

KC PET PROJECT

Impact Report for September 2023 Activities

Sheltering Statistics:

Dog & Cat Totals Jan - September	2023	2022	Difference
Adoptions	7,474	7,706	232 fewer
Total Intake	11,643	11,654	11 fewer
Returned to Owners	1,528	1,383	145 more
Live Release Rate	93.1%	96.3%	3.2% lower
Owner Surrendered Pets	2,398	3,057	659 fewer
Stray animals brought in by public	4,843	3,707	1,136 more
Cats/kittens transferred IN	928	1,519	591 fewer
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	6,480	6,310	170 more
Average Length of Stay for Dogs	20.3 days	17.7 days	2.6 days longer
Average Length of Stay for Cats	18.9 days	19.4 days	0.5 days fewer

September 2023 - Animals In & Animals Out

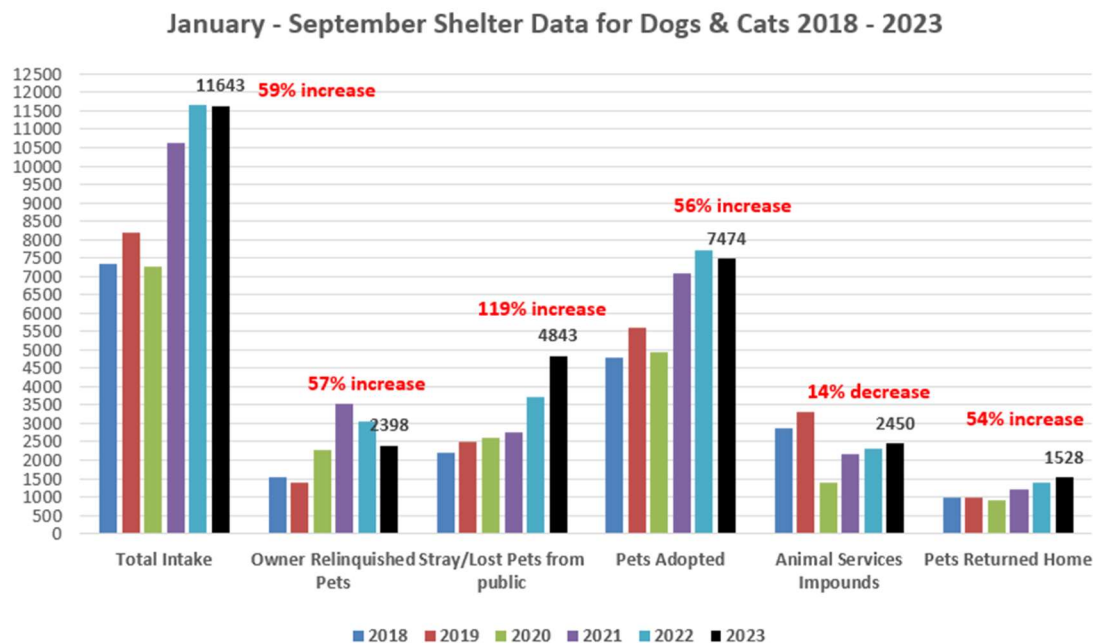
- ❖ We received or provided care for **1,355** new dogs and cats that arrived in September (674 dogs, 663 cats), along with 3 guinea pigs, 1 hedgehog, 2 iguanas, 2 rabbits, 1 chicken, and 1 snake.
- ❖ **985** pets were adopted in September (453 dogs, 516 cats, and 16 other pets). The number of dogs adopted was **12%** higher than in September 2022.
- ❖ Although the number of pets surrendered by their owners appears to have decreased, the number of stray pets arriving from the public continues to soar. We saw a 12% increase in the number of dogs and a 15% increase in the number of cats being brought in as strays last month. We have taken in 1,136 more stray dogs and cats from the public than last year at this time (a 31% increase).
- ❖ Despite the continued increase in dogs arriving and the length of stay increasing for dogs, we achieved a **94.1%** Save Rate in September (94.3% dogs, 94.0% cats).
- ❖ Our veterinary team performed **849** spay/neuter and specialty surgeries in September. Doctors performed **1,515** examinations on pets in/arriving at our shelter and treated 17 puppies and young dogs in our shelter’s parvovirus ward.
- ❖ We provided spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 82 community cats last month (for a total of **594** low-cost surgeries performed for community cats this year).



- ❖ 329 dogs/puppies and 256 cats/kittens were sent to foster homes in September.
- ❖ We provided free spay/neuter surgeries and veterinary services for 29 owned dogs last month that were reclaimed and reunited with their families (for a total of **258** reclaimed dogs that have been spayed/neutered at no charge by KCPP this year).

Data Trend for January – September 2023:

- ❖ The total intake of dogs and cats is still running at the highest level recorded in our 11-year history – increasing steadily with an overall **59% increase** in the number of animals arriving over the past 5 years.
- ❖ The number of total pets being adopted has slowed but is still at the highest level in our 11-year history – **up 56%** 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 119%** from 2018 totals. The number of stray animals arriving is already **31%** higher than last year’s record setting numbers.
- ❖ Lost/impounded pets being reunited with their families through our dedicated Return-to-Home Team are **54%** higher than 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 currently 114% higher than in 2022. Our Live Release Rate for dogs in 2023 is **92.6%**.



Animal Services Division Update

- ❖ Officers worked **1,817** case activities in September, travelling a total of **13,424** miles throughout the city, impounding **295** animals, and returning an additional 33 pets back to their homes without having to impound them.
- ❖ In September, officers issued a record one hundred and thirty-five (**135**) criminal citations, with **648 criminal citations** for ordinance violations having been issued in the first 8 months through Municipal Court.

				
Calls from Residents Resulting in Cases	Online Reports Received by ASD	Case Follow Up Activities Performed	Total Case Activities for the Month	% of Calls resulting in Case Creation
1,267	132	418	1,817	36.8%

- ❖ The top four reasons criminal court citations were issued for ordinance violations in September were: 1) failure to provide adequate animal care, 2) failure to obtain a city license, 3) unauthorized breeding/selling of pit bull type dogs, and 4) failure to spay/neuter pit bull type dogs.

- ❖ Dispatchers answered 3,163 phone calls and had a call abandonment rate of less than 6% between 7:00 AM and 7 PM. For the month of September, the average wait time for residents trying to connect with an Animal Services Dispatcher was **24 seconds** – whether callers went through the 311 prompt or residents called direct.
- ❖ Our Animal Services Division announced another animal abuse/cruelty case was referred to the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office for State-level cruelty charges to be filed.
- ❖ On September 8th, Chief Johnson and Manager Rohrback were featured speakers at a presentation for attorneys at the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office on local animal cruelty data trends in KCMO.
- ❖ Our Chief of Animal Services, Ryan Johnson, has been nominated for a prestigious seat on the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) board of directors.
- ❖ On September 28th Chief Ryan Johnson, Chief Veterinary Officer Heather Kennedy, DVM, and KCPP Surgery Technician Madison Olson assisted other first responder agencies with an overturned cattle truck containing 80 head of cattle on the Christopher Bond Bridge.

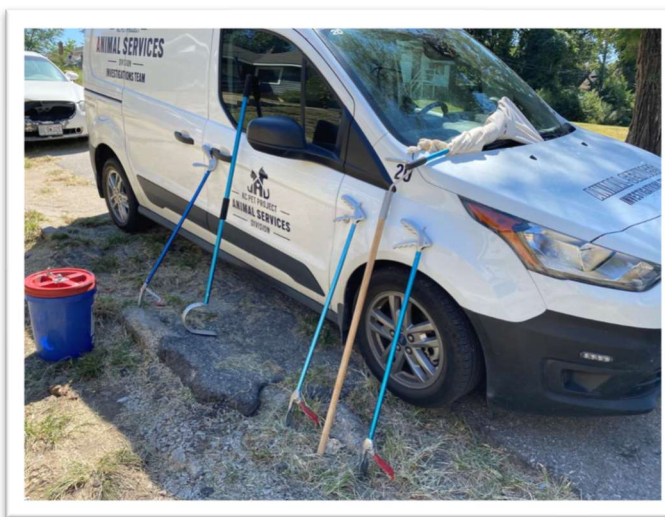
Stories from the Field – A House Full of Venomous Snakes

On September 1st, Animal Services Officers conducted a joint investigation with MO Conservation Department agents into the illegal and prohibited ownership of venomous snakes by a KCMO resident. At the end of a street sat a house like every other house on the block. However, the inside of this residence was something out of a nightmare. This house contained many exotic and very dangerous snakes!

Inside the home, Animal Services Officers discovered several species of **Rattlesnakes, Copperheads, Spitting Cobras, and an 18-foot-long Python**. Not only is it a violation to own such snakes in Kansas City, but it is also highly dangerous for all occupants and

visitors to the home. After hours of negotiating and coordinating a safe relocation plan, the owner became defiant and stopped cooperating with officers.

The owner was charged with multiple ordinance violations and is scheduled to appear before the Municipal Court in November.



Marketing/PR/Communications/Community Events

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

- ❖ Our annual Bark at the Park event with the Kansas City Royals included a \$5,000 donation from Royal’s pitcher Josh Staumont and his wife Angelina and Royals Charities. Tori and Teresa accepted the on-field check (photo next page).
- ❖ Mars Petcare invited KCPP, along with 14 other shelters, to participate in their National Adoption Weekend where all pet adoption fees were sponsored by them. We had a huge response from the community with 195 adoptions.
- ❖ Our 4-day Labor Day Adoption Special saw 152 pets find new homes.
- ❖ Teresa, Chad, and Tori hosted the Olathe Animal Shelter staff for a tour of the campus.
- ❖ Tori and Heather Sandor attended the Bally’s Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony and Bally’s presented KC Pet Project with a \$2,500 donation.

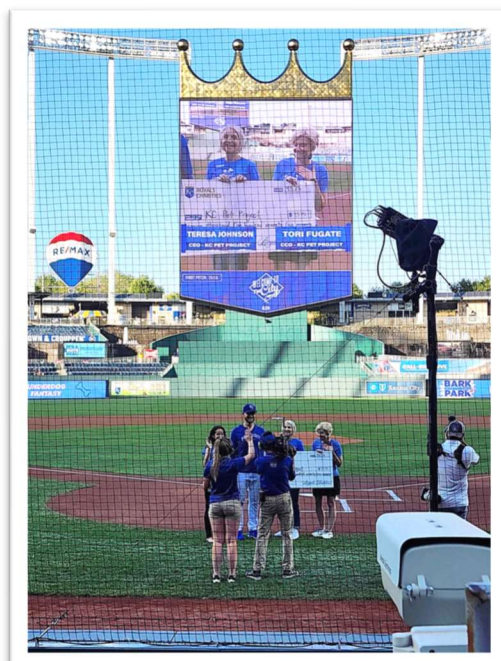
- ❖ On September 16th, KC Pet Project shelter and animal services staff attended Bark in the Sculpture Park at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. We sold retail and gave away free pet ID tags. Hundreds of people attended with their dogs (right).

- ❖ Tori and Teresa hosted the Beauty and Beasts rescue group from Wichita for a Campus tour.

- ❖ Tori was a co-host on 90.9 The Bridge for their fall funding drive.

- ❖ Warehouse on Broadway, a new music venue in Westport hosted a KCPP fundraiser.

- ❖ On September 23rd, Roots hosted a fundraiser at their two locations, and we hosted a plant pop-up at the campus (right).



- ❖ Anna Murrow joined our team as our new Retail Sales and Merchandising Manager.

- ❖ KC Pet Project 5K registrations opened for 2024, with 80 participants already registered.

- ❖ We participated in the National Best Friends Animal Society adoption weekend on September 15-17 and 112 pets were adopted.

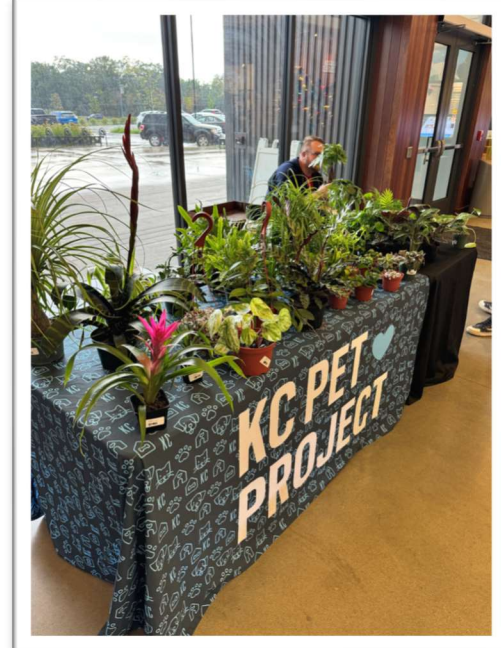
- ❖ Tori was featured on the Best Friends Animal Society podcast in September, replaying the session Tori presented at the National Conference on Capacity Crisis Marketing.

- ❖ We featured a new blog *“What it Means to be a No Kill Shelter”* on our website authored by several members of our leadership team to explain what No Kill language means. It’s been well received on social media.

- ❖ We partnered with The National Golf Course as the beneficiary of their annual charity classic golf event.

- ❖ We partnered with Cordish and the Power and Light District on several great initiatives including a Dog Day Out event in September. We’ll be their charity partner for their Wicked Wine Walk in November.

- ❖ We had 555 news stories and broadcast mentions during the month of September with a total reach last month of **430,560,230 million people**.



Website Statistics		Social Statistics	Social Impressions
Users – 89,561	104,000+ followers on Instagram	Instagram – 88 posts/Reels with 1,151,840 impressions	
New Users- 83,516	166,000+ likes on Facebook	Instagram – 349 stories with 466,371 impressions	
Sessions – 149,070	1.3 million TikTok followers	Facebook – 54 posts/Reels with 1,103,406 impressions	
Page Views – 699,879	(web traffic up 14% in September)		

Community Education/Partnerships/School Visits

We had five (5) events at our Campus facility in September, including Pets for Life KC, a plant pop-up event with Roots, and a Girl Scout group – welcoming 150 members of the public for various activities in our Education Pavilion. We solidified our partnership with Southland Caps for the current school year – with 46 new students volunteering and learning about KC Pet Project.

Volunteer Program Updates

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

- ✓ In September, **783** volunteers gave **4,628.47** hours of services, the equivalent of 26.71 full-time employees.
- ✓ Total value of volunteer hours in September: \$132,096.53; a 2.2% decrease from last month’s total.
- ✓ Five (5) new volunteer orientations were conducted for 81 attendees (a 4.7% decrease from last month)
- ✓ Fifty-three (53) new volunteers gave 412.31 hours in September and 130 volunteers participated in 302 hours of training sessions, including in-person mentoring sessions for 114 volunteers.

Businesses and groups that volunteered in September

brought 200 people to the campus and gave 494 hours of service: *Lockton, Boulevard Brewery, Oddo, Easterseals, GFWC Hickman Mills Women’s Club, Avila University, Pella Products, Amazon, Forrest T Jones, DEMDACO, New Frontiers, Country Club Bank, Enterprise Rent a Car, Mars Petcare.*

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- ✓ Total active volunteers: **2,091** individuals, including 62 *newly active* volunteers.
- ✓ We received 291 new volunteer signups in September.

“Morgan was my mentor and excellent. Very friendly, kind, thorough and understanding. Her patience and knowledge is impressive. Thank you!”



News From the Volunteer Department

- ❖ Pawsperty reached out to the volunteer department to establish a partnership for trainees to get more hands-on experience grooming dogs. One volunteer was able to groom 11 dogs! They bring some supplies but use our grooming room at our Campus.
- ❖ We have been approved for community service workers at the federal level, allowing more volunteers for our community service program.
- ❖ We attended the State Street Volunteer Fair to promote volunteering and KC Pet Project.



Surgeries & Medical Procedures Performed in September 2023

Surgeries		Medicine		Parvo Ward	
Community Cats Neutered	35	Wellness exams	648	Parvo pups treated	17
Community Cats spayed	47	Emergency exams	94	Parvo pups graduated	15
Reclaimed dogs neutered	19	Foster pet exams	50	Save rate for parvo	88%
Reclaimed dogs spayed	10	Rechecks performed	330		
Shelter Animals Neutered	350	Medical concerns addressed	389	Clinic Administration	
Shelter Animals Spayed	366	Post-adoption exams	4	Foster concerns addressed	214
Speciality Surgeries	22			Adopter concerns addressed	246
				Medications filled	355
Total Surgeries	849	Total Exams	1515		

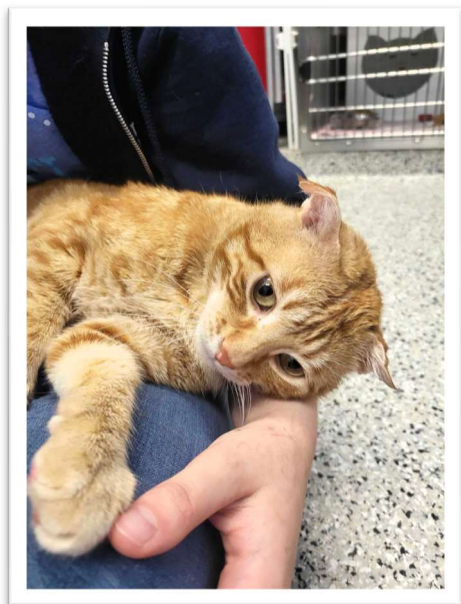
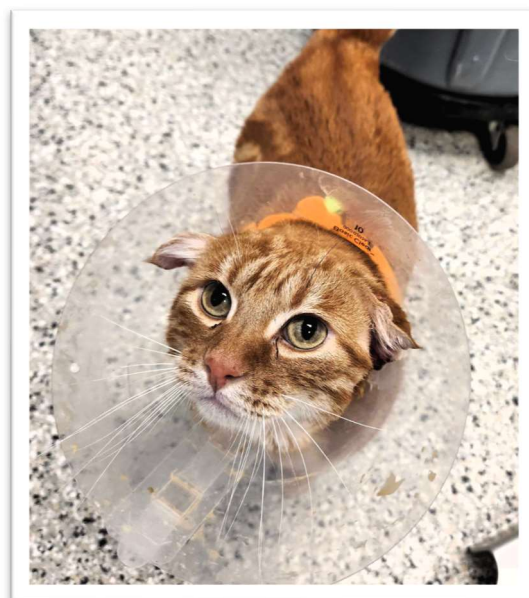
Lifesaving Stories from the Veterinary Clinic - Murdock

When Murdock (right) arrived in our care in March 2023, we knew he was a special cat but with special needs. His ears were crumpled and scarred from a history of ear infections. His ear canals were full of fluid. His itchy painful ears, however, didn't stop him from being the sweetest, most lovable cat. We know recovery takes longer for animals with chronic medical conditions, and we knew we needed to quickly begin treating his visible infections so we could diagnose any additional problems in his ear canals and eardrums.

Murdock needed a special ear surgery called a **bilateral vertical ear canal ablation** (meaning the ear canals would be removed from both ears).

Murdock first needed antibiotics and steroids to help decrease infection and inflammation prior to surgery. After a few courses of antibiotics and steroids, Murdock's ears had improved so much our doctors cancelled his vertical canal ablation. Normal ear canals are self-cleaning (for cats as well as humans), and Murdock's ears were finally working normally. Our doctors decided to place him up for adoption with a medical consultation alerting adopters that his ear issues may recur, and follow-up care may be

needed. Murdock was quickly adopted by a new family.



But in August 2023, Murdock's owners decided his medical issues were too much to manage. Murdock's ears were worse this time around, and our doctors considered euthanasia for our sweet Murdock, but we started Murdock on antibiotics and steroids once again to control his inflammation and infections with the hope we could perform surgery this time.

Dr. Spangler opted to perform a **partial ear canal resection surgery** to remove only the diseased section of the ear canal, thereby reducing pain for the patient. *This surgery had never been done before at KCPP*, and this would be Dr. Spangler's first time performing it. After a week of planning and research, Dr. Spangler was able to schedule Murdock's surgery. He made it through his surgery and recovered better than any of us anticipated.

Dr. Spangler grew quite fond of Murdock and knew his patient deserved a special home -- so he convinced a trusted friend to adopt Murdock. We were excited to see Murdock placed in a home surrounded by people who love him, and we can't wait to get updates on how well he's doing.

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

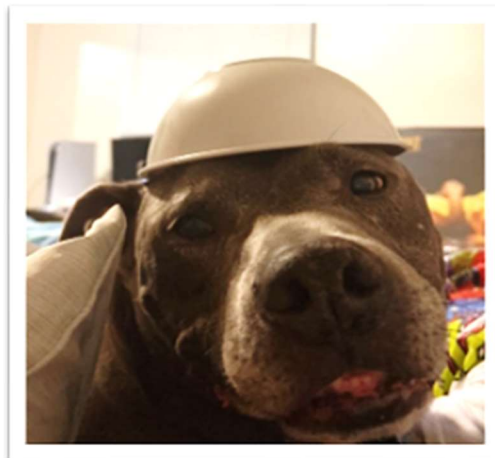
Customer Engagement Performance

Google Ratings:

- ✓ KC Pet Project at KCCAC: **4.3/5.00** (1,504 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Zona Rosa Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (667 Google reviews)
- ✓ KC Pet Project - Petco Adoption Center: **4.4/5.00** (205 Google reviews)

Colin Sutter, Customer Engagement Coordinator, reported **882** emails were received in September inquiring about fostering a pet or pets in foster homes. An additional **682** emails were received through our Contact email address, mostly regarding pets available for adoption or the adoption process. We received 45 adoption updates through our Constant Contact email campaigns – including this one:

“Zach and I adopted Patterson on September 10th, and he is adjusting very well, and we love him so much! He is playing with some toys and eating and getting acclimated to his new surroundings! He fits in perfectly with us! He’s just a baby!! He even has his own Instagram account! He loves people and is very well behaved. He loves sitting at the window waiting for us to get home and he loves his naps! He also has his moments where he is super silly (bowl picture) He thinks he is a lap dog and just wants attention 24/7! But we love him so much.”



Pet Support Center – Customer Satisfaction Survey

- ✓ **2023 Rating: 4.64/5.0 stars**
- ✓ Historical rating: 4.60/5.0 stars: 22 surveys submitted in September, 1,131 submitted since launch in September 2020

“Everyone was very nice, accommodating, knowledgeable, helpful, and kind. Love all the smiling faces and love for the animals and their jobs. I very much appreciate the staff’s help and understanding. Me and my daughter will be back to volunteer and pay back the favor. Thank you so much.”

- ❖ In September, the Pet Support Center staff assisted approximately 1,402 KCMO residents with in-person services -bringing the total for 2023 to more than **8,988** 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 **67** animals whose owners originally contacted KCPP to surrender their pet(s); 117 animals were diverted through return-to-field, trap-neuter-return, and safety net programs, and 11 additional animals were returned to grateful owners through subsidized programs after being surrendered to the shelter. **A total of 195 animals stayed with their families last month instead of coming into the shelter due to supportive services provided by KCPP.**
- ❖ We took in **560** stray/lost animals from members of the public (a 13% increase from last September 2022).

“Thank you so much for helping me. I have had a very hard time. The lady that helped me had a very good and kind conversation with me. I can see in her eyes her kindness and understanding. That made me feel much better. Thank you all for doing this for those cats and dogs. They need your help.”

News from the Pet Support Center

The Pet Support Center team welcomed Steve Valentin (He/Him) as the new Pet Support Center Operations Manager in September. Steve joins us with over 10 years of animal sheltering experience, most recently with SPCA Cincinnati where

he was the Volunteer Manager. He has also worked for New York Animal Care & Control and for the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA) in New Jersey.

Pet Support Center staff diverted 30 animals through walk-in and in-person services for community members who visited the Admissions Department at our Campus in September. *Our total number of owned pets diverted from community members seeking walk-in services is at 216 pets for the year.*

Rehoming Support Services

In September, our team received 128 requests for our private rehoming services. Eligible pet owners posted **70** owned pets for adoption through our ReHome website. *Our team has received 3,125 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 (859 pets),
2. Health of the owner or health of pet (465 pets),
3. Personal reasons including changes in lifestyle, or the pet was incompatible with the living arrangements of other people or other animals (449 pets),
4. Housing Issues including cost, loss of home, moving/relocating, eviction, and housing restrictions (380 pets).

Pet Support Call Center Performance

September 2023	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Helpline - Main Queue	3,494	1,040	4,534	23%
IN > Helpline - Spanish	62	53	115	46%
IN > Helpline - Lost and Found	644	173	817	21%
Helpline INBOUND Performance	4,200	1,266	5,466	23%
OUT < Helpline - Main	1,053	207	1,260	N/A
OUT < Helpline – Lost and Found	149	52	201	N/A
Helpline OUTBOUND Performance	1,202	259	1,461	N/A
Total Performance for the Month	5,402	1,525	6,927	22%

*Our Pet Support Center team answered **4,200** live phone calls, completed 1,461 outbound calls, resolved 396 voicemails, and completed a total of 7,063 interactions with pet families in September, a 13% decrease from last month.*

Return-to-Home Team

- ❖ The Return-to-Home team received 115 Lost Pet Reports and 47 Found Pet Reports filed online or over the phone by residents last month. They conducted 100 in-depth microchip investigations for stray animals in our care.
- ❖ 159 (20.5%) of the 774 lost animals brought to the shelter in September were returned to their owners. Thirty percent **(30%) of lost dogs were reunited with their families, while only 6.2% of lost cats were reclaimed by their owners.**
- ❖ Animal Services Officers have reunited **220** 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 currently up **77% over 2018** totals!*

Returned-to-Home: Koka the Keeshond

Koka, the beautiful Keeshond, went missing from her owners while they were in Kansas City on vacation. She was microchipped, but the information about her family was not up to date. Koka was scared of everything in the shelter and seemed sad and miserable. Finally, our Return-To-Home team found her out of state family, and we realized Koka had been desperately missing the 3 human children in the family she loved very much.



Keep 'Em Together, KC Program Updates

A total of **320** families benefitted from our five (5) KETKC Subsidiary Programs in September (a 21% decrease from last month):

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

- ✓ 30 families with 51 pets applied for temporary care assistance in September.
- ✓ 7 new safety net foster applications were received.
- ✓ 1 family (2 pets) were reunited in September.
- ✓ One new family was enrolled in the program; currently 2 families with 4 pets are enrolled in HAFH.

654 applications have been received since the program launched in February 2021. Since inception, Home Away from Home has provided 5,028 days of enrollment and 7,818 days of temporary care for a total of 90 families with 140 pets. Home Away from Home currently has a **93% reunification rate**.

2. Pet Care Assistance Program

Pet owner financial assistance totaling **\$2,836.16** for 16 families (17 pets) was provided by KCPP in September.

- ✓ 15 Pet Care Assistance Applications were received.
- ✓ Healthy Pets KC medical assistance granted: \$858.16
- ✓ Home Away from Home Reunification Fees: \$114.00
- ✓ Shelter Reunification assistance granted: \$1,864.00

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*.

285 families with 562 pets benefitted directly from these resources provided in September:

- ✓ 1,386 lbs. of cat food and 12 lbs. of cat treats
- ✓ 2,417 lbs. of dog food and 85 lbs. dog treats
- ✓ 235 lbs. of kitty litter
- ✓ 49 collars and 31 leashes
- ✓ 10 individual doses of flea/heartworm medicine
- ✓ 1 outdoor tie-out, 7 kennels/crates and 2 dog houses
- ✓ 151 miscellaneous pet care items

We received a generous donation of dog food from Sam's Club in September. The donation included two pallets (1,200 lbs.) of Purina dry dog food to help residents feed their pets.

4. 3-Day Reclaim Fee Forgiveness Program

- ✓ 71% of the animals reclaimed from the shelter in September were reclaimed by owners who were eligible for the Reclaim Fee Forgiveness program.
- ✓ Since July 2021, we have subsidized **\$232,929.00** in reclaim fees for 2,232 families with 2,638 pets.

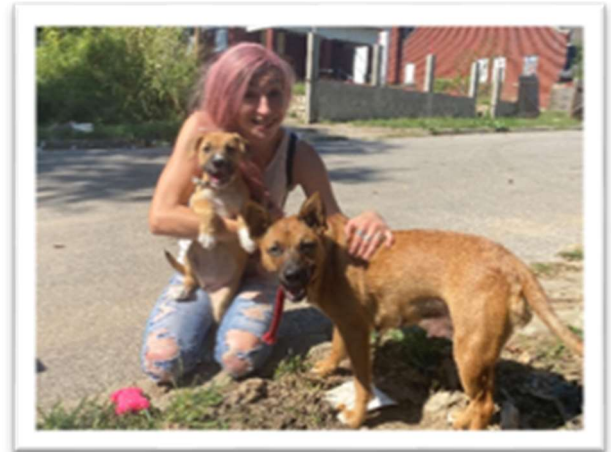
\$8,155.00 was subsidized by KCPP in Reclaim Fee Forgiveness for 84 families with 95 pets in September.

5. Pets For Life Program

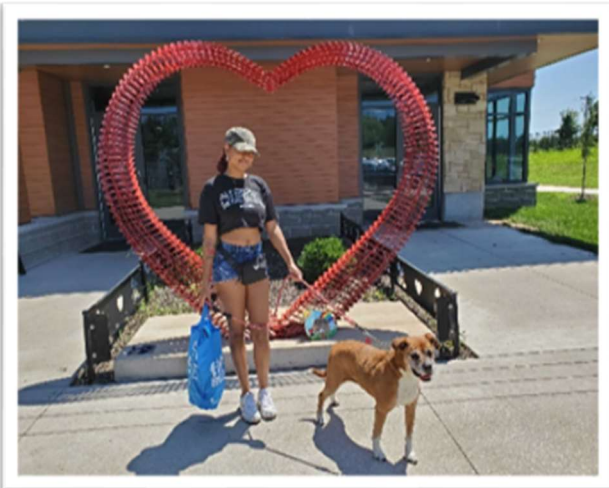
Jaime Gomez, Pets for Life Coordinator, reported our Pets for Life (PFL) program had the following impact for the month of September:

- ✓ New clients met through active PFL outreach: 1
- ✓ Number of new pets met: 5
- ✓ Total touchpoints/conversations with PFL clients: 18
- ✓ Total number of spay/neuter appointments completed: 0
- ✓ Supplies given (leashes, food, shelters): 39 items
- ✓ Medications/services given (dewormer, nail trims, microchips, vaccines, etc.): 13
- ✓ Completion rate of spay/neuter: 78%
- ✓ Conversion rate of altered pets whose pet families request spay/neuter services: 21%

There are currently **36 clients (with 58 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: Ebony and Nina



Ebony and Nina have been together forever. Nina, who is now 13 years old, is Ebony's childhood dog. When Ebony was old enough to move out, Nina moved out as well with her best friend.

However, Ebony began experiencing what so many people in our community are facing -- lack of affordable, pet friendly housing. She couldn't find any place to live but was unwilling to give up her very best and oldest friend. Through our Home Away from Home program, Nina was able to go to a foster home while Ebony focused on securing housing for the both of them.

Through the photos and stories shared from the foster family, Ebony knew that Nina was being cared for by people that loved her like their own. We could see how happy they both were to be reunited once again after being apart nearly 3 months.

Canine Behavior & Enrichment Department

- ❖ Dogs assigned to Behavior Team for assessment: 56
- ❖ Pre-adoption behavior consultations conducted: 104
- ❖ Number of dogs introduced to adopters by Behavior Team: 12

- ❖ 104 post-adoption support follow up emails were sent to adopters
- ❖ 20 behavior support phone consultations performed
- ❖ 30 behavior support emails/correspondence sent
- ❖ Assisted 2 people with behavior help for their foster dogs

An average of 154 shelter dogs participated daily in canine playgroups in September.

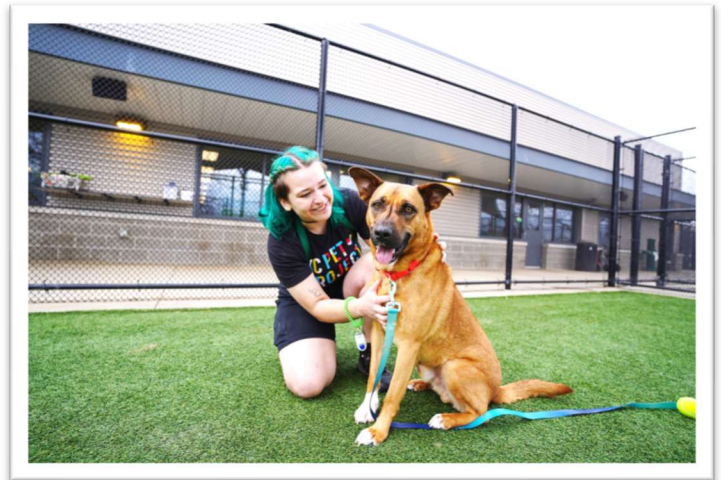
In the month of September, the Behavior & Enrichment Team started facilitating afternoon playgroups three days a week. Afternoon playgroups are a great way to reduce the number of dogs having to be walked in the afternoons by our Canine Care Department.

Canine Operations & Adoptions

Our Canine Care team cared for an average of **252** dogs every day at the KC Campus for Animal Care in September.

405 dogs and puppies were adopted in September. Dog adoptions are up 12% over last September, and up 12% for the year.

KCCAC Adoptions Customer Service Survey rating: 4.83/5.0 stars (18 surveys submitted in September, 290 responses to date)



"I adopted Petal, who is now Pearl. I love her so much. Claire was great!"

"Sophia at the 95th and Quivira Petco is SUPERB! She explained the entire process professionally and courteously. Thanks to her, I have a sweet doggie!"

"We are in love with our sweet fur baby! ❤️"

"I adopted Jetson, and I couldn't be happier! He is so wonderful and so happy and is bringing tons of joy into his new home. He knows basic commands and is gently easing into living with cats. He's doing great and I would absolutely refer people here."

Canine Foster Care Program

Tabitha Urban, Director of Canine Operations, reported 123 dogs (29% of the dogs in our care) were in foster homes at the end of September.

- ✓ During the month, **329** dogs/puppies were sent to foster homes.
- ✓ Volunteers took **199** dogs on a Dog's Day Out last month.
- ✓ We welcomed 71 new dog foster families in September.
- ✓ We had 65 dogs/puppies adopted directly from foster homes.
- ✓ We sent moms with 18 nursing puppies and 23 additional puppies under 8 weeks old into foster homes last month.

In September we reopened the calendar for Sunday and Monday appointments, so we are now able to take foster appointments and Dog Day Out appointments every day of the week. We also added a new appointment type to our calendar – *Meet My Foster Appointments* – where our fosters can bring their foster dog to the main campus to hang out for a few hours so people looking for dogs can meet them on the spot.

We also had several "at-risk" dogs go into foster homes in September; Sega – our longest stay dog at the time, and Crumbs (right), a six-month-old puppy who spent nearly 2 months in the shelter. Since leaving for foster, both of these dogs have found adopters and are ready to live their best lives in their new homes.



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

Chelsae Rohrback, Rescue and Transport Coordinator reported 42 dogs and 1 cat were transferred to other rescue organizations in September.

Organizations we transferred animals to: Chain of Hope, Columbia Second Chance, Critter House KC, Great Plains SPCA, Lawrence Humane Society, Maple Woods Community Vet Tech Program, Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Pawsitive Tails, Unleashed, Wayside Waifs, and Whispering Willows Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Small Animals & Transportation Program:

Sixty-two (62) puppies/small dogs and fifty (50) large dogs were moved to our Zona Rosa Adoption Center or Petco Adoption Center in September.

We processed **16** small animal adoptions – 1 Budgie, 8 guinea pigs, 1 hamster, 4 rabbits, 1 pet rat, and 1 rooster.

We sent **5** animals (1 bird, 1 snake, and 3 iguanas) to foster homes in September for medical and/or special needs.

Our small animal foster program has some incredibly savvy reptile fosters. Earlier this month, we had two iguanas brought in from our Animal Services Division from an eviction. They were in rough shape – both noticeably underweight and one displayed symptoms of mouth rot. These iguanas were quite large, and their needs exceeded what we could provide here at the shelter. We are happy to report that after a few weeks in foster care both iguanas, Giuseppe and Guillermo, made full recoveries and were adopted.



Feline Foster Care Program

Feline Foster Program Coordinator, Leslie Bauer, reported sending out 249 kittens and 7 adult cats to foster homes last month. At the end of the month, **332** cats/kittens (66% of the cats at KCPP) were in foster homes. ***We've already sent more than 2,000 kittens and cats to foster homes in 2023.***

Twenty-eight (28) kitties were adopted directly from foster homes last month.

One special foster kitten we had in September was **Little Mickey** (photo next page). Little Mickey was found injured on the side of the road by a Good Samaritan and was sent to Blue Pearl Emergency Hospital by our Animal Services Division for overnight care, as he exhibited signs of head trauma as a result of being hit by a car. Little Mickey was terrified and completely frozen in fear when he came to KCPP. He was treated by our vet clinic for pain and discomfort, and while his neurological signs improved, he continued to be extremely fearful in his kennel and was moved to a Feline Hospital kennel for monitoring and socialization.

Our feline care staff worked with him and he blossomed into a very social kitten within a week of arriving at the shelter. On September 22nd, a request was made to send Mickey to a foster home to help him gain weight for surgery and continue working on his socialization. Little Mickey was incredibly social and attention-seeking the minute he arrived in his foster home. He fit so well into his foster home that by the time he was ready for surgery (after just 5 days in foster), his foster family decided to adopt him! Little Mickey is a great example of the amazing spirit and resiliency kittens can possess.



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

Gage Mofield, our Petco Program Coordinator, oversaw the transfer of 88 cats/kittens from the Joplin Humane Society and the Permian Basin Animal Advocates in September. This is a 91% increase in cats/kittens transferred in compared to last month but is still significantly fewer cats being transferred in compared to last year at this time – due to the increased number of local stray cats/kittens arriving and several Petco store cat habitats being closed for repairs.

In September, we processed 182 adoptions through Petco Cat Habitats and 29 cat adoptions from Whiskers Cat Café. Our Olathe Petco store had the highest number of adoptions last month with 37 adoptions, followed by the Vivion Road Petco store with 29 adoptions.

✓ Our average length of stay for cats in Petco Cat Habitats was just 3.9 days!

Our Vivion Road Petco Habitat saw a big jump in adoption numbers this past month, with potential adopters being interested in kittens the minute they were on the website! **Nathan Drake** and **Lara Croft** (right) were adopted before they even had the chance to step into the habitat, as our adopter had just moved into their new place and was excited to have kittens of his own. We wish him and his new kittens all the best and a big thank you for supporting KCPP!



Big congratulations to Scarlet and Autumn, two of our longest-term kitties at Whiskers Cat Café! They taught us the true meaning of patience as they spent many days looking out the window for their perfect match to come along. We

were filled with joy (and of course a hint of sadness) as we sent them to their forever home together.



Feline Operations

Jennifer Dreisewerd, Director of Feline Operations, reported we took in **663** cats/kittens in September, with a 15% increase in the number of stray cats/kittens being brought in by the public over last year at this time.

We had **513** cats adopted this month, including **5 FeLV positive cats** (left) and 6 senior cats.



Slower adoption rates mean we are still transferring in fewer cats than last year. However, cat adoptions from our main Campus location increased in the 3rd Quarter 2023.

Our Feline Specialists provided care for an average of 100 cats per day at our Campus location in September.

Adoption Update - Keelin Finds Her New Family

Keelin (right) was surrendered to KC Pet Project in April 2023. Weighing in at 22 pounds, she was one of the most obese cats we've seen. Keelin struggled with keeping herself clean due to her size and staff would faithfully assist her with daily baths.

It took 5 months for Keelin to find the perfect home and during that time she lost 2 pounds! She was excited to have chosen her new people and walked right into her transport carrier – letting them know she was ready to go home!

Submitted by,

T Johnson

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

