

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for November 2022 Activities

Sheltering Statistics Year-to-Date:

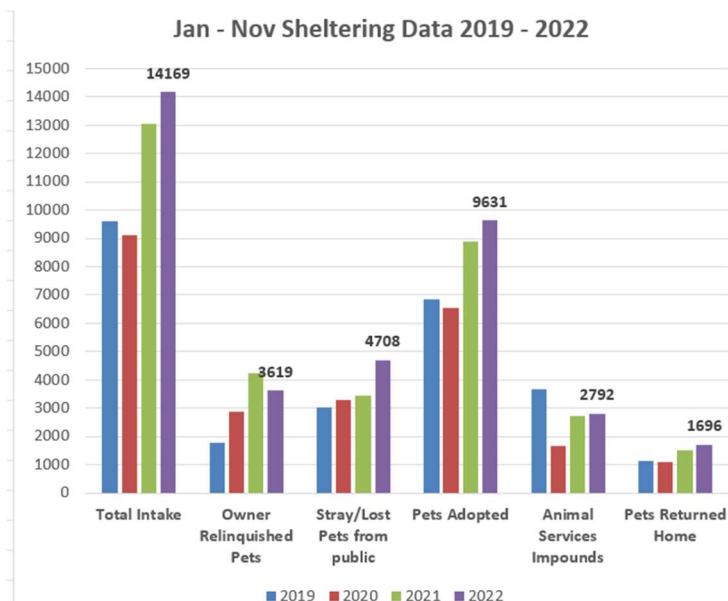
| Dogs & Cats as of Jan – Nov 2022 | 2022 | 2021 | Difference |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Adoptions | 9,631 | 8,888 | 743 more |
| Total Intake | 14,169 | 13,051 | 1,118 more |
| Returned to Owners | 1,696 | 1,512 | 184 more |
| Live Release Rate | 96.1% | 96.4% | 0.3% lower |
| Owner Surrendered Pets | 3,619 | 4,227 | 608 fewer |
| Stray animals brought in by public | 4,708 | 3,429 | 1,279 more |
| Cats/kittens transferred IN | 1,781 | 1,397 | 384 more |
| Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed | 8,607 | 7,313 | 1,294 more |
| Average Length of Stay for Dogs | 18.3 days | 16.1 days | 2.2 days longer |
| Average Length of Stay for Cats | 19.7 days | 22.5 days | 2.8 days fewer |

November 2022 - Animals In & Animals Out

- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,059** new dogs and cats that arrived in November (592 dogs, 467 cats). We also received 2 chickens, 1 dove, 2 ducks, 2 guinea pigs, 1 bearded dragon, 1 parakeet, 6 rabbits, and 6 rats. Animal Services Officers picked up and transported opossums, raccoons, bats, and a woodchuck to Lakeside Nature Center.
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed another record **1,083** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in November. We provided emergency care to seriously injured animals and specialty surgeries, including amputations, wound repairs, mass removals, and a successful surgery to correct a kitten's life-threatening rectal prolapse. Doctors performed **1,436** examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter and treated 6 puppies in our shelter's parvovirus ward.
- ❖ At the end of the month, 172 dogs/puppies (37%) and 170 cats/kittens (49%) were in foster homes.
- ❖ We provided spay/neuter and veterinary services for 53 community cats in November. A total of 805 owned pets and community cats have received low-cost spay/neuter services this year from KCPP.
- ❖ We achieved an incredible **95.8%** save rate in November (95.5% dogs, 96.1% cats) and our Year-to-Date save rate for 2022 is still an impressive **96.1%**, despite continuing to take in the highest number of animals in our city's history.
- ❖ So far in 2022, 1,696 lost/impounded pets have been returned to their homes and an additional 439 lost pets were rescued by Animal Services Officers in the field and returned to their families without having to bring them to the shelter.
- ❖ The number of pets being surrendered by their owners has increased **104%** since 2019.

*So far in 2022, we've provided care for **14,593** dogs, cats, and other pets.*

*In November, **907** pets were adopted (370 dogs, 523 cats, and 14 other pets).*



Data at-a-glance January - November:

- ✚ Total intake of dogs and cats continues at the highest levels ever recorded in our 10-year history – **up 47%** since 2019.
- ✚ Numbers of pets being adopted is at the highest level in our 10-year history – **up 40% from 2019 totals.**
- ✚ Stray/lost pets are arriving at the highest level ever recorded – **up 56% from 2019 totals.**
- ✚ Numbers of lost pets being returned to their homes is at highest level ever recorded – a **47% increase** since 2019!
- ✚ Our doctors are performing the largest numbers of spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in our organization's history – **up 16% in 2022.** Services provided for community cats are **up 35% over last year.**

Animal Services Division Update

- ❖ Officers were dispatched to **1,426** call activities in November and closed 1,081 unique cases (a 2.6% increase in calls from last month). So far in 2022, officers have impounded/rescued 2,857 animals, but returned 439 lost pets to their homes without having to bring them to the shelter.
- ❖ Officers issued 19 verbal warnings for violations and issued 5 official Notice to Correct Violation warning tickets to residents. Sixteen (16) municipal court citations were entered into the Thin Blue Line (TBL) system for review and approval by the City Prosecutor.
- ❖ There are 13 open Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous Dog cases in various stages of investigation - from evidence collection to awaiting a hearing from the municipal court judge.
- ❖ In November, our Cruelty Investigation Team closed **213** animal cruelty case activities for our community, including 36 reports of animal abandonment, 159 reports of neglect, and 18 reports of cruelty. Several pending cases (including the dog shown here) are currently under review for state felony cruelty charges.



Total Calls by Type Responded to in November 2022

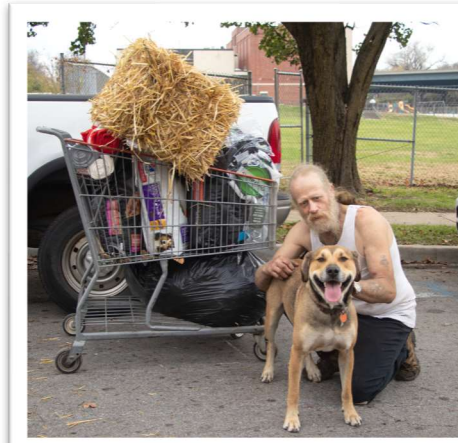
Calls related to stray/roaming animals continue to comprise nearly half of our monthly call volume from residents.

| Call Type | November '22 | October '22 |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Enforcement | 33 | 40 |
| Cruelty Investigations/Neglect | 213 | 165 |
| Other Services (PD/Fire/MAST) | 102 | 105 |
| Stray Animals/Animals at Large | 547 | 597 |
| Wildlife | 45 | 43 |
| Bite – Non-Domestic Animals (bats, etc.) | 15 | 11 |
| Bite – Domestic (dogs/cats) | 97 | 110 |

Stories From the Field

In November, our Animal Services Division participated in several outreach activities to help houseless residents with pets, with the primary goal to build trust with our community and to provide human and animal-related resources to underserved areas in our community.

On **November 10th**, Officers from the Animal Services Division teamed up with Dr. Heather Kennedy, DVM, and Veterinary Technician Elizabeth Meyer to provide vaccinations, dog food, microchips, and other animal-related resources to a camp near the 2400 block of Highland Ave.



On **November 30th**, members of our Animal Services Division, CEO Teresa Johnson, Dr. Heather Kennedy, and Veterinary Technician Allison Hughes provided dog food, straw, microchips, vaccinations, collars, and cold weather supplies to a large houseless camp living near the 1400 block of Spruce Ave.



We asked Robert about his dog Streak (above). He said, *"He means everything to me. He's saved me from three fires since I've had him. He's my best buddy. When you think no one cares about you, your dog cares about you."* Another resident said about her dog Coco, *"It's what keeps me going every day - my dogs. Without my dogs, I'd be in a deep depression. They eat better than I do – I make sure of that."*

Companion animals provide safety and comfort and improve the physical and emotional health of people experiencing homelessness and our Animal Services team is dedicated to supporting these residents and their pets.

Animal Services Call Results for November 2022

| Results for Calls with Animals | November '22 | October '22 | % Change |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Animals Impounded by Officers | 186 | 230 | 19.2% decrease |
| Wildlife Relocated/Transferred Out | 2 | 2 | 0% change |
| Animals Returned Home by Officers | 35 | 43 | 18.6% decrease |

Retail Operations/Roasterie Café/Customer Experience

Bria Sweeney, Manager of Retail Operations and Roasterie Café, stocked our adoption centers with pet-themed retail items, including more affordable kennels and beds. We've seen growth in our retail and Café sales, as well as a significant increase in pet adoptions at our Zona Rosa adoption center. We offered specialty drinks in our Roasterie Café for November, including a Churro Frappe and a Pumpkin Cheesecake Latte.

Our bilingual Adoption Specialist is translating all adoption handouts and paperwork into Spanish versions and providing a Spanish speaking option for our pet adoption process.

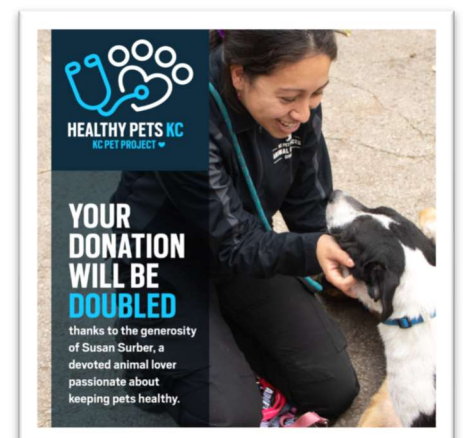
Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ We hosted a two Career Fair events in November with an emphasis on veterinary and animal services positions.
- ❖ Our Zona Rosa Adoption Center celebrated its 10-year anniversary on November 13th. Over the years, we expanded our original location, moved in 2019 to our current retail space, and we found homes for **15,410** pets over 10 years just from this adoption center!
- ❖ On November 17th, shelters in Kansas City hosted fee-waived dog adoptions thanks to a generous sponsorship from local author and animal welfare advocate Janet Curran, in honor of her new book, *Antoine's Tail* – and 46 dogs from KCPP found homes thanks to her sponsorship.
- ❖ We shared the story of **Lenny** (below), another dog who came in with severely matted fur. The story was shared on TikTok and received more than 300,000 views. The media picked up the video and was shared by many stations.



- ❖ KC Pet Project was honored to take home a Gold Award (above right) for **Best Social Media Campaign** at the annual Nonprofit Connect Philly Awards for achievements in nonprofit marketing. We won for our TikTok video on Simon, the dog who was severely matted, with 6.5 pounds of hair shaved off his tiny body. The video has now been viewed more than 77 million times.
- ❖ We held our **Thankful for a Home Adoption Special** from November 11-13 and 157 pets got adopted.
- ❖ Due to high numbers of dogs arriving, we held a **Black Friday Adoption Event** with Name Your Price adoption fees from November 22-27 and 185 pets were adopted!
- ❖ Our fundraising campaign for **Giving Tuesday** on Nov 30th was in support of our **Healthy Pets KC** program to help us provide veterinary services to owned pets of low-income families and houseless individuals in KCMO.
- ❖ Brittany Mahomes and Katie Kenton with Katie's Kennel came by the shelter in November to hand out dog treats and egg biscuits to our dogs.
- ❖ On Giving Tuesday, representatives from Petco Love and Bobs from Skechers surprised us by selecting KCPP staff as one of a handful of shelters nationwide to receive 100 pairs of free Bobs shoes! We provided video and photos of excited staff members receiving their shoes and the national media release from Petco Love featuring KC Pet Project employees in a compilation video.





| Website Statistics | Social Statistics |
|----------------------|---|
| Users – 69,889 | We passed 90,000 followers on Instagram |
| New Users- 63,667 | We are at 143,000 likes on Facebook |
| Sessions – 124,536 | We have 1.2 million TikTok followers |
| Page Views – 657,981 | |

*We had **353** media stories and mentions during the month of November. Estimated media reach for the month for animal services and sheltering stories was **266,050,303** million people!*

Community Education/Partnerships/School Visits

SCHOOL AND SCOUT GROUPS

- ❖ Alex Ayala spoke to a writing class at Eastgate Middle School about over-crowding in animal shelters and the work we do at KCPP to help them learn about the impact of social media and persuasive writing.
- ❖ Four groups of Scouts (totaling 75 students) participated in our Youth Enrichment Program, bringing ingredients to make treats for shelter dogs. One of the Scout troops donated the money they make from cookie sales for a Snuggle Service, getting to play with two foster puppies and two foster kittens.
- ❖ In November, we hosted 3 VIP Children's Birthday Parties. These "parties with a purpose" are fun and educational for the guests, learning about shelter life, the importance of keeping animals physically and mentally healthy, and how they can be advocates for us in their communities.
- ❖ We hosted a student from Maryville Middle School who is interested in a career in animal sheltering. He visited and volunteered with our feline care team for the day.
- ❖ We received 15 outdoor cat shelters made by an Eagle Scout candidate (right), to be distributed to the public during our Project Pet Warmth event in December. Scouts are currently making and delivering dog houses, community cat shelters, leashes, and kennel cat scratching posts.



EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ Alex met with students from the Ray Pec High School Innovation Center. They are working on a presentation about dog bite prevention.
- ❖ We are working on placing student interns from the Southland CAPS program who will be working in several departments their second semester.

Volunteer Program Updates

- ✓ Total value of volunteer hours in November: \$77,143.69
- ✓ New Volunteer Shelter Tours Conducted: 9
- ✓ Number of Individuals who Attended a Shelter Tour: 96 (a 23% increase)

Businesses and Groups that volunteered in November gave 163:30 hours of service with 73 people (a 43% increase from last month) and included: *Lee's Summit West National Honor Society Students (photo next page), Liberty Academy Students, CenterPoint Medical Center, Easterseals Midwest, Saint Luke's Education Team, and Merck Animal Health.*

"I loved doing the enrichment treats. Highly recommend for future volunteers. Simple task, positive impact for both the dogs and the "treat givers". It felt like more fun than work and I'm totally okay with that."

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

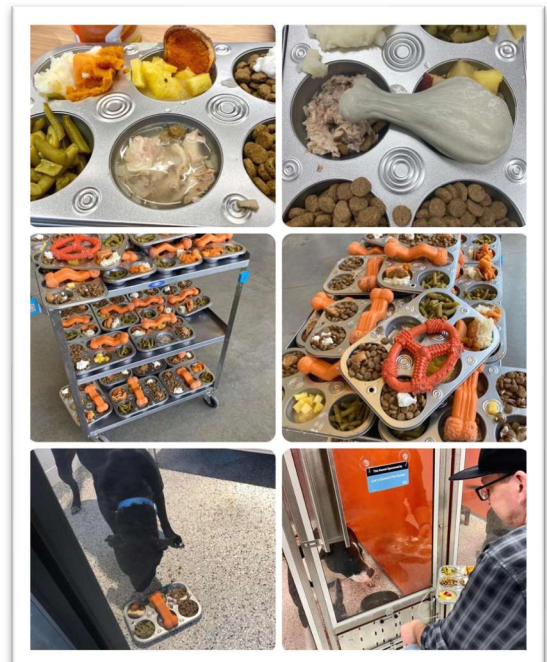
- ✓ Total active volunteers: **2,556** including 85 newly active volunteers.
- ✓ We received 248 new volunteer signups in November with 10 people wanting to volunteer specifically for Petco Cat Habitats.

News from the Volunteer Department

- ❖ In November, the Volunteer Department welcomed **Mandy Irely** to the team as the new Volunteer Engagement Manager. Mandy's previous volunteer management experience includes working in a hospital where she managed 300 volunteers covering a one million square foot campus. Mandy told our team, *"I am excited to be a part of KC Pet Project! I am a compassionate animal lover and I believe in everything KC Pet Project is doing for the community of Kansas City. I have seen the Volunteers here and I know they are an integral part of KC Pet Project with everything they do to help."*
- ❖ Volunteers organized and hosted **Thanksgiving Dinner for the Dogs** and it was a huge success! Volunteers collected muffin tins and made and served more than 300 individual meals for the dogs at our Campus (photo right). This was such a success, they are organizing and assembling a Christmas Dinner for the Dogs on Christmas Eve.
- ❖ We held a **Volunteer Town Hall** on November 29th to provide an in-person opportunity for dialogue and questions from volunteers regarding current shelter operations, policies, and our continued challenges with space given an increasing shelter population of dogs.

Volunteers had an opportunity to submit questions and feedback prior to the event. KCPP's entire Executive Leadership Team hosted the nearly 3-hour Town Hall meeting (right) and we welcomed an incredible turn out from our volunteers with a lot of great discussion. We are planning another town hall event in the first quarter of 2023.

In November, 382 volunteers gave 2,703.00 hours of services, the equivalent of 15.6 full-time employees.



Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in November 2022

| Surgeries | | Exams | | Parvo Ward | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Community Cats Neutered | 38 | Wellness exams | 440 | Parvo pups treated | 6 |
| Community Cats spayed | 26 | Emergency exams | 32 | Parvo pups graduated | 5 |
| Reclaimed dogs neutered | 23 | Foster pet exams | 9 | Save rate for parvo | 83% |
| Reclaimed dogs spayed | 13 | Recheck exams | 178 | | |
| Shelter Animals Neutered | 491 | Heartworm exams | 45 | Vet Clinic Communications | |
| Shelter Animals Spayed | 456 | Other exams | 732 | Emails answered | 294 |
| Speciality Surgeries | 36 | | | Foster Medical Concerns | 180 |
| | | | | Calls answered | 295 |
| Total Surgeries | 1083 | Total Exams | 1436 | Total communications | 769 |

News from our Veterinary Clinic

The surgery team performed **1,083** surgeries while the medicine and triage team examined **1,436** animals. Our surgery schedule included 36 specialty surgeries, including amputations, wound repairs, dental extractions, mass removals, and a complex surgery to repair a badly prolapsed rectum in a kitten.

In November we welcomed Britney Kaiser, our newest veterinary assistant. Britney was a veterinary assistant in California before moving to Kansas City. Most recently, she was working in private practice before deciding to use her skills to help the animals at KC Pet Project.

Veterinary Assistants went into the field with Animal Services Officers twice in November to administer vaccines to dogs—and a kitten—to pets of houseless members of our community (right).

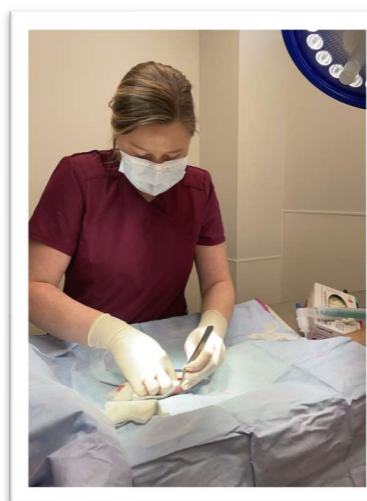
Veterinary Assistants Danielle Henry and Laquinta Lewis helped a woman with a puppy suffering from parvovirus who told us she had driven to ten (10) different veterinary clinics across the city looking for help for her dog, and all sent her away. She stopped at our shelter's veterinary clinic without even realizing we are the animal shelter for Kansas City. We determined the puppy would be a good candidate for outpatient treatment, so Danielle and Laquinta administered the treatments, offered follow-up care and hospitalization if the puppy became worse, and sent very grateful pet owner home with her puppy.



Madison Olson, a Surgery Tech Lead, had a patient that desperately needed IV fluids. Unfortunately, the veins Maddie would normally place an intravenous catheter in had collapsed, so she tried something she had never done before; she placed a catheter in the small blood vessel that runs along the center under the tongue (photo left). It worked so well she used the same technique on a second patient. Our staff are always learning and applying new techniques that help us save lives!

Dr. Kady Lake, DVM a local veterinarian doing relief work for KCPP, used her incredible skills to help a young kitty named **Sally O'Malley** (photos below). Sally came to us with multiple problems with her gastrointestinal tract, including a life-threatening condition where a large portion of her colon was protruding from her anus. Dr. Lake performed surgery to re-place and suture the prolapsed portion

back inside the body and affixed it to the body wall from inside the abdomen (a colopexy). The surgery was a success and Sally O'Malley is doing well and recovering in a foster home.



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

Customer Engagement Performance

Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.3/5.00** (1,423 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (598 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (185 Google reviews)

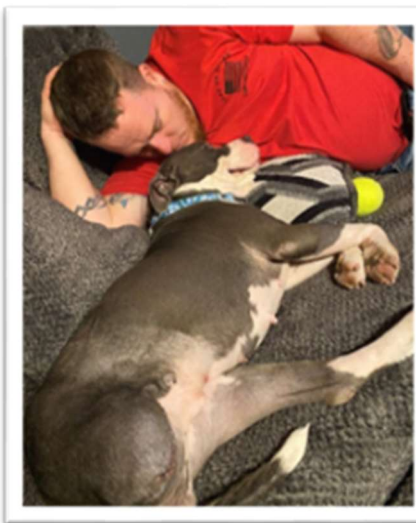
"The staff do a great job. They are professional, the environment is VERY professional, clean, beautiful and just makes the experience an experience."

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **1,647** emails were received in November inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **925** emails were received through our Contact email address.

Adoption Updates: In November, we received 81 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns. Here's what two adopters had to say this month:

"Caramel (now known as Eevee) has been such a joy and gift to our household. Couldn't be more glad to have her and she's had zero issues settling in. Thank you all for giving us the opportunity to add to our household!"

"I just wanted to update you on our precious girl that we adopted yesterday! We kept her name but tweaked it a little (Kallalilly Rose) we call her Kally for short (all of our 6 other kids names start with 'K' lol)."



Pet Support Center - Customer Satisfaction Survey

- ✓ **2022 Rating: 4.56/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.65/5.0 stars: 20 surveys submitted in November; 311 submitted since launch in September 2020

"The staff was great! I brought in a lost pet who clearly had an owner. It was a complicated situation - the number on the collar tag was incorrect, etc... The staff was great. They knew the dog I had brought in, they were already familiar with the situation, and they helped me right away. They also quickly greeted the lady who came in just behind me. I'm sure the dog got back to his people."

"We found a dog in our yard and after trying to find the home (no chip, no response on social media) we brought her to KCPP. Staff was lovely, understanding and patient as we said goodbye to her (she was just very sweet). Her owner came to our door later that day looking for her and was happy that she was safe at KCPP. Thanks for all you do."

Pet Support Center Performance

| November 2022 | Answered | Unanswered | Total Calls | Abandoned Rate % |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| IN > Helpline - Main Queue | 3,414 | 1,042 | 4,456 | 23% |
| IN > Helpline - Spanish | 23 | 17 | 40 | 43% |
| IN > Helpline - Lost and Found | 806 | 257 | 1,063 | 24% |
| Helpline INBOUND Performance | 4,243 | 1,316 | 5,559 | 24% |
| OUT < Helpline - Main | 1217 | 190 | 1407 | 14% |
| OUT < Helpline - Lost and Found | 483 | 90 | 573 | 16% |
| Helpline OUTBOUND Performance | 1,475 | 249 | 1,724 | 14% |
| Total Performance for November 2022 | 5,718 | 1,565 | 7,283 | 21% |

- ❖ In November, the Pet Support Center took 386 strays in over the counter from members of the public (a 13.5% increase from November 2021).

The top 3 reasons pets are being surrendered currently in 2022 are:

- 1) Health of the animal or health of the owner/family (1,179 pets),
- 2) Lack of resources and the inability to afford pet-related care (1,022 pets),
- 3) Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (592 pets).

Housing-related owner surrender currently remains the fourth largest cause for relinquishment (543 pets). *Reasons include cost of housing, loss of home, moving/relocating, and pet-restrictions.*

- ❖ We assisted **858** KCMO residents with in-person services including pet relinquishment, microchipping, stray animal impounds, lost and found/return to home, pet licensing, records requests, taking in sick or injured pets, pets being reclaimed, and providing pet resources such as basic pet care supplies as well as supportive programs through Keep 'Em Together, KC.

In November, our Pet Support Center team answered **4,243** phone calls, completed 1,724 outbound calls, and resolved 473 voicemails.

A total of **242** pets were able to stay with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter (a 34% increase from October).

Pet Support Center Department Updates:

- ❖ Community Programs Administrator, Alyssa Willett, hosted a series of trainings for the Pet Support Center team to help them further develop their skills in the Pet Support Center. In addition to in-person training sessions, Alyssa developed a training video for triaging, processing, and scheduling owner surrender requests.
- ❖ Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, worked with Jorge Lara, Pet Helpline Supervisor, in redesigning the call menu for our Pet Helpline to help callers get connected to the appropriate department or call menu more effectively. The new setup includes a secondary call tree to implement during adoption specials that gives callers the opportunity to select a pre-recorded digital receptionist that outlines the details of the adoption special, encourages donations, and outlines what items an adopter would be required to purchase.

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 123 Lost Pet Reports and 44 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 87 in-depth microchip investigations for stray animals in our care. We cross-posted animals on public Lost and Found websites such as Pawboost, and Petco Love Lost, to reach a wider audience and increase chances of reunification.
- ❖ Lost pets reclaimed in November had been missing for an average of 3.4 days. 136 (25.5%) of the 533 stray animals brought to the shelter in November were returned to owners, which is 2.5% more than in November 2021) and an 11.5% increase from last month.

32% of lost dogs that arrived were reunited with families, but only 6% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners/caregivers.

Return-to-Home – the Story of Mr. Socks

Mr. Socks, a sweet dachshund mix, arrived here at the shelter the day after Thanksgiving through the assistance of our Animal Services Division. His owner was unable to care for him at the time, and Mr. Socks was in KC Pet Project's care for 4 days before his owner was able to come for him. Although his owner is experiencing financial hardship, he really loves Mr. Socks and was ready to have him home.

Our team works hard to remove barriers to reclaiming a beloved pet. We were able to qualify Mr. Sock's family for financial assistance. As soon as Mr. Socks saw his owner he jumped into his dad's arms, and they were happily reunited. The Pet Care Assistance program helped to pay reclaim fees to make this reunion possible.



Rehoming Support Services

In November, our team received 196 requests for private rehoming. Eligible pet owners posted 110 owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website for rehoming support services. ***Our team has received 2,095 requests to use ReHome services since October 22, 2021.***

Keep 'Em Together, KC Program Updates

Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, reported **369** families benefitted from our four (4) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in November:

Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling \$2,799.27 for 28 families (32 pets) was awarded in November:

- ✓ 19 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC veterinary assistance: \$480.00
- ✓ Pet medical assistance granted: \$545.06
- ✓ Reclaim Fee Assistance granted: \$1,774.21

Since January, our Pet Care Assistance Program has provided \$49,691.35 in financial assistance to 231 families with 273 pets.

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

- ✓ 4 families with 5 pets applied for crisis boarding assistance in November. All families were referred to outside agencies for support.
- ✓ 9 new safety net foster application was received in November.
- ✓ There were currently no families/animals enrolled in the Home Away from Home program at month-end.

- ✓ 422 applications have been received since the program was fully launched in January of 2021. Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided 6,859 days of temporary care for a total of 83 families with 124 pets. Home Away from Home currently has a highly successful **92%** reunification rate.

Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

- ✓ Total Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program awards to pet families in November: \$9,110.00
- ✓ 73 families with 96 pets benefitted from the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program last month.
- ✓ 71% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in November were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program. *This is 6% decrease from last month.*

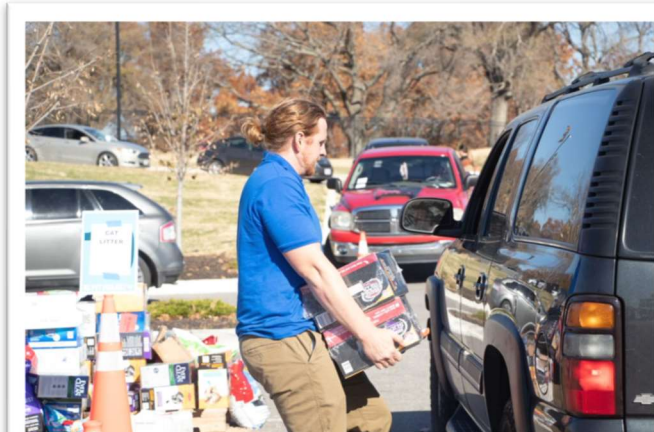
*We have subsidized
\$132,942.00 in reclaim fees
for 1,298 families with 1,552
pets since June 2021!*

Pet Resource Assistance Program

Pet foods were shared with 16 community pantry partners in the metro, including *the Don Bosco Center, Amethyst Place, Pet Resource Center of KC, Heart of America Humane Society, Angel Hearts Rescue, Dogs by Debin, Great Plains SPCA, Lucky 13 Rescue, and two local community cat caregivers.* **268 families with 909 pets** benefitted directly from these resources provided in November. This included a large food donation on November 1, 2022, made possible from a donation from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Chewy. Total resources distributed to our community included:

- ✓ **11,040 lbs.** of cat food and **52,920 lbs.** of dog food
- ✓ 28 lbs. of dog treats and 16 lbs. cat treats
- ✓ 2,500 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 33 collars and 17 leashes
- ✓ 8 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 3 kennels/crates, 6 outdoor cat houses, 2 dog houses and 3 bales of straw
- ✓ 335 engraved pet ID tags
- ✓ 381 miscellaneous pet care items

*Resources provided by KCPP to
residents in November equated
to more than **\$150,000** in
investment in our community!*



News from the Keep 'Em Together, KC Program

- ❖ **BestyBnB:** The Keep 'Em Together KC team and members of the Animal Services Division met with representatives of BestyBnB to continue discussing how the two organizations can work together and best support the pet families needing temporary boarding services in the Kansas City, MO community.
- ❖ Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, and Ryan Johnson, Chief of Animal Services, were invited to meet with the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation to discuss the organization's new **KC Animal and Child Abuse Task**

Force. The Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation has served as a bridge between child welfare and animal welfare groups. Team members of many different organizations came together to discuss the various barriers in reporting cases where child abuse is suspected.

Animal abuse was uncovered in **88% of homes with substantiated physical child abuse.**

- ❖ Derek Melies, Keep 'Em Together Coordinator, reported our KETKC Pet Supply Assistance Program saw a **56%** increase in resource requests during the month of November. As a result, we provided the largest number of pet items distributed in a month in 2022.
- ❖ Tara McNamara, our new Keep 'Em Together Case Manager, and Amanda Gatten, Director of Community Programs, updated the terminology used to describe Home Away from Home to better align with the purpose of the program. The team is shifting to referring to the program as a **Temporary Care** safety net program and moving away from the wording of Crisis Boarding. The hope is that this will alleviate some of the confusion around the service that Home Away from Home provides. Home Away from Home is a program in which families experiencing a temporary inability to provide care for their pets can find support.
- ❖ Tara McNamara met with Kaitlyn Pappas of Pima County Animal Care Center to discuss the successes and challenges of relaunching a Safety Net program. Tara learned how their program has been able to handle a high number of pets they have been able to support since they reopened. Ideas were shared regarding foster engagement, requirement criteria, staff, and community support, and how the housing crisis has affected the populations the shelters serve.
- ❖ Jaime Gomez, Pets for Life Coordinator, prepared for the launch of our newest program in January of 2023. Jaime has been working directly with representatives at the Humane Society of the United States to develop materials, protocols, and program operations. Jaime and the HSUS team meet weekly to problem solve and keep things moving forward.
- ❖ On November 1st, we hosted a **Community Drive-Thru Pet Pantry Event**. We saw 192 households from Kansas City come through for food and supplies that had a total of 732 pets. That's a lot of pet food! Our team was able to distribute 335 pet ID tags and free microchip vouchers for pets. Thanks to Chewy and The Humane Society of the United States, we were able to donate more than **60,000 pounds** of food and pet supplies for our community.



Keeping 'Em Together: Chelsea and Simba



This quick brown Shiba Inu went missing from his family and was brought to KCPP. Simba's owner, Chelsea, unfortunately could not afford the full cost of reclaim fees for Simba. While working with Chelsea to see how our team could help, Chelsea shared an incredible story about her relationship with Simba.

"Simba is my son, I've had him for a while, and I treat him like my son. A few years ago, I got hit by an 18-wheeler while changing a flat tire on the side of a highway. I coded 3 times and nearly died. I got Simba shortly after that and we have been inseparable ever since."

Simba plays a very important role in Chelsea's life, and we were going to do what could to support this family to keep them together. Thanks to our Pet Support Center team and services like our Pet Care Assistance Program, we were able to do just that—support and reunite their pet family. Chelsea said, "Thank you! I really appreciate the help -- and if someone else was in the same position that I was and I could help - I would do the same for them."

Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 75
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 69
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters by Behavior Team: 20

An average of 147 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups in November!

Behavior follow-up support for adopters: 69 post-adoption follow up emails were sent, 16 phone consultations performed, 45 behavior support email correspondences, 4 free behavior lessons given to adopters, and free behavior consultations with families and fosters were conducted in November.

The Behavior & Enrichment Team welcomed a new staff member - Lauren Spear. Lauren has been involved in Animal Welfare since 2004. She has experience working with dogs and horses and has previously worked in an animal shelter and veterinary clinic. The Behavior Team continued our Level Two dog walking class for staff and trained new employees in Canine Care on our dog walking program. We were able to provide a training class to volunteers this month as well and are working to continue providing dog walking classes to volunteers and other departments within the shelter.

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported 172 dogs (37% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of November. During the month, **151** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes – including 69 puppies under 8 weeks old.

- ✓ Volunteers took **90** dogs on a Dog's Day Out last month
- ✓ We welcomed 14 new dog foster families in November
- ✓ We had 52 dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes

In November, look-a-likes Piccolo and Marble were brought in by a Good Samaritan. Piccolo had puppies while they were at large, and someone was able to rescue the puppies, but no one could get near the two adult dogs. A woman who was primarily feeding them every day was finally able to lure them into her yard (right) and they were brought to KC Pet Project. Upon arrival, we noticed Marble was also pregnant. Marble was placed into a foster home and almost immediately had six precious puppies. Piccolo then made her way into a foster home with a first-time foster, a wonderful gentleman who recently lost his dog and wasn't ready to commit to another but was ready to help a dog in need.



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

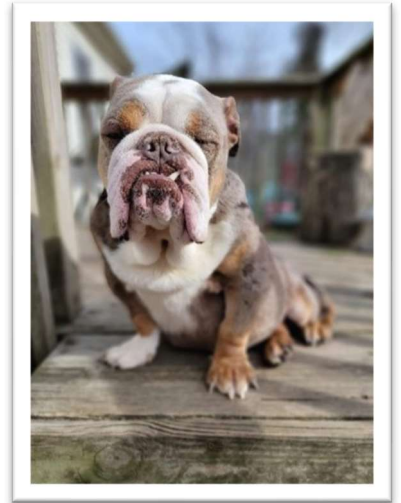
Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator, reported 56 animals were transferred out to other organizations in November, including eight dogs and one cat to breed-specific rescues, three dogs with on-going medical needs, four dogs with behavioral rehabilitation needs, and five dogs returned to their originating shelters.

Organizations we transferred animals to in November: Boxer Paws Rescue, Columbia Second Chance, Great Lakes Bengal Rescue, Great Plains SPCA, Joplin Humane Society, Lakeside Nature Center, Mac's Mission, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawsitive Tails, Saving Great Animals (in Bellevue, Washington), Southern Cross Boston Terrier Rescue (in Jackson, Tennessee), Unleashed, and Wayside Waifs.

Our **small animal program** processed **14** adoptions in November – 6 rabbits, 2 roosters, 1 chicken, 1 duck, and 4 guinea pigs. Six (6) small animals (1 parakeet, 1 bearded dragon, and 4 rats) went to foster homes in November.

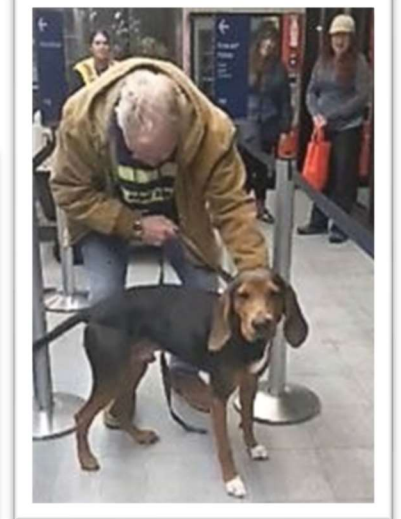
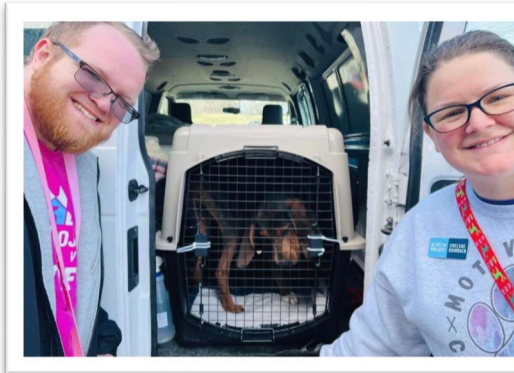


Sweet boy **Brontosaurus** (right) came to KC Pet Project as a lost dog the day before Halloween and appeared to have an extremely distended abdomen. He was treated by our clinic staff and determined he had right-side congestive heart failure and a heart murmur. His medical needs exceeded the capability of our shelter clinic, so we reached out to Southern Cross Boston Terrier Rescue in Tennessee who specializes in Boston Terriers and English Bulldogs. They read over all of Brontosaurus's medical information and immediately had appointments set up with a cardiac specialist and a foster home waiting. Within a few days, Brontosaurus was picked up by volunteer transporters and made the trek to St. Louis, MO and then on to Tennessee. He had 8 liters of fluid drained from his abdomen (12 pounds of liquid) and been on a treatment plan that includes acupuncture and a canine chiropractor. He would not have survived without treatment, and now Brontosaurus, (now known as Arlo), is thriving in their care!



The story of **Menard and Pinga** is a perfect example of the power of social media in saving more lives! Menard (right), a 3-year-old Coonhound arrived as a stray in late October and despite being a handsome, well-mannered boy, he wasn't getting much attention from local adopters. One of our dedicated volunteers, Sharon Gartin, shared photos and videos on her Facebook page of Menard and they caught the attention of

Sindy Staggars with Saving Great Animals Rescue in Bellevue, Washington. She shared Sharon's post and within days had a committed adopter for him. Sindy did an online fundraiser to raise money for Menard's plane ticket to Washington and they were able to raise enough money for TWO dogs to make the trip. Sindy gave us criteria for a second dog that had a committed adopter - resulting in Pinga making the trip too! Both dogs caught a flight out of KCI and arrived several hours later to two VERY HAPPY adopters who report they are both doing very well in



their forever homes. In fact, they knew Menard had landed and was being unloaded when they heard him baying in the distance! Menard, now known as Hunter, has a bloodhound sister and is already stealing his dad's recliner and enjoying Washington weather. Pinga also has a new sibling and is adjusting well to life outside of the shelter.

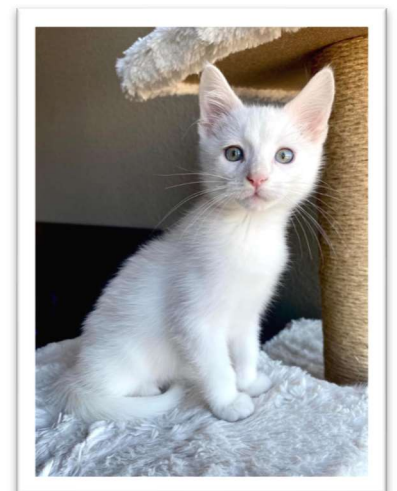
Canine Operations

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of **232** dogs every day at the KC Campus for Animal Care in November – an increase over October. New staff members continued to train in dog walking, adoption matchmaking, and dog-to-dog introductions. We celebrated the promotion of Sadie Ford to Canine Care Supervisor!

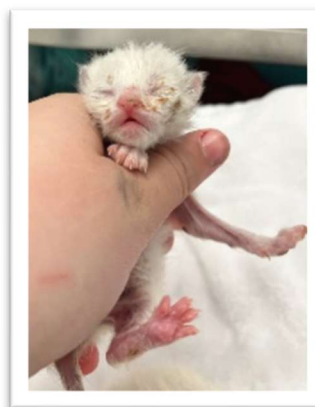
Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported that the colder weather has resulted in a sharp decline in kittens. In November, we sent 117 cats/kittens to foster homes (12 adults, 105 kittens).

- ❖ At the end of the month, we had 80 active foster homes, including 18 new foster homes that were onboarded in November.
- ❖ 53 cats and kittens were adopted directly from foster homes last month. At the end of the month, 195 felines (**53%** of all cats/kittens) were in foster homes.



One special story was a foster kitten named **Avocado Toast**. Avocado Toast (right) came to the shelter with her mom and 2 siblings in August the day she was born. Her mom, Annie Oakley, had a severe uterine prolapse when she came in that had to be surgically repaired. After her recovery from surgery, Annie could not produce milk and was unable to nurse her babies. All of Annie's babies eventually passed away except Avocado Toast, despite receiving intensive care and around the clock feedings. Little Avocado Toast had a rough start to her life, but she was a survivor. She reached 2 pounds in November and quickly found a forever family (see her adorable adoption photo right).



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

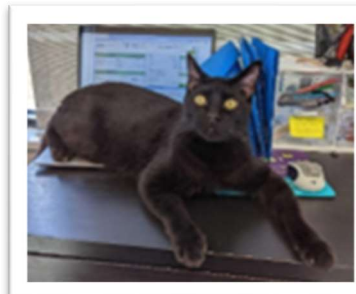
- ❖ Danielle Jones, Feline Lifesaving Program Coordinator, reported we transferred in **135** cats in need from other area shelters/agencies, including our established regional partners like Joplin Humane Society and Paws for a Cause, as well as local partners like Liberty Animal Shelter, Gladstone Animal Control, Gardner Animal Control, and Grain Valley Animal Control. This included kitties with medical cases like ringworm and Feline Leukemia (FeLV), all of whom have now found homes!
- ❖ We trained 5 new Petco Cat Habitat volunteers last month. We have 265 active volunteers in this program currently, and these incredible community volunteers gave 890 hours of time in November at 10 Petco store locations.
- ❖ In November, we processed 227 cat adoptions from Petco Cat Habitats and 31 cat adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café. Petco Cat Habitat adoptions accounted for 49% of all feline adoptions processed last month. The Olathe, KS store had the highest number of adoptions (35) in the metro for the month.
- ❖ So far in 2022, we've transferred in 1,827 cats and kittens to KCPP from **18 partner shelters**. Since launching this lifesaving program in 2015, we've helped other organizations save **7,103** cats!

Partner Organizations

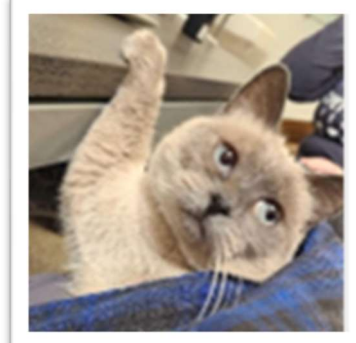
- Grain Valley Animal Hospital
- Raymore Animal Control
- Joplin Humane Society
- Best Friends of NW Arkansas
- St. Tammany Parish (LA)
- Big Sky Ranch (LA)
- Animal Rescue League of Iowa
- Lee's Summit Animal Control
- Midwest Animal Res-Q
- Oak Grove Animal Control
- Gladstone Animal Shelter
- Paws for a Cause Rescue (OK)
- Liberty Animal Shelter
- Independence Animal Services
- Permian Basin Animal Advocates (TX)
- Gardner Animal Shelter
- Unleashed Pet Rescue
- Cats Pawjamas Rescue

Feline Operations

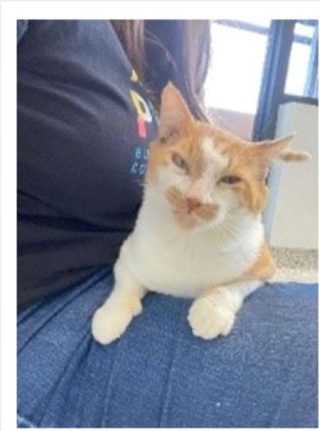
DAMIEN (right) was surrendered to KCPP on March 25, 2022. He came in with a large wound and abscess on his leg needing medical treatment, which resulted in his need for a blood transfusion. It was discovered that Damien was FIV positive after his recovery from the transfusion, and he also developed diarrhea and itchy skin that took some time to resolve. He was adopted but returned 2 weeks later after he was diagnosed with diabetes. With care from our amazing veterinary clinic, Damien's diabetes went into remission, and he was adopted again on October 31st to a new family. We wish the best for this very special boy in his new home!



DOLLYWOOD (right) is a 10-year-old kitty who came to KCPP on October 14, 2022. She was left in a bright pink backpack outside our Admissions door suffering from severe dental issues. She didn't want to eat due to the pain in her mouth, but our doctors performed several dental surgeries to extract the teeth that were causing her discomfort. She was adopted in November to a new family who promised to spoil her with lots of soft foods!



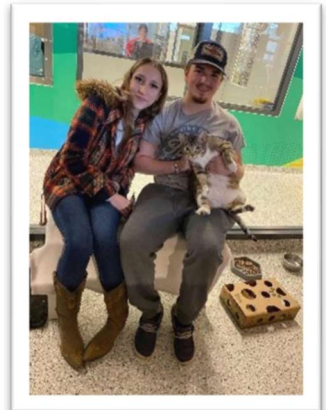
PEPPER is a 10-year-old kitty who came to KCPP back in September 2021. She was extremely fearful in the shelter and went into a foster home where she flourished, so she came back into the shelter for adoption in February. Sadly, Pepper struggled once again with the stress of being in the shelter. In October, one of the feline care staff, Amberly Ramsey, took Pepper home as a foster to give her a break from the shelter and help her come out of her shell. Only a few days later, one of the Petco Habitat volunteers found a prospective adopter for Pepper. By early November Pepper had met her adopter and found her forever home! Thanks to the incredible teamwork of shelter staff, foster homes, and Petco volunteers, Pepper is thriving in a new home.



STARRY NIGHT (left) is a kitty with Feline Leukemia (FeLV) who came to KCPP on September 30, 2022, with a large open wound on the right side of his face. His wound was severe and required surgical repair. He healed well and once he was comfortable enough to come out of his shell, he was a very social and happy boy! Starry Night was adopted early in November.

TICO (right) came to the shelter May 7, 2022, along with 3 other cats after they were found left in crates outside with notes written about each of them. Tico's note read, in part, *"I'm hateful, I just want to be left alone, does good being the only one."* Tico struggled with fear and anxiety during her first few weeks at the shelter but began steadily improving and soliciting attention. She was eventually moved to a Large Colony room where she could have plenty of space to herself.

Tico became a staff favorite and had lots of interaction with people. On November 27th, Tico met the perfect couple who understood her personality and she finally got a home!



Finally, the story of **MORTIE**'s transformation is one we can all be proud of. Mortie (below) was a **17-year-old** kitty brought in to KCPP on July 6, 2022. Mortie weighed only 5 pounds when he came into our shelter and was in very rough shape (photo below was the day he arrived). However, he was very social and loving despite his poor health. He was rushed to our vet clinic where he received diagnostic bloodwork, started on fluids, and began medication for his hyperthyroidism. By the end of July, he had gained weight and was eating well. He went to a foster



home in August where his treatment for hyperthyroidism continued and he was eventually cleared for adoption and came back to the shelter in October (photo left) weighing a healthy 7.5 lbs. He had another health scare that brought him back to our vet clinic in early November, but he bounced back quickly and was adopted on November 22nd! Mortie is a perfect example of how even sick and elderly cats can survive and thrive with proper care and medical treatment.

Adoptions were down slightly from last November, but we still found homes for 505 cats last month and ended November with only 346 cats in our shelter system and an impressive save rate of **96.1%** for all cats arriving.

Submitted by,

TJohnson

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