

Pets for Life



Volume 22 Number 7 ■ August 2021

7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

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Greetings From Joni Roessler, Pets For Life Board President.....

I hope everyone is doing well and have been able to enjoy some summertime activities. As the pandemic evolves, we are continuing to try to balance service, safety, and connection with our volunteer teams and facilities served, with appropriate transitions. Some visits have occurred. Many volunteers and facilities are not ready to resume visits, but some are. April through July of 2021, there were 3,783 pet team visits (about 10% of a "normal" year). We want to take a moment and express our appreciation for all the volunteers/pet teams as the backbone of the organization. Thank you for your patience and for your willingness to serve as a **Pets for Life Volunteer**.



So, what have we been up to? Here are some updates.....

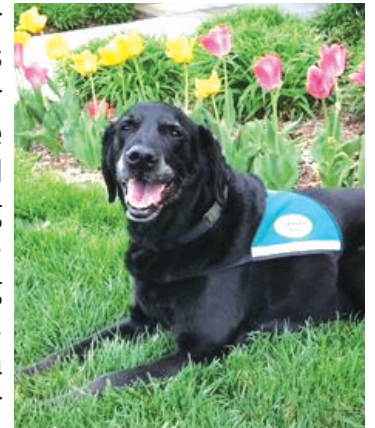
Executive Director Search – The responsibilities cover three primary areas (likened to a 3-legged stool).... Volunteer Teams, Facilities/Community, and Funding (grant writing). We would like to see a greater use of social media and system automation as appropriate. Interested in this adventure – please email or call the **Pets for Life Office**.

ZOOM Call Event for Volunteers – We are planning a fun event, tentatively for the evening of September 28. We will provide Pets for Life updates; have a question-and-answer session, as well as, a pet expert speaker. There will be perks for attendance TBD. More to come!! Please email or call the **Pets for Life Office** with your suggestions and questions.

Logo Wear – It has been brought to our attention that our Pets for Life logo wear needs an update. So, we are working on more clothing options and colors. Please email or call the Pets for Life Office with any suggestions.

We Miss You Yolli.....

Sadly we have lost our beloved Yolli. Yolli was raised by a dear friend for Canine Companions. We had hopes that he would go on to be a service dog for someone with a disability. Upon returning for advanced training, Yolli decided the life of a working dog was not for him and was released



from the program. I was the one who was so very fortunate to adopt him. At the time I had his half brother, Stanton, and we were involved in pet therapy visits and the **R.E.A.D.** program. As it turned out, Yolli was also perfect for pet therapy work. These wonderful dogs chose their own path which was exactly the right one for them. Like Stanton, Yolli thoroughly enjoyed the visits and all the attention and pets he received. We visited residents at Lakeview Village and the Healthcare Resort of Olathe.

After retiring, Yolli was a mentor to Canine Companions puppies in training, Dezi and Aspen. He was kind and gentle with them. He was the perfect example of a dog with proper behavior and good manners. The puppies learned so much from him. Dezi graduated in September of 2020 as a service dog to a 10-year old boy who is wheelchair bound. It was a perfect match and I know Yolli helped to make that happen. Aspen will return to Canine Companions in November for professional training. I'm hoping the lessons he learned from Yolli will help him to go on to make a difference in someone's life who needs him.

Although Yolli has left a huge emptiness in our lives, we have so many wonderful memories of him and are comforted knowing he brought happiness to many others in his lifetime.

With great sadness, there was great joy.

Marty Letourneau

What Therapy Animals During a Pandemic!!!!

Contest Winners!!!!

Thank you to all the volunteer teams that sent in a photo showing "What Therapy Animals Do During a Pandemic." It appears that everyone kept busy whether it was traveling, lounging, exploring, or working. Of course, it was impossible to choose the three winners.....all of the photos were sooooo special. So the only way to pick three winners was to put everyone's name in a bowl and pick out three.

The lucky winners of \$25.00 gift cards to Petsmart are:

Carla Smith and Trooper*

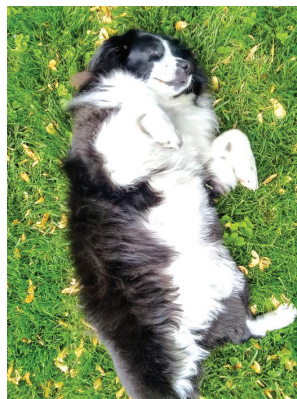
Cynthia Caldwell and Brooklynn*

Norma Spear and Lola*

Thank you, again to all those who entered!!

Jane McDowell and Magnet

Magnet has resumed her therapy visits, but in the meantime she likes to work in the yard....



Lisa Ruhnke and Bella

Bella – she's just been "hanging around!!". (Photo credit to Tom Bradley)



Debra Cook and Rufus

Rufus and Debi returned to making visits at the Broadmoor and Southmoor Care Haven Home in the Spring. During the pandemic we enjoyed going on Pet Parades and would enjoy doing more this Fall! Rufus got very good at playing fetch and got very spoiled! We worked on improving his tricks too!



Heather Williams and Paisleigh

A few months ago, I started learning to play the ukulele. Paisleigh loves listening to the music and will sit in the ukulele case while I play!



Linda Haney and Elphie

Elphie loved the Covid Year! She tested every pillow, blanket, and dog in the house to see who was the most comfy. Finally settled on this chair and TWO pillows. Then in September 2020, she took on the job of training a puppy in training to be a service dog. This time she got to be the pillow!



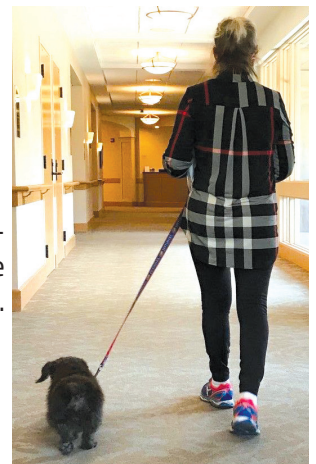
Janice Young Miller and Eddie

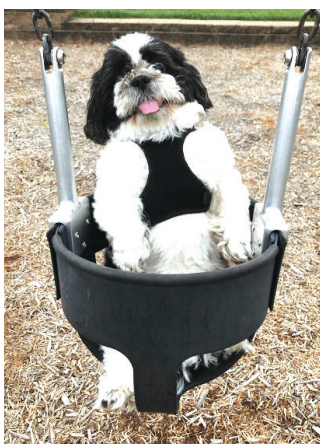
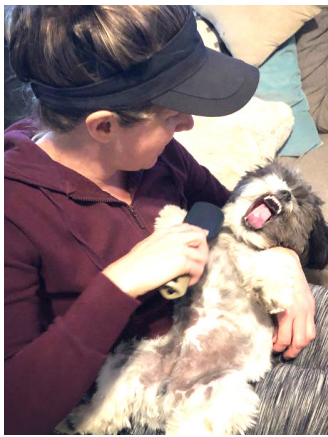
Janice and Eddie are currently visiting Kansas City Hospice House and have been for past nine years.



Norma Spear and Lola

Lola has been catching up on her reading, favorite TV shows, and of course catching some rays!!!





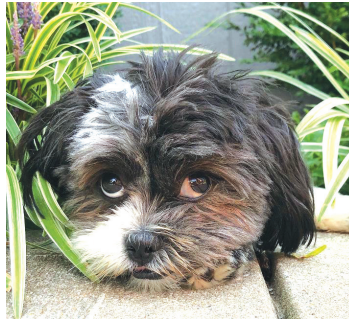
Bob and Rita Reid with Custard and Bandit

We traveled with Custard and Bandit to Colorado to isolate in prettier scenery. The dogs sleep for hours in their crates for the drives & adapt to new places easily, even blind Bandit! Here we are on a morning walk at Manitou Springs.



*Carla Smith with Trooper and Luke

These photos pretty much sum up our 2020/2021. Trooper loved to spend time at the park in the swing. On June 5, 2020, we adopted a brother for him, Luke. I couldn't resist sharing Luke's photo, as well. People ask me all the time how I "trained Trooper to be a therapy dog". I tell them that when we adopted Trooper, he already had all of the skills and more importantly, the temperament of a therapy dog. Luke, on the other hand, will likely never be therapy-dog material, for obvious reasons (see photo). But we love him so much anyway!

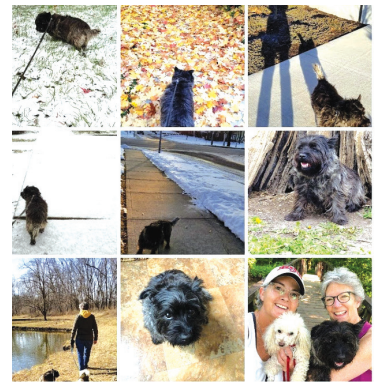


*Norma Spear and Lola

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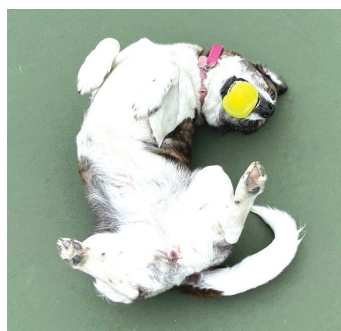
Ruth Jenkins and Karma

Karma and I did a lot of walking during the pandemic!



*Cynthia Caldwell and Brooklynn

Brooklynn spent quite a bit of time lounging at the pool!!



Brittany Backes and Maggie

Maggie and I have been practicing our tennis skills and enjoying all the pup ice cream cups!

Carolyn Bruner and Gabriel

Gabriel enjoyed quite a few naps!!!!

Thank You for Your Support

Jackie Romero	\$500.00
Fairway Animal Hospital	\$380.00
Elaine Feld Stern Charitable Trust	\$1,000.00
Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation	\$3,000.00



Saturday, September 11, 2021

Metro KC Fitness
2810 Metropolitan Avenue,
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

KC Metro Fitness is hosting a 5K sponsored by the American Legion Post 213 also known as the Argentine Eagles Nest. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 to sponsor a Veteran in a tiny home for a year through Veteran Community Project KC. This event is "family friendly." There will be vendors, food trucks, games, raffles, and more. They have invited Pets for Life Volunteer Teams to have a booth to share our mission with all attendees and participants. Hoping that you will consider helping to share the Pets for Life mission through this event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Dogtober Fest

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Kemper Outdoor Education Center
8201 Jasper Bell Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Pets for Life is planning on having a booth at this year's Dogtoberfest. So mark your calendar!!! We will need your help!!! Thanks!!!



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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: President: Joni Roeseler,
Secretary: Marty Letourneau, Treasurer: John McGee; Member:
Donna Amato, Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Gorman.

Pets For Life newsletter is published monthly in Kansas City, Missouri,
by Pets For Life., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation: all donations are tax deductible.
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Additional copies of our newsletter are available by calling us or contacting our web-site.