogs leave for foster homes where they are reportedly doing well.

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

Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 30 dogs and 5 pigs were transferred to other rescue organizations in July.



Organizations we transferred animals to: Critter House KC, Great Plains SPCA, Kansas City Pig Rescue Network, Lucky 13 Rescue, Mile High German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue in Centennial, CO, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawportunities, Paws-N-Claws Iowa, The Pet Connection, and Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Small Animals & Transportation Program:

In July, we worked with a sense of urgency every day to move dogs to offsite locations when kennels opened to make space at our Campus location. Ninety-five (95) puppies and small dogs and sixty-three (63) large dogs were moved to offsite adoption centers.

We processed **12** small animal adoptions – 5 guinea pigs, 1 lizard, 3 rabbits, 3 turtles. We sent 4 small animals to foster homes in July for medical and/or special needs.

Feline Foster Care Program

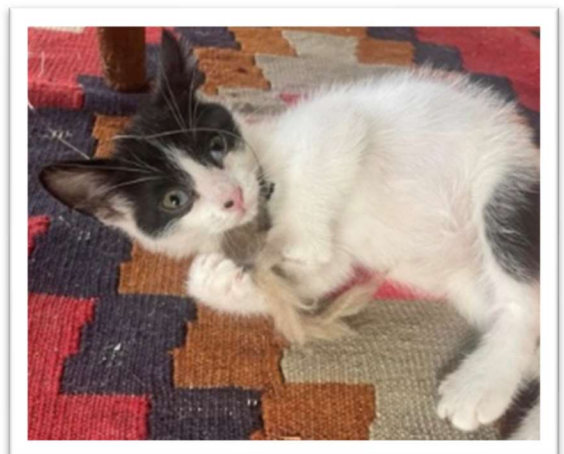
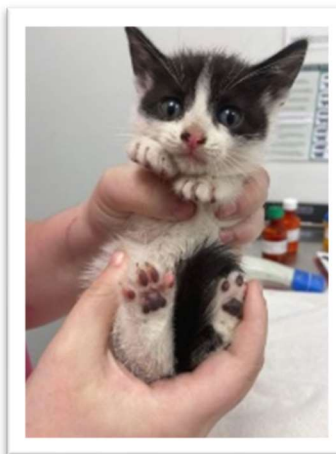
Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported July was busier than usual – sending out 344 kittens and 12 adult cats to foster homes last month (20% increase from last July). At the end of the month, **335** cats/kittens (65% of the cats at KCPP) were in foster homes.

The Feline Foster Department managed 104 vaccination appointments for kittens.

- ✓ We had 113 active feline foster homes last month and onboarded 18 new foster families.
- ✓ Seventy-one (71) kitties were adopted directly from foster homes – accounting for 13% of the cat adoptions last month!

On July 24th the first kitten from our **Full Circle Program** was adopted! The Full Circle Program consists of KCPP Cat Team members going into the community to help Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return community cats. When they trap kittens

under 8 weeks old, those kittens go to foster for socialization and adoption rather than being returned to the street. **Romeo** (above) was trapped in the evening of June 8th and went to foster the next day. On July 22nd he has his neuter



surgery and was adopted from our Zona Rosa location 2 days later! We are very excited to see the difference this program will make for cats in our community.

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

Gage Mofield was hired as our new Petco Cat Habitat Program Manager, and we transferred in only 10 cats from other regional shelters/agencies in July (from Joplin Humane Society). Our ability to transfer in cats from other shelters decreased by 93% from last July due to increases in stray cats coming into our shelter, challenges with staffing and reduced hours in several Petco stores and slower adoptions.

- ✓ In July, we processed 216 adoptions through Petco Cat Habitats and 24 cat adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café. Our Olathe Petco store had the highest number of adoptions in July with 36 adoptions, followed by the Belton location with 35 adoptions.
- ✓ Eighty-eight (88) volunteers gave 578.57 hours of time at the Petco stores in July.



Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **625** cats/kittens in July, with a 31% increase in the number of stray cats/kittens being brought in by the public compared to last July.

We had **554** cats adopted this month, including **twenty (20) Feline Leukemia (FeLV) positive** cats/kittens!

Alyssa Edwards (right) was one of those FeLV+ cats adopted in July. She came to KCPD on June 1st and had a few medical concerns when she arrived, including dilated pupils and damaged ears.

Sir Beef Wellington (lower right) is another FeLV+ cat who found his way home by giving his adopters “The Most Interesting Cat in in the World” look.



Several of our 10+ year old senior cats were lucky to find new retirement homes last month, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Baby, and **Gladys Sue Templeton** with her beautiful two-colored eyes (left).



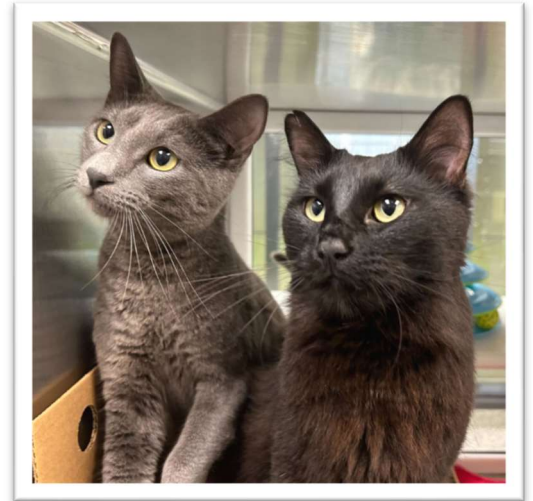
Doctor Dolphin and **Reverend Raccoon** (right) were brought in as strays when they were displaced outdoors and didn't know what to do. They were pretty shy at first, but our feline team was able to help them gain confidence and they became the cutest power couple of the month!



Michael" Twizzler" Wazowski (left) arrived on May 19th and quickly became a staff favorite (even non-cat team staff loved him). He came to us missing his eye and he struggled with constant congestion. We loved how he approached every new thing with a curious optimism even though his physical condition could have kept him down.

He went through multiple surgeries to diagnose and resolve his medical problems. But Michael was just happy learning about balloons, paper balls, cat toys, and of course - he loved cuddling.

When he was cleared for adoption, we sent him to Whiskers Cat Cafe where he thrived - discovering even more interesting things, including a family to love him forever.



Submitted by,

TJohnson

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