

Pets for Life



Volume 22 Number 2 ■ February, 2021 7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114 816.363.3665 ■ www.kcpetsforlife.com

Message to our Pets for Life Volunteer Teams



We are hoping that all of you and your families and friends are staying healthy during this unprecedented time. While Pets for Life is anxious to return to somewhat of a more normal routine, that does not seem to be coming in the near future. In-person visits by volunteer teams are not happening at any of the facilities.

However, we have had several facilities ask about ZOOM visits by Pets for Life Teams. This could take the form of chatting with a small group of residents or with an individual resident that is having difficulty coping with loneliness and isolation. The ZOOM visits would not follow the previous visit schedule, but be arranged upon request from the individual facilities.

If this sounds like something that you and your pet would be interested in trying, send an email to the Pets for Life Office, petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com and we will add your name to the list of those to contact when we receive requests from facilities. Thanks for your patience and for all you do for Pets for Life. Stay well!!!

**Wishing Everyone a Very Special
"Happy Valentine's Day from Betty White!!!"**

Thank you, to Betty's Pets for Life Volunteer partner, Cindy Deveaux, for helping Betty find just the right outfit!!!



Message to our Pets for Life Facilities

The current health crisis in our nation and the world has certainly changed our approach to almost everything that we do, and Pets for Life visits are no exception!!! We are all missing our regular routines, but "back to normal" does not seem to be happening any time soon.

A few of our volunteer teams have participated in ZOOM visits with clients and we are all getting more proficient at using this method of interaction. A few facilities have voiced an interest in trying ZOOM visits with an individual resident battling loneliness and isolation or a small group of residents as an extra activity. If this sounds like something that might work with your residents and you would like to give it a try, please contact the Pets for Life office, petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com. All of our volunteer teams are anxious to get back to what we do best... "pets helping people."

Pets for Life Volunteers: Have You Been Or Plan To Be COVID-VACCINATED?

Pets for Life is still "on hold" in getting back to our routine facility visits; but, as expected, many of those facilities' staffs and residents have had their COVID vaccinations. It is expected that these facilities may require that visitors be vaccinated too once facilities re-open.

Thank You for Your Support

Emily Hodges

\$2,200.00

PETS FOR LIFE ZOOM VISITS WITH LIFE UNLIMITED

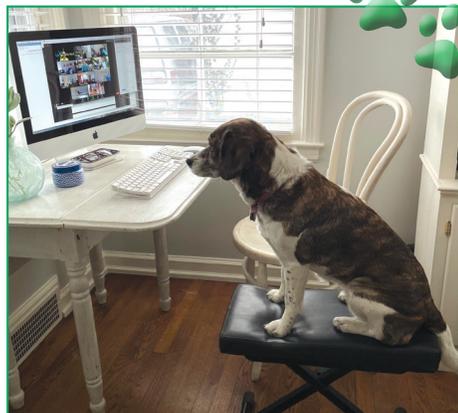
Individuals served by Life Unlimited, a nonprofit organization with a mission to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), recently participated in virtual pet therapy activities over Zoom. Life Unlimited provides Therapeutic Recreation programming for hundreds of people with I/DD annually and has transitioned to online activities to keep people safe during the pandemic.

As the largest disability service provider of its kind in the Kansas City area, Life Unlimited strives to help people with disabilities achieve more independence and experience life with unlimited possibilities. Its services include community living options, day programs, employment services, Therapeutic Recreation Activities, on-site health care, and life skills training and have been benefiting communities in Northwest Missouri since 1972. For more information about Life Unlimited, its services, and how you can get involved, visit www.lifeunlimited.org.

Maggie and her volunteer partner Brittany Backes attend a recent ZOOM visit with Life Unlimited clients and shared their experience.....

“She did well and I think the residents involved in the meeting enjoyed it! We did an intro, answered questions, and showed a few commands/tricks. I definitely think it was great to have two volunteers on to show them differences in dogs (ages, personalities, stories, behaviors, etc)”.
Brittany Backes

Maggie ready for her Zoom meeting!



SPOTLIGHT ON A PETS FOR LIFE VOLUNTEER

Volunteer: Richard Canida AND Peanut Butter Penny

Volunteering: Through Pets for Life, for four years, at North Kansas City Hospital, Riverstone Senior Residence, Special Education Facilities, and Libraries



Penny is a seven year old female Golden Retriever and at 52 lbs. and is considered small for her breed. I am a “dog person” and have had a dog since I was a young child. I believe that a house is not a home without pawprints. Each of my dogs have had different personalities and appearances but they have all brought me joy, comfort and happiness. I felt GOD calling me to share that experience with others.

After I retired, I found Pets for Life so that Penny and I could be certified as a therapy dog which allows us to visit facilities with therapy dog programs. We have been volunteering for four years until the Corona Virus brought a halt to our activity.

Penny loves to show her tricks, get attention and treats from patients, workers, visitors and residents. If she doesn't get the attention she thinks she deserves, she talks to the person, sort of like Scubby Doo.

GOD certainly has blessed us with this special dog and her side-kick, a Papillion named Missy.

National Dog Biscuit Day February 23, 2021



At Three Dog Bakery, we're passionate about happy, healthy pups. And it's precisely that unconditional love for our furry four-legged BFF's that inspired us to create the world's first dog bakery—stocked with healthy, drool-worthy treats. In fact, many consider ours the very best in the animal kingdom. Crafted from scratch in small batches, our highly skilled pastry chefs use only simple, real ingredients—slow baking each recipe to lock in the flavors and canine-loving nutrients.

We totally understand that dog parents want the best for their four-legged kids, especially when it comes to treats. They want clarity and transparency, and because of that, we're proud to share our product details from start to finish.

Here are four GRReat ways you can feel good about choosing treats for your dog:

1) Educate yourself. Read up on the companies whose products interest you. Learn about their process and ingredient selection. You need to feel comfortable with what they're doing and how they're doing it.

A special thank you to, Three Dog Bakery, for guidance in choosing the bests treats for our pets.

2) Buy made in the USA. Whenever you can, choose treats and foods made in the United States. It's a simple step, but there's a certain level of quality and confidence in buying products made in the USA.

3) Read labels. Reading the label is one of the easiest ways to determine the quality. Look for wholesome named ingredients. If it is a meaty treat, look for a named protein source such as chicken and not poultry meal. Plus, all packaged treats must list the ingredients present and in order of weight. Do you recognize the ingredients? Is your dog allergic to anything listed? Do you feel comfortable with them?

4) Purchase with confidence. Once you get to this state, you KNOW selecting high-quality treats from a company that you can trust. You're making the right choices for your dog.

We've been making tails wag since 1989, and today our mission remains the same— feed the souls of dogs and the people that love them. So go ahead. Treat your dog to our artisan bites. And don't be afraid to bark about it.

SPOTLIGHT ON A PETS FOR LIFE VOLUNTEER

First Name: Rita

Your Therapy Pet: Bandit

How long have you been volunteering?

Since 2002, first with Onyx (standard poodle), then alternating weeks with Custard (miniature poodle) beginning in 2008, then with Bandit & husband Bob (handling Custard) since 2011.



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What type of facilities do you visit?

Bandit has only gone to Hope Care Center, a long-term care facility for HIV patients. I've gone there with all the dogs since 2003.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with Pets for Life?

At first it was all about the dogs and how they interacted with different individuals. But after going to the same place so long, the best thing is the connections Bob and I have formed with the various residents and how they respond to the dogs and us.

Share a random fact about you and your pet.

Bandit is totally blind, but most people would never know it, the way he moves around so well. We can take him anywhere and he adapts. (I still spoil him, anyway).



Don't forget to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Pets-for-Life-Inc. We post lots of fun PFL updates and trivia, and occasionally we have giveaways! Stay in the loop, join us on Facebook!



<https://www.instagram.com/petsforlifekc/>



<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Remember our New email address is:
petsforlife@kcpetsforlife.com

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com>

Pets For Life, Inc., Executive Committee: Donna Amato, President; Joni Roeseler, Vice President
Marty Letourneau, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Jack Sladkey, . Pets For Life Staff: Mary Gorman
Volunteer Coordinator.

Pets For Life newsletter is published quarterly in Kansas City, Missouri, by Pets For Life., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation: all donations are tax deductible. Pets For Life, receives no government funding and relies solely on your gifts and donations. Additional copies of our newsletter are available by calling us or contacting our web-site.