

Pets for Life



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7240 Wornall Road ■ Kansas City MO 64114

816.363.3665 ■ www.kcpetsforlife.com

Greetings,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the warmer weather. As I was thinking about **Pets for Life**, the pandemic, and the future, my mind kept coming back to spring and how accentuated it feels this year. As an organization we are trying to balance service, safety, connection with our volunteer teams and facilities served, and appropriate transitions. We want to make sure that we incrementally prepare to resume visits when safe and appropriate. It is a process that requires flexibility as conditions change. We will stay in touch as we develop roll out procedures. Please contact the office when you have any questions or suggestions. In the meantime here are some springtime quotes we thought you might enjoy:

"Spring is a time of plans and projects"
Leo Tolstoy

"Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can be." Unable to find author
"Blossom by blossom the spring begins." Alger-non Charles Swinburne

"Where flowers bloom so does hope."
Lady Bird Johnson

"If we had no winter spring would not be so pleasant."
Anne Bradstreet

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."
Doug Larson

Happy Spring!
Joni Roeseler



Needing Volunteers for Several Up Coming Pets for Life Events

Scheduled Pet Parades:

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Garden Terrace, 7541 Switzer Road, Overland Park, KS 66214

10:00 a.m.

Parking in the visitors lot and assemble at the front door of Garden Terrace.

Contact Person: Bailey Seward

Friday, April 30, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Stratford Commons

12340 Quivira Road

Overland Park, KS 66213

1:00 p.m.

Park anywhere available and assemble at the front door of Stratford Commons.

Contact Person: Tela Beavers

Any Facilities that are interested in a Pet Parade, please contact our Office and we will be glad to help get that scheduled and on our calendar.

Request for a Special Visit:

Emmanuel Family and Child Developmental Center, 4736 Prospect, Kansas City, MO 64130

Three, four, and five year olds have been learning about Therapy Dogs and would like to have a visit from a "real" Therapy Dog. The children all wear masks, wash hands frequently, and temperature taken upon arrival.

The visit will be scheduled for two groups of children between 10:00 and 11:30 on a date that works best for you, the volunteer.

Contact Person: Patricia Bradley

If you are available to attend any of these upcoming events, Please let the Pets for Life Office know, and you will be added to the list to receive additional information as available.

FROM THE COUCH OF FLYING RAMONES... aka...Ramona

Hello everyone!!!

My name is Ramona, and I am a 10 year old retired greyhound. Ms. Kathy asked my human Melynn to write about me since April is National Adopt A Greyhound Month. Well, Melynn is really busy working, as a vet tech at the emergency clinic and I knew she wouldn't have time to write this, so with the help of voice recognition software (I have no thumbs so I can't type) I will tell you a little about me and how I became a therapy dog with [Pets for Life](#).



I was born March 7, 2001 at Flying Eagles Farm in Abilene, Kansas. My racing name is Flying Ramones. My litter is named after rock groups-Ramones, The Who, Pink Floyd, The Doors, and The Animals. After a wonderful racing career in Florida, I went back to Abilene to become a mom. Well...I was bred to a stud whose fish did not swim well and in turn, no puppies. So, the farm decided to auction me off. Now before you all go and say how horrible that is, that is how we do it in the Greyhound Industry. At the farm I was supposed to be on my best behavior. Oops....I pushed Melynn into mud and dog poop. She could not quit laughing!! After cleaning the both of us up, I went into the auction ring. No one bid on me. Well, that hurts the ego. My racing owner offered me up for adoption to Melynn, since we had such a good relationship.

I love retirement life. I came home and found out that couches and king-sized beds were all for the dogs, if there is some room for the humans! Oh! I found that there is a big box of fruity liquid in the fridge that Melynn loves. She calls it Mommy's juice box. When she found me drinking from the box like a hamster bottle, she had to hide it. I do not know why she would not share or why she said that I needed a 12-step program? I also passed my obedience classes with straight A's. My instructor said that I would make an excellent therapy dog. I was the perfect height and temperament for kids and adults. Nothing bothers me. Loud noises or wheelchairs do not make me bat an eye.

Well, Melynn and I became [Pets for Life](#) volunteers and go to Village Shalom every Wednesday....well, we did. Then COVID hit and I have not seen my friends in over a year. I have several residents that I love to see. Ms. Kate, she was my favorite. She talked in a different language called Yiddish. Melynn understood and translated for me. Unfortunately, she crossed the Rainbow Bridge last year. We were both very sad. Hopefully, soon we can see everyone again. Melynn got her shots just like me, so when the doors open, we can see our wonderful friends at Village Shalom again.

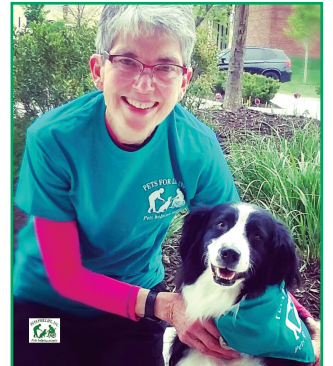
Thank you for reading my story. If you are interested in adopting a greyhound, just ask Melynn. She has plenty of information on how you can adopt a greyhound just like me for your very own.

With love, cookies, and comfortable couches,

Ramona

Pets Helping People – Jane McDowell and Magnet

Like everyone else, Magnet and I have not been able to make a therapy visit for over a year. But I often think of a wonderful man at an assisted living facility Magnet and I visited on a regular basis. This gentleman loved dogs. He also had a deep, booming sports announcer voice, and when we'd walk into his room he would greet us with a "Maaaaagnet!".....really drawing out that vowel. After some initial doggie ear scratching at the last visit we were able to make, he started to tell me about a little dog he said he saw out his window every evening. He didn't think the little dog had a home, because the dog would come inside and climb into bed and sleep next to him all night long. The way he looked at Magnet, with a smile and a sweet sigh, told me he had some sort of emotional or muscle memory of the warm comfort of a dog who just wanted to be close. I hope that little dog has come in and snuggled next to him every night of this past year.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gary and Pat Bridgford with Tassi and Kikki

My wife and I have had pets our whole married life together (51 years). We started with a German Shepherd in 1971. An employee that I worked with, my first job out of college, trained dogs in obedience....thus the mission began. Our male Shepherd finished third in the Philadelphia Dog Show!!! Trust us...it was the dog...not us!

In the Summer of 2015, we lost three pets...two which were rescues! We decided...actually...Pat decided to look for two female Pomeranians since we could not find any Cavalier King Charles puppies in this area. We located two Pomeranian girls in rural Kansas...yes we are blessed.

As with other dogs we had in our family...we took them to Westwood Animal Clinic for puppy training, obedience, and advanced obedience training. The staff there asked us if we had ever considered training Tassi and Kikki as therapy dogs because of their disposition. BINGO!!!! It has been a blessing for all four of us. Before Covid 19 (ugh) we visited nursing homes and rehab facilities each week. Our team...and yes, we are a team, get the biggest rewards seeing the people who struggle the most! There are two people in particular that have a hard time with life...one is a young man who had a bad stroke and the other is a young woman who was totally disfigured in a fire. When Tassi and Kikki see them, the humans and Pomeranians really, really light up!

We have visited schools, churches, and my Navy Reunion each year. Their first Navy Reunion visit was with the girls less than 9 weeks old and in Washington D. C. We did have a pet sitter lined up...but just three days before our departure, the sitter's daughter was diagnosed with cancer. It was a trip we remember forever! Besides all the clean-ups, the little puppies were and continue to be popular with some old Shipmates and their families!!



Celebrating April!!!

Daisy, whose favorite Pets for Life Volunteer is Sue Freshman, is all decked out to welcome Spring and these other April Pet Holidays.....

April 10 Saturday	National Hug Your Dog Day
April 11 Sunday	Dog Therapy Appreciation Day
April 21 Wednesday	Bulldogs are Beautiful Day
April 24 Saturday	World Veterinary Day
April 30 Friday	National Therapy Animal Day



Time to Retire

Shared by Linda Miller

Honey loved her job as a DOC (Dogs on Call) at St. Luke's Hospice House. Besides her routine visits it was always important for her to visit on Christmas. Sometimes she would join Santa.

She had a special route in the facility that she would take and I was just the person at the end of the lead. She stopped at every room (even if unoccupied) to see who needed comfort from her. She would signal me when her job was done and once, "she" felt everyone was calm. Her last stop was always the nursing station.

It was an honor to accompany her on this journey and learn from her how to recognize who needed the most attention and how to quietly (no words) give strength to people in a time of sorrow. I am forever grateful for these lessons.

It is now time for her to retire. She will miss her route and all the people she helped. But her lessons are not done. She helped train her replacement for her job as a **Pets for Life** volunteer. Daisy is still maturing, but has adopted Honey's independent attitude - follow me while I meet people. I hope another journey begins.



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
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Volunteer Coordinator.

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