



KC PET PROJECT

good TAILS

KEEP 'EM TOGETHER, KC

FALL 2020

As the Kansas City area emerged from stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19, KC Pet Project launched its *Keep 'Em Together, KC* program to assist the many families who will be housing and food insecure for many months to come. Providing resources to our community is the best way to keep families and their pets together and to prevent pets from being needlessly relinquished.

In June, KC Pet Project created a new position and welcomed a director of community services to the team to oversee *Keep 'Em Together, KC* initiatives. *Keep 'Em Together, KC* will create a true safety net for pets by providing emergency support programs for pet owners. By building partnerships with local human services organizations, we will be able to offer options for temporary boarding, access to basic medical care, pet food assistance, microchipping, vaccinations and more for income-insecure families.

Recently, a young woman called KC Pet Project in tears after she was notified by her apartment complex that new management was taking over and no pets would be allowed. She needed to move quickly and had nowhere to turn for help. Heartbroken, she made an appointment to relinquish her beloved dog. The team at KC Pet Project sought out a temporary foster home for her dog, and just before her appointment, a friend agreed to care for her dog for a month so she could find a new apartment. She was so grateful for KC Pet Project's compassionate help. This is exactly what we want *Keep 'Em Together, KC* initiatives to do — help people who love their pets keep their pets.

Because we know you agree that no one should have to give up a dearly loved pet due to economic stress, you can support these community impact initiatives at KCPetProject.org/TogetherKC.

DEAR FRIENDS,

COVID-19 presented so many challenges for KC Pet Project, but it also created a wealth of opportunity for innovation. After we implemented emergency internal protocols, we started thinking more about the future of animal welfare and how KC Pet Project can support our community more than ever.

We knew that COVID-19 would have a devastating impact on Kansas City families, and because we believe that no person or family should have to give-up a beloved pet due to financial stress, we asked you to help us launch *Keep 'Em Together, KC*, which you will read more about in this newsletter.

You'll also read about KC Pet Project's national leadership as we join 11 other animal sheltering organizations from across the country to reimagine how sheltering and community support can evolve to save more lives and keep loved pets in their homes.

Of course, expanding our network of foster families is always critical to lifesaving, and I hope you consider opening your home to a foster pet. It's easier than you think, and we already have a supportive network of seasoned foster families that you can connect with for support! If you can't foster a pet right now, you can become a Loyal Companion of KC Pet Project by making a monthly donation at KCPetProject.org/LoyalCompanions. Your support will save pet lives!



Teresa Johnson
President/CEO & Chief Lifesaving Officer

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HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

KC Pet Project is proud to be one of 12 pilot organizations participating in a new model of animal sheltering: Human Animal Support Services (HASS). HASS, a new coalition pilot program for animal sheltering organizations and national partners, aims to create community-based solutions to animal sheltering and pet ownership. HASS is transforming the sheltering system to serve the entire community in supporting the human-animal bond through providing a range of programs and services including innovative lost pet services, tele-health, fostering pets in homes, remote technologies like text, phone and web chats, and initiatives to keep people and their pets together. For more information on this program, visit <http://KCPetProject.org/HASS>.

KC PET PROJECT KC RESCUE RUN 5K

Join KC Pet Project on Saturday, October 24, for the Virtual KC Rescue Run 5K. Even though this first ever race is now virtual, all participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt, finishers medal, and other swag bag goodies, and prizes will be awarded to top fundraisers. The top individual fundraiser will receive a \$250 Target gift card!

Sign up at the website listed below to run or to fundraise for the more than 10,000 lost, abandoned, and often injured pets that need love and medical care at KC Pet Project each year!

KCPetProject.org/KCRescueRun



LOYAL COMPANIONS OF KC PET PROJECT

KC Pet Project is leading the way in creating a compassionate, safe community for pets and people through progressive lifesaving programs and services, community resources, and educational opportunities. You can support our lifesaving mission by making a monthly donation as a Loyal Companion!

Why should you become a Loyal Companion of KC Pet Project?

-  Your budget will like it! Your monthly contribution in any amount (minimum \$5) helps KC Pet Project provide a critical community resource. This makes it easier for you to plan for the timing of your support, and even a small contribution helps us A LOT!
-  Your automatic, regular gifts keep KC Pet Project strong. We can manage our budget even better when we know we can count on your ongoing support!
-  And, while we know that you're becoming a Loyal Companion of KC Pet Project because you value a strong community for pets and people, you'll also receive some exclusive benefits for your loyalty!

LOYAL COMPANIONS 

Questions? Contact Marie Dispenza, Chief Development Officer, at marie.dispenza@kcpetproject.org.

KCPetProject.org/LoyalCompanions