

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for June 2023 Activities

Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals Jan - June	2023	2022	Difference
Adoptions	4,570	4,583	13 fewer
Total Intake	7,493	7,229	264 more
Returned to Owners	1,036	972	64 more
Live Release Rate	93.5%	96.8%	3.3% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	1,507	1,874	367 fewer
Stray animals brought in by public	3,037	2,223	814 more
Cats/kittens transferred IN	784	1,037	253 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	3,778	3,496	282 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	20.8 days	17.4 days	3.4 days longer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	15.0 days	18.1 days	3.1 days fewer

June 2023 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,421** new dogs and cats that arrived in June (656 dogs, 765 cats). We also received 6 guinea pig, 5 rabbits, and 1 turtle.
- ❖ **850** pets were adopted in June (368 dogs, 472 cats, and 10 other pets). Adoptions of dogs and cats dropped significantly in June – with 124 fewer adoptions than last June. As of June 30th, adoptions were running only slightly higher than last year at this time.
- ❖ Despite the enormous increase in homeless animals arriving and length of stay increasing for dogs, we still achieved a **91.4%** Save Rate in June (90.8% dogs, 92.1% cats).
- ❖ We provided spay/neuter and veterinary services for 98 community cats in June (for a total of 375 low-cost surgeries for community cats to date).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed **909** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in June. Doctors performed **1,253** examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter in June and treated many injured animals that arrived (such as this kitty burned in a structure fire at a houseless camp).
- ❖ In the first 6 months of 2023, we've provided **170** free spay and neuter surgeries for owned dogs that were reclaimed/reunited with their families.

*Stray pets being brought in by the public are up **37%** mid-year (with a **71%** increase in stray cats). We've taken in **355** more stray dogs from the public that last year at this time.*



Data Trends for Jan – June 2023:

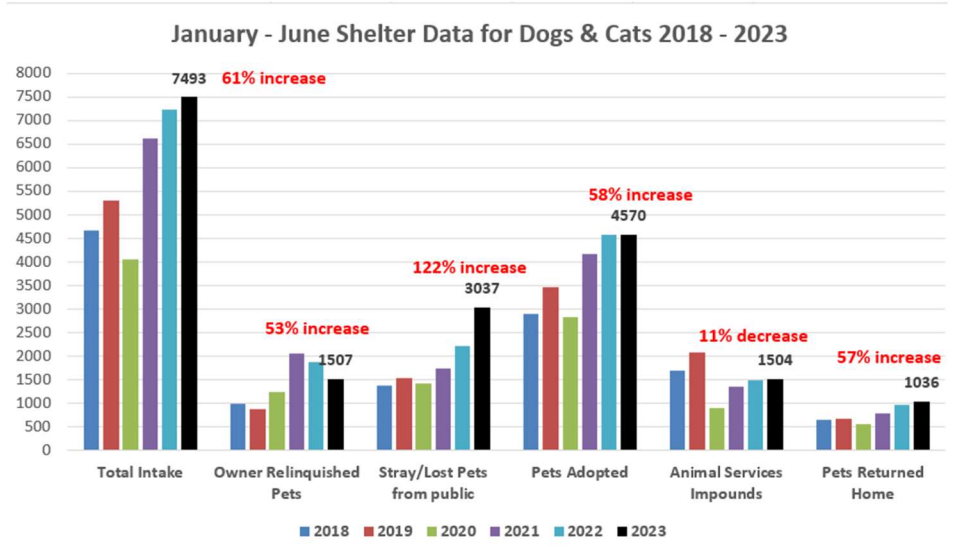
Total intake of dogs and cats is still running at the highest level recorded in our 11-year history – increasing steadily every year for a **61% increase** in the number of animals arriving over the past 5 years.

The number of pets being adopted has slowed significantly but is still at the highest level in our 11-year history – **up 58% 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 122% from 2018 totals.** The number of stray animals arriving is already **37%** higher than last year’s record setting numbers.

Lost/impounded pets being returned to their families through our Return-to-Home Team are up **57%** 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 150% higher than in 2022. Our Live Release Rate for dogs in 2023 is **92.9%**.



Animal Services Division Update

Officers responded to **2,051** case activities in June, travelling a total of **16,014** miles throughout the city, impounding **279** animals, and returning an additional 21 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
1,397	144	510	2,051

Two class-E felony Animal Cruelty Charges were issued through the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office for criminal prosecution, setting an unprecedented milestone for the City of Kansas City, MO.

- In the first 6 months of 2023, **410 criminal citations** have been issued through Municipal Court.
- The Cruelty Investigations Team had 54 open animal cruelty cases under investigation at month end (animal abandonment, animal neglect, and animal abuse/cruelty) and resolved 302 cruelty cases throughout the month.
- On June 23rd, Chief Johnson, Manager Rohrback and Supervisor LaDue represented KCPP’s Animal Services Division at the quarterly meeting of the **KC Coalition Against the Co-Occurrence of Domestic Violence and Pet Abuse.**
- On June 14th, Chief Johnson was accompanied in the field by a KMBC 9 news reporter to gather content for a story which highlighted the shelter’s capacity crisis and the role that Animal Services plays in reducing unnecessary intake.
- On June 28th, Chief Johnson met with Vincent Medley, Executive Director of the national Human Animal Support Service (HASS) organization to discuss how our community-centric approach in the delivery of animal services in Kansas City is supporting more pet owners.

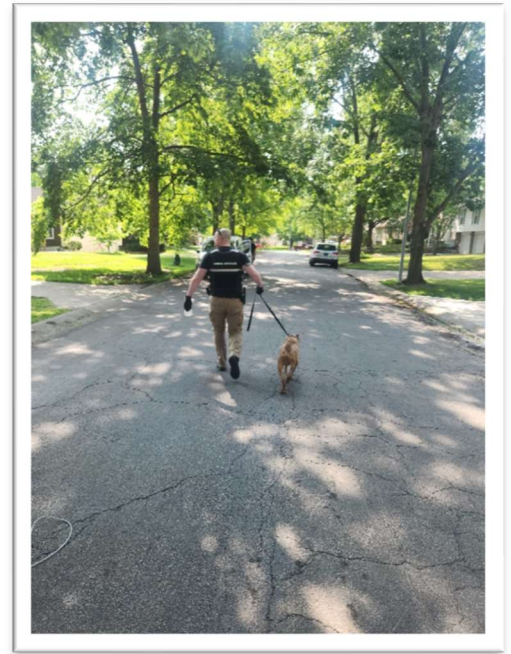


Stories From the Field – Search Warrant Executed to Save Abused Dog

In June, Animal Services received an online report containing photographs of an emaciated dog being starved and concealed inside a residence. Animal Services Officers responded to the address and were met by an uncooperative owner who would not allow us to inspect the dog and would not offer any information for our investigation. Based on the photos we received, we determined that immediate intervention was necessary to prevent any additional suffering by this dog. Animal Services quickly submitted an **affidavit of probable cause** to the City Prosecutor’s office in conjunction with a request for a **search warrant**. The warrant was quickly approved, and we began completing our critical incident planning for the execution of the warrant.

The execution of any warrant is inherently dangerous, and safety must always be the number one priority. Collaboration with KCPD is key to ensure there are no active investigations in progress at the address, and officer safety equipment, a communications plan, and egress planning must be considered to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

When animal services served the warrant, the owner was quick to deadbolt the door and ignored all directives. The dog owner presented a safety risk to the team, and we left the scene. The following day, officers were back on scene to seize the dog, but when the dog owner spotted our officers, he locked himself inside the home, but turned the emaciated dog loose from a side door. The dog was quickly impounded and taken to KCPP for medical treatment and is doing well. Charges will be issued in this case for animal cruelty, failure to license, and dog at large.



Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ We finalized our **2022 Annual Impact Report** and posted it on our website on the 2022 stats page.
- ❖ We hosted the leadership of the national Human Animal Support Services (HASS) organization for three days at the campus. KC Pet Project has been a HASS pilot shelter since 2020.
- ❖ Daily Show star and comedian, Roy Wood Jr. (right) stopped by KC Pet Project while he was in town performing at The Improv. We gave him a tour of the shelter and discussed challenges facing pet owners now in Kansas City.
- ❖ Tori Fugate and Ryan Johnson gave a presentation at Northland Neighborhood Inc meeting on June 6th, answering questions from residents and city council members who were in attendance.
- ❖ Tori consulted with Austin Pets Alive on strategies we’re using to market big dogs and to get them into homes.
- ❖ Tori gave a presentation to the KC-IABC (Kansas City International Association of Business Communicators) coffee chats meeting on June 13th to local social media and marketing professionals on the topic of our Philly award winning social media campaign featuring Simon the dog.



- ❖ We hosted City Council candidate for 2nd District At-Large, Lindsay French, for a tour. We also hosted Tim Yeaglin and Mia Navedo-Williams visiting our shelter from Best Friends Animal Society. Tim is our Great Plains Regional Representative and Mia is the Sr. Manager of Multicultural Engagement.
- ❖ We filmed a new dog adoption campaign with KC Royals Pitcher, Josh Staumont (right), and his wife Angelina, as well as representatives from Ziwi, and the Royals.
- ❖ We launched a campaign in June to bring in donations for our Keep 'Em Together KC program to get more donated pet food, tethers, bowls, and pet supplies to help local families care for/keep their pets.
- ❖ We shared a press release and many social media posts about pet safety in the extreme warm temperatures, as well as 4th of July safety tips ahead of the holiday weekend.
- ❖ We launched an extended Red, White, and Woof pet adoption special that ran from June 28th – July 5th, with 288 pets finding homes during the special.



- ❖ On June 20th and 21st KC Pet Project hosted Greater Good Charities and Jackson Galaxy for the **Cat Pawsitive 360 Conference**. This two-day event of feline-focused workshops is part of a series of Cat Pawsitive 360 events across the US and was designed to engage and immerse local animal welfare representatives in the Kansas City community (and beyond) in a wide range of cat-related sheltering topics. In addition to KC Pet Project, representatives from other shelters attended the workshops including CARE St. Louis, East Newton Animal Coalition, Humane Society of Greater KC, Independence Animal Services, Joplin Humane Society, Lee's Summit Animal Control, Melissa's Second Chances, Miami Animal Alliance, Midwest Animal Res-Q, and Wayside Waifs.



- ❖ On June 9th, Convergent, in partnership with Zenitel Americas, visited KC Pet Project to provide a massive donation of communication and security technology while also volunteering their time, resources and skills. As part of their 2023 Convergent Social Responsibility Day, the Zenitel Americas and Convergent teams installed state of the art intercoms and IP speakers at various locations throughout the building/property. Zenitel's IP-CROR cleanroom intercom stations were installed in our clinic to help our veterinary team in the Parvo ward communicate with staff more efficiently with a push of a button. In addition, volunteers from the companies assisted our canine care team in cleaning kennels, helped tackle our landscape and lawn maintenance, and made enrichment treats for the dogs in our shelter. We are so grateful to Zenitel Americas and Convergent for this incredible donation!



- ❖ KSHB 41 did a feature story on our Dog Day Our program with Hallie and Hensley, two young volunteers who help with the program and are featured on our social media channels.

- ❖ On June 10th, KC Pet Project held our first 5K Race in Swope Park. We had **750** people register for the race and, despite some rain, had a great turnout!



- ❖ Tori was featured on the Boulevardia podcast that was broadcast from the Podcast Stage at the festival on June 17th. KCPP volunteers and staff managed the main stage bar for the event.



- ❖ Our Father’s Day Adoption special was June 16th – 18th and we found homes for 130 pets.

- ❖ We had 217 news stories and broadcast mentions during the month of June, reaching an estimated **547,862,480 million** people! We had several national news stories, including an article from MSN and the Daily Paws on “Euthanasia Numbers Going Up in Animal Shelters” and a story featuring our Animal Services Division rescuing a dog from a storm sewer.



- ❖ Fox 4 did morning live shots from KCPP on June 21st on our need for kitten foster homes and kitten supplies.

Website Statistics	Social Statistics
Users – 69,801	102,000+ followers on Instagram
New Users- 64,002	163,000+ likes on Facebook
Sessions – 127,788	1.3 million TikTok followers
Page Views – 617,466	

On Instagram, we posted 81 posts/Reels in June, which had 890,964 impressions and 467 Stories with 586,410 impressions.

On Facebook, we posted 46 posts/Reels in June which had 1,126,446 impressions.

Community Education/Partnerships/School Visits

- ❖ We had 13 events that were held at our Campus facility in June, including two (2) scout groups and two (2) birthday parties.
- ❖ In June, we welcomed fourteen (14) new summer interns at the KC Campus for Animal Care. Summer internships are active through the month of July. Ten (10) student interns joined our team through our partnership with ProX - supporting organizational needs across the shelter and learning about KC Pet Project and daily business operations. ProX is a unique program that helps connect students to professional experiences to prepare them for what will come after high school.

Volunteer Program Updates

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

- ✓ In June, **902** volunteers gave a record **9,881.69** hours of service, the equivalent of 57.01 full-time employees!
- ✓ Total value of volunteer hours in June: \$282,023.43
- ✓ Six (6) New Volunteer Orientations were conducted for 92 attendees (a 13.6% increase from last month).

- ✓ 54 new volunteers gave 989.73 hours in June and 225 volunteers participated in training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 170 volunteers.

Businesses and Groups that volunteered in June gave 599 hours of service (composed of 204 people): *Commerce Bank, Minds Matter, Kansas City Data Center, Deloitte, Jewish Community Center, Genentech, Youth Development Corps, St. Thomas Church, Pembroke Hill Middle School, E2E LLC, Country Club Bank, and Vineyard Church*

Business/Service Group Volunteer Satisfaction Rating so far in 2023: 4.93/5.00

"The staff was super friendly, and we had a great time assisting. Multiple individuals in the group expressed interest in coming back to volunteer outside of a group setting."

"Megan was a great host and took care of us! Thanks so much for the experience and the opportunity to give back!"

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

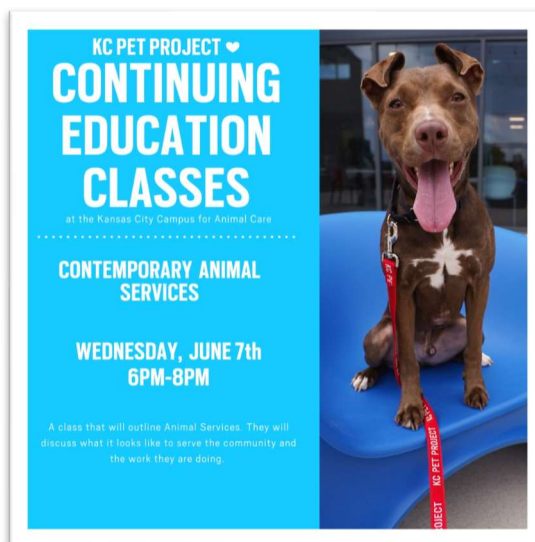
- ✓ Total active volunteers: **1,759** individuals, including 54 *newly active* volunteers.
- ✓ We received 289 new volunteer signups in June.

"Linda was so easy to work with and was very thorough! I definitely felt confident in the green level walking procedures once we were done! She also has a great personality and was easy to communicate with!"

News From the Volunteer Department

We had a jam-packed month of special events in June. Volunteers were integral to the success of these events!

- ❖ More than 40 volunteers supported our first ever in-person 5k race. Volunteers assisted with packet pick up, handing out medals and being in charge of the "snuggle squad" with puppies. We had many volunteers participate in the race as well, and they ran across the finish line with several available dogs at the end of the race.
- ❖ We had more than 60 volunteers assist KC Pet Project during the 2-day Boulevardia event this year (right). Volunteers were beverage vendors at the main stage bar for the weekend and all tips collected at the KC Pet Project tent were donated directly to our organization's lifesaving work.
- ❖ The volunteer department team hosted our third event in our recently launched Continued Learning Series. June's educational topic was *Contemporary Animal Services*. Ryan Johnson, Chief of Animal Services, along with other members of the Division's leadership team presented on community-centric focused animal control and protection practices, breed specific legislation, and the basics of building cases in field services. Many volunteers were in attendance and provided positive feedback about their experience during the session, the information covered, and how much they learned.
- ❖ We launched our first ever Volunteer Fundraising Committee in June. This committee is dedicated to helping our Development Team plan fundraising initiatives for the upcoming annual KC Pet Project Day on July 21st. We hope that this committee will help us develop a framework to get more volunteers involved in other committee areas such as event planning, recruitment, and engagement.



- ❖ The Volunteer Department launched several new **engagement/communication campaigns** in the month of June including euthanasia notifications – whereby volunteers can now opt-in to receive direct communications regarding animals scheduled to be euthanized at the shelter,
- ❖ **Volunteer Check-ins:** these campaigns include scheduled check-in surveys being sent to all new volunteers to identify areas of opportunities and to provide direct support to ensure new volunteers are set up for success. These touchpoints include:
 - ✓ Orientation Satisfaction
 - ✓ First Day Feedback
 - ✓ 30-Day Check In
 - ✓ 60-Day Check In
 - ✓ 90-Day Check in

Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in June 2023

Surgeries		Exams		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	45	Wellness exams	735	Parvo pups treated	32
Community Cats spayed	53	Emergency exams	96	Parvo ward deaths	8
Reclaimed dogs neutered	14	Foster pet exams	83	Survival rate	75%
Reclaimed dogs spayed	14	Recheck exams	337		
Shelter Animals Neutered	385	Injured community cats	2	Vet Clinic Communications	
Shelter Animals Spayed	362			Communications w/adopters	105
Speciality Surgeries	36			Communications w/fosters	271
Total Surgeries	909	Total Exams Performed	1253	Total customers served	376

News from our Veterinary Clinic

Our shelter veterinarians have already performed **3,778** spay/neuter surgeries so far this year – nearly 300 more surgeries than last year at this time.

The Incredible 9 Lives of Tailless Tilly and her Tiny Tots

We wish **Tilly** (right) could tell us what happened to her and her three tiny tots before they were brought to us late on Sunday, June 4th. This precious little feline family was found ***inside a wire box trap that was tied to, and being pulled around by, a dog!*** Box traps are composed of small wire squares and unfortunately, all of their little legs and tails fell through those wire openings as the trap was tossed and dragged around by the dog, causing severe injuries to Tilly and her three tiny kittens.

This little family was covered from head to toe in dried mud and blood, so it was difficult to see the extent of their injuries. Most of Tilly's tail was missing, and what was left was necrotic with exposed bone. Both of her front feet were completely mutilated and infected. One of her kittens, Ty, was missing his entire front right leg, and there was exposed muscle and bone at the shoulder. Kitten Leanne's front leg was swollen and dislocated. Norman, the largest kitten, didn't have any physical injuries but he was covered in mud and traumatized. Despite this terrible ordeal and the incredible amount of pain they must have endured, they purred the entire time our medical team worked on them.



After amputating the dead portion of Tilly’s tail, our medical team began debriding the dead tissue on her front feet. We opted not to close any wounds at the risk of infection, as feet are a very difficult part of the body to surgically repair. Doctors turned their focus to the kitten we named Ty, who suffered from the worst open wounds and infection.

Little Ty was very small and fragile for sedation, but we knew infection would take his life unless we performed surgery. Ty made it through his amputation surgery, but we were still worried about his recovery. Miraculously, he was up and eating by that afternoon and continued to improve each day.

Kitten Leanne was still trying to use her injured leg, but we noticed she was becoming lethargic and febrile, and sepsis was beginning to set in. Just like her brother Ty, she was way too little for sedation, but we knew amputating her leg was the only way to save her life too. And just like her brother Ty - she recovered and was eating ravenously the next morning following surgery.

After one week of round-the-clock care in our clinic hospital, the kittens were cleared to leave for a foster home to continue their recovery. “Tailless Tilly” spent the remainder of her recovery time in our feline hospital and absolutely won the heart of anyone who walked in. She was all purrs, belly rubs, and head butts. We were eventually able to close the wounds on her feet and were able to save all but two of her toes. She recovered and is finally available for adoption -- and we can’t wait to meet the families that adopt these lucky kitties thanks to our amazing veterinary team.



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** (1,483 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (643 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (201 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **824** emails were received in June inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **783** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process. We received 23 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns.

Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction Survey

- ✓ **2023 Rating: 4.76/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.71/5.0 stars: *131 surveys submitted in June; 797 submitted since launch in September 2020*

“Tiger was an amazing help with everything. He made the process easy and fun. Keep up the great friendly service. You’re a joy to interact with. Also, my first time ever coming to the shelter – thanks for making my first time awesome.”

In June, the Pet Support Center assisted approximately **1,317** KCMO residents with in-person services including pet relinquishment, microchipping, stray animal

“Diane is an amazing human full of grace, love, joy, and patience. She handled us well, professionally, and personally! Thank you for having such amazing staff! Thank you, Diane, for making me a new KC Pet Project donor! I appreciate you all.”

impounds, lost and found/return to home, pet licensing, records requests, taking in sick or injured pets, pets being reclaimed, and providing pet resources such as basic pet care supplies as well as supportive programs through Keep 'Em Together, KC.

- ❖ The Pet Support Center kept families together for **150** 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 4 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter. **A total of 243 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter (a 2% decrease from last month).**
- ❖ The Pet Support Center staff took in **615** stray/lost animals from members of the public (a 32% increase from June 2022).

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 (437 pets),
2. Health of the owner or health of pet (313 pets),
3. Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (307 pets),
4. Housing Issues including cost, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (271 pets).

Pet Support Call Center Performance

June 2023	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,768	1,022	4,790	21%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	74	50	124	40%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	651	117	768	15%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	4,493	1,189	5,682	21%
OUT < Helpline - Main	1,165	141	1,306	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	287	59	346	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,452	200	1,652	N/A
Total Performance for the Month	5,945	1,389	7,334	21%

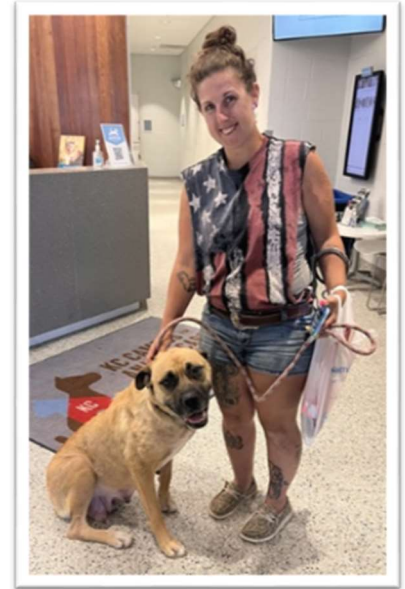
Our Pet Support Center team received **5,682** phone calls, completed 1,652 outbound calls, and resolved 504 voicemails in June.

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 133 Lost Pet Reports and 54 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 115 in-depth microchip investigations for stray animals in our care.
- ❖ 141 (24%) of the 582 stray animals (not including 278 kittens) brought to the shelter in June were returned to their owners. **26.9% of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 3.6% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners.**
- ❖ Animal Services Officers have reunited **154** 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 **81% over 2018** totals!*

Return-to-Home – Kona Mae’s Long-Distance Reunion

Kona Mae (right), a mastiff shepherd mix, was assumed to have been stolen out of her country yard in Amsterdam, MO one afternoon in June while her owners were at the hospital with a sick child. When they arrived home to discover their family dog was missing, they began a frantic internet search for any sign of her. They posted lost reports in several local groups and were astonished when a volunteer reached out to them with a photo of their missing dog that had just arrived here at KCPP -- more than an hour and a half drive from their home! They drove to our shelter the following morning and the tearful owner had hugs for everyone when she realized it was their Kona Mae! Not sure how Kona Mae came to be found **100 miles from her home**, but her family was so grateful to be reunited with their sweet girl.



Rehoming Support Services

In June, our team received 111 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **75** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 2,736 requests for ReHome services since October 2021.*

Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program Updates

Atlas Gatten, Director of Community Programs, reported **282** families benefitted from our five (5) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in June (a 1.8% increase from last month):

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

- ✓ 25 families with 39 pets applied for temporary care assistance in June.
- ✓ 13 new safety net foster applications were received.
- ✓ 1 family (1 pet) was reunited in June.
- ✓ 1 new family with 3 pets was enrolled in the program (for a total of 3 families with 6 pets).

569 applications have been received since the program launched in February 2021. Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided 4,804 days of enrollment and 7,479 days of temporary care for a total of 88 families with 134 pets. Home Away from Home currently has an exceptional **93% reunification rate**.

Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$3,467.07** for 18 families (20 pets) was provided by KCPP in June.

- ✓ 18 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received.
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance: \$520.07
- ✓ Home Away From Home Reunification Fees: \$20.00
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$2,927.00

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.*

264 families with 378 pets benefited directly from these resources provided in June:

- ✓ 1,099 lbs. of cat food and 40 lbs. of cat treats
- ✓ 1,843 lbs. of dog food and 32 lbs. dog treats
- ✓ 150 lbs. of kitty litter

- ✓ 57 collars and 39 leashes
- ✓ 69 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 8 kennels/crates and 1 outdoor pet house
- ✓ 139 miscellaneous pet care items

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 June:

- ✓ New clients met through active PFL outreach: 0
- ✓ Number of new pets met: 0
- ✓ Total touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 9
- ✓ Supplies given (leashes, food, shelters, etc.): 8 items
- ✓ Medications or services given (dewormer, nail trim, microchip, vaccines, etc.): 5

There are currently 28 clients (with 42 pets) receiving ongoing support from Pets for Life in the Kansas City, Missouri, community of 64127, since the program was launched in March 2023.

- ❖ Jaime contacted a total of fifteen (15) full-service veterinary clinics in the Greater Kansas City area last month to identify potential veterinary partners that would offer full-service veterinary care and preventive pet healthcare to our clients. Our Pets for Life team officially partnered with **Northland Animal Welfare Society (NAWS)** as our first spay/neuter veterinary partner! With twelve (12) pets currently awaiting spay/neuter services through the Pets for Life program, we put a temporary hold on field outreach services to ensure the waiting list of pet families receiving services was manageable until surgery appointments could be scheduled.
- ❖ Our Pets for Life team began the onboarding of BestyBnB as a supportive resource for pet families in our Pets for Life community. BestyBnB was born out of the Founders’ mission to keep pets and people safe, connected, and together. The platform connects pet families and service agencies with temporary caretakers so that pet families can stay together during times of crisis.

3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

- ✓ **66%** of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in June were reclaimed by owners who took advantage of the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ ***Since June 2021, we have subsidized \$204,929.00 in reclaim fees for 1,967 families with 2,323 pets.***

\$8,975.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 82 families with 94 pets in June.

News from the Keep ‘Em Together, KC Program

- ❖ Our Keep ‘Em Together, KC team met with staff from the Animal Rescue League of Iowa in June to share information and best practices of our Keep ‘Em Together, KC, program. **Our Keep ‘Em Together, KC, initiative and subsidiary community programs have been considered “the model approach” for other animal welfare organizations across the nation.**
- ❖ Members of Human-Animal Support Services (HASS) spent three (3) days with members of our team during the month of June. KC Pet Project was selected as the first shelter to receive an in-person visit and hands-on support as part of HASS’ Roadshow to continue the development of community-centric sheltering. Through an on-site visit, the HASS team worked alongside KC Pet Project leadership to evaluate our current shelter activities and provide onsite support where needed.

KC Pet Project is the first HASS pilot shelter in the country to participate in the Community Connections program, with the goal of establishing services for pets as a standard part of the local continuum of human services.

- ❖ In addition to the Community Connections efforts which include fostering partnership efforts with human welfare organizations (such as BestyBnB and local domestic violence shelters), HASS provided support and insight for:
 - ✓ Outlining lost pet programming plan and data tracking strategy
 - ✓ Developing community relations messaging support including emphasis on reunification and community-centric sheltering
 - ✓ Assisting in the aggregation of pet support service data tracking solutions
- ❖ Tara McNamara, Keep 'Em Together Case Manager, and Atlas Gatten, Director of Community Programs, met with Doobert to explore potential opportunities to integrate new technology to help streamline pet support services offered through Keep 'Em Together, KC.

Keeping 'Em Together: Gizmo Goes Home

Sometimes small dogs don't realize just how small they are. That was the case for Jessica and her pet Pug, Gizmo. When two large dogs attacked, Gizmo bravely ran to defend his sibling. Unfortunately, Gizmo was injured during the rescue.

Gizmo's owner Jessica didn't know where to turn and immediately called our Animal Services Division for help. While Gizmo may be a Pug, Jessica calls him her son. Gizmo has been in her family since he was a tiny puppy, and they could not imagine life without him.

Gizmo spent time in our vet clinic hospital and when it came time for Gizmo to go home, he was so excited he tried to wiggle out of the vet assistant's arms to get to his mom. The bond between these two was so heartwarming.

Jessica said, "I really appreciate all you did for my son, saving him and taking care of him. I will never stop thanking all of you for what you did for our family because Gizmo IS my family. Thank you all and God bless every one that helped my son and donors that make this happen."



Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 57
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 67
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters by Behavior Team: 1

As the shelter sees an increase in dogs entering our care, our Canine Behavior Team is seeing **the largest number of dogs in playgroups in KCPP history**. This month, we rotated **204 dogs into playgroups in just 4 hours**. We are proud that our team continues to learn and evolve to make sure that each dog is receiving important daily enrichment, including playing with other dogs.

Behavior follow-up support for adopters in June: 67 post-adoption follow up emails were sent, 11 phone consultations performed, 32 behavior support email correspondences, and we're currently assisting 2 people with behavior help for their foster dogs.

Canine Operations & Adoptions

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of **260** dogs every day at the KC Campus for Animal Care in June.

The Canine Care & Adoptions team trained in advanced dog walking, dog-to-dog introductions, and matchmaking.

An average of 172 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups in June – including a day we rotated 204 dogs into canine playgroups in just 4 hours!



KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey rating: **4.84/5.0** stars (19 surveys submitted in June, 233 responses to date)

“The staff was friendly and professional and truly helped us find the perfect match. We were so pleased with the process and love our new fur baby!”

“Thank you! Jack is perfect for me!”

“Everyone was thorough and made sure to take the necessary time needed to make everyone and everything in the process was addressed.”

“We loved our experience at KC pet project- thank you so much for all you do for KC animals.”

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported 105 dogs (24% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of June. During the month, **230** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes.

- ✓ Volunteers took **139** dogs on a Dog’s Day Out last month.
- ✓ We welcomed 17 new dog foster families in June.
- ✓ We had 41 dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.

In the month of June, we had a higher number of dogs adopted directly from foster homes! Our foster volunteers continue to be an integral part of keeping the Foster Program running. Without their dedication, the Dog Day Out program, and the foster department, would not be nearly as successful.

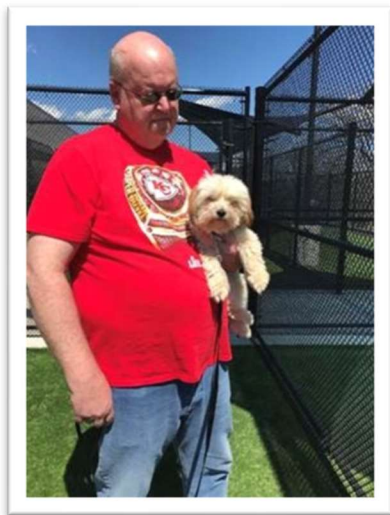
The oldest dog in our shelter, **Tina Turner**, is on her way to becoming a local celebrity. Earlier in June she was featured on a KSHB 41 news story about our Dog Day Out program. Tina Turner went out with the Hall family (known for the adorable *Hallie and Hensley Approved* segments) and the reporter tagged along to learn a little more about the program (right). Since this story first aired, Tina Turner went to live with a foster family, and is patiently awaiting her forever home.



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

Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 29 dogs were transferred to other rescue organizations in June.

150 dogs and puppies were transported from our KCCAC Campus location to our Zona Rosa and Petco Adoption Center locations in June.



Organizations we transferred animals to: Chain of Hope, Columbia Second Chance, Critter House KC, German Shepherd Dog Rescue of Iowa, Mid America Boston Terrier Rescue, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawportunities, Paws-N-Claws Iowa, and Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Small Animals & Transportation Program:

This month we wanted to recognize one of our volunteer drivers, Ridgley Willis (left). Ridge is usually the first person to volunteer to drive dogs destined for rescue and most of the transport requests that are in excess of 2 hours or more one way. This month, Ridge drove four different transports totaling 14 hours of driving time and 920 miles! Max Little, Georgie Pie, Mildred, and Ranger all made it safely to their rescues because of volunteers like Ridge and we are so thankful for them!

We processed **10** small animal adoptions – 1 rabbit, 1 chicken, 3 reptiles, and 5 rodents. We sent 2 small animals to foster homes in June for medical and/or special needs.

Feline Foster Care Program



Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported June was another busy month for the Feline Foster department. At the end of June, **433** cats/kittens (69% of the cats at KCPP) were in foster homes.

- ✓ We had 134 active feline foster homes last month and onboarded 18 new foster homes.
- ✓ Seventy-nine (79) cats were adopted directly from foster homes – accounting for 17% of the cat adoptions last month!
- ✓ Kitten season started much later this year compared to 2022, but we've taken in nearly the same amount of underage in the last 3 months (1,010 kittens) – with May being our highest intake month so far.

We sent 376 underage kittens and 5 adult cats to foster homes in June.

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

We transferred in 57 cats from other regional shelters/agencies including Joplin Humane Society, Liberty Animal Shelter, and North Kansas City Animal Control.

We've experienced a decrease in cat adoptions in 2023 and due to that, have slowed down the number of cats/kittens we can transfer in from other agencies. But our average length of stay for all cats in 2023 has decreased to an impressive **14.7** days.

Ninety-seven (**97**) volunteers gave 469.85 hours of time at the Petco stores in June. So far in 2023, the Olathe, KS and Barry Road stores have processed the most adoptions.

Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **765** cats/kittens in June, with an **82% increase** in the number of stray cats/kittens being brought in by the public compared to last year at this time. We found new homes for **472** cats/kittens.



On June 20th and 21st, we hosted television celebrity and cat behavior expert **Jackson Galaxy** for a cat conference! KC Pet Project feline staff (left) were able to attend, and we had the opportunity to invite 50 people from local rescues and shelters. Our feline staff worked incredibly hard to prepare the cat areas for this conference and had a wonderful time learning and being inspired.

Coolio (right) was a cat surrendered by her family at the end of April. She did not adjust to shelter life at first and was too afraid to let anyone interact with her. Our staff spent a month working with her and teaching her how to communicate with people and on June 2nd she found a new family!



Charity (right) is a cat that was brought in as a stray on April 22nd with her kittens. She had an injured back leg that was too severe to save, and the decision was made to amputate her leg and send her kittens to a foster home. Charity recovered quickly and was adopted just 3 days after being cleared for adoption.

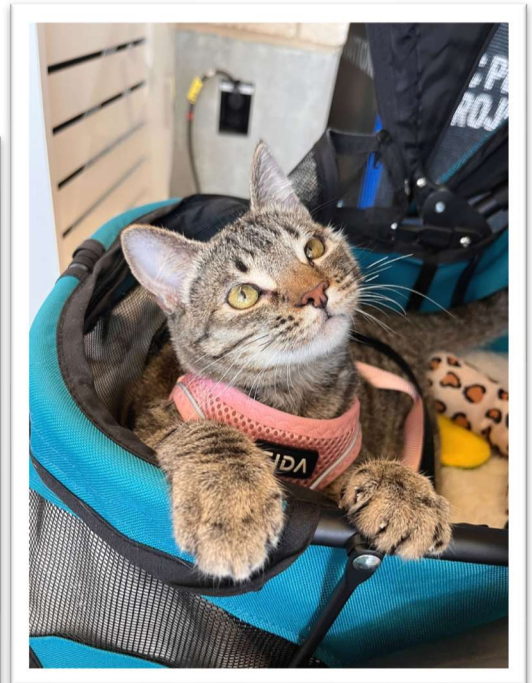
Cynda and Kyle with the Monster (below), were two older cats brought in by KCPP Animal Services Officers on May 22nd along with a third cat and 3 dogs that had all been abandoned and left inside a house for a week after the owners moved away. We were so happy to see these two buddies get adopted together in June.



Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, and Miss Scarlett came in from an owner that surrendered a group of 15 cats on May 18th. All of them were adopted in June.

Litterbug (right) arrived at the shelter on October 9th, 2022, after being found in a box inside a dumpster with her two brothers. While her siblings found their forever homes, Litterbug faced a unique challenge with the diagnosis of *eyelid agenesis*, resulting in underdeveloped eyelids.

Fortunately, she underwent successful surgery earlier this year to repair one eye. Following a smooth recovery, Litterbug embarked on a search for a home that would accommodate her need for regular eye medication on the unrepaired eye. Additionally, her time as an only kitten led to minor behavioral issues, necessitating a patient and dedicated adopter. We are delighted to announce that Litterbug finally found a loving home this month.



Submitted by,

T Johnson

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