

Pets for Life



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A word from Sharon Woodrum, our Program Director.....

Finally, *Spring* is on the way! We had quite a winter and I know that I am ready for some warmer weather. Are you?

Just like the seasons change, so did the Certification Evaluation. I just wanted to give everyone a heads-up so that no one is surprised during their next re-certification evaluation. We have added two new evaluation items:

1. The distraction team will walk into the room after the evaluation has started. This will allow us to understand how your pet might react if you are surprised by another therapy team on a visit. Your pet can acknowledge the team, but they cannot vocalize or panic.

2. During the greeting section, we will approach you and your pet using the walker. Once we complete our approach, we will lean down to physically interact with your dog. We just need to verify that your pet isn't scared by the noise/movement of a person approaching in a walker.

If you would like more information on the evaluation items, be sure to contact the office. Don't worry too much about the new certification test items; they didn't stop Loki, Boeing, or Daisy from earning their re-certification.



Loki



Boeing



Daisy

Pets Helping People

Shared by Cathy Moseley and Charue

I went to Claridge Court and one person especially likes our visits. When we were visiting this person, she looked a little sad and said that she loves to see Charlie, but guessed this would be the last time because she was moving to another facility. I asked her where she was moving and she said, "Brighton Gardens." I told her that we go there, too, and she was so excited to hear it. I told her that I visit on some Mondays, but I walk by there almost daily while going from the park to the PV Shops. I said that we would be visiting her.

Today, we walked right by and stopped in. I found out which room that she was in and as we were walking down the hall, there she was in her wheelchair with her family. She said, "Do I see Charlie?" I told her that we came to see her and about the other dogs there, and she said, "Well, I have a special liking for Charlie!" About that time, I heard the woman in the next room holler loudly, "Is that a dog!! I want to see it!" So we stopped by her room and Charlie sat on her bed and she was very excited. She told me about her cats and that she loves animals. Then Charlie did some tricks and all of a sudden, this woman burst into tears! She said that she was so happy and it had made her day to see Charlie and asked us to keep coming! We were stopped by about four other people who also wanted to talk and see Charlie.

So, it really does make a BIG difference having pet visits. I just love doing it and Charlie is getting friendlier each time that we go.



Thank you for Your Support.....

William T. Kemper Foundation	\$5,000
J. B. Reynolds Foundation	\$5,000
Doctors Morrill Foundation	\$ 500
Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign	\$389.41
Heartland CFC Campaign	\$ 150.16

SHE WILL BE MISSED.....



Zoe Z. LaRivere
(all family names)
April 10, 2004
~ January 4, 2019



The American author Edith Wharton once said, "My little dog...a heartbeat at my feet." Zoe was that and so much more to Rich and me, the children who read to her at the libraries, the children she visited at Children's Mercy Hospital, and the individuals she met and comforted throughout

her life.

I have always called her "my heart's content," and so she will remain.

Fran Lancaster



Reflections about Zoe from Linda Haney...

For those of us who volunteer with our certified therapy pets, we know the magic that can happen when our animals connect with a child or a senior in a care facility. It is inspiring to see how a simple visit from my dog, Elphie, can literally change the energy in a room or brighten the day of a senior in assisted living with just her presence. Did you know that your pet can also be an inspiration to the staff or caregiver, too?

In my job as a Benefits and Wellness Manager, I often host health fairs at the organizations where I work. At one such event, we invited therapy dogs to attend for the first time. At that time, I had no experience with therapy animals. On the day of the event, a beautiful white Standard Poodle named Zoe visited the health

fair. I was so impressed with how Zoe related to the employees, how she seemed to know just who needed her, how she "read" the room, that I had to learn more. Zoe was a huge hit with the staff, many of whom struggled with anxiety and depression. As I learned more about Pets for Life, I decided right then that I wanted to do this too. I took Zoe's card home with me and put it on my bulletin board where it stayed for over 5 years as a reminder.

In 2014, I adopted an English Springer Spaniel and she was certified as a therapy pet through Pets for Life in 2015. I also asked for information about the R.E.A.D. program, and Pets for Life had a volunteer call me. During my conversation with the volunteer, she asked me how I got interested in therapy pets, and I described my health fair experience many years before with an extraordinary dog named, Zoe, and told her that I still had her card on my bulletin board. There was a brief pause and the volunteer then told me that Zoe was her dog.

As I recently learned of Zoe's passing, I marveled at the impact she had on me, my employees, and that her presence at one health fair was so impressive that



I went on to get my own therapy dog and also to be one of the co-founders of a Pet Ministry at the Church of the Resurrection where Pets for Life's therapy animals comfort and care for people at the church in many different ways. Fran Lancaster and Zoe had many years together in service as a

therapy and R.E.A.D. dog team and a far greater reach than could be imagined with just one visit to a health fair. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to meet Zoe and her legacy of inspiration lives on.

Focus on Facilities

Ranked #1 in the Nation for Senior Housing



Here at Villa Ventura, the Pets for Life Program is a huge hit! Residents truly enjoy the monthly visits from

the volunteers and their furry friends. Because of the excitement and joy that the volunteers bring, it helps residents re-live and create new memories with the pets. Having Pets for Life as a part of the "Villa Family," has truly helped enhance the lives of our seniors. Because of the successful outcome, we're always eager for the arrival of Pets for Life volunteers. Thank you Pets for Life for all the laughs, smiles, and memories!

Stasha Swinton,
Assisted Living
Program Director
Villa Ventura,
12100 Wornall Road,
Kansas City, MO 64145



Merle and one of his best friends at Villa, Helen

Supporters Spotlight



It all started in Kansas City in 1989 with a rescue pup named Gracie who had the strongest of hearts and the tenderest of tummies. Typical kibble and treats wouldn't cut it—so we gathered up the best ingredients and learned how to bake. From that very first batch, we saw how magical doggie devotion could be. We saw the happiness, the unshakeable, unbreakable bond that feeds the soul of both species. And, when all of that was too much to contain in one little kitchen, we opened the world's first bakery for dogs.

At Three Dog Bakery, we're excited to support Pets for Life and honor volunteers like you. We respect the time, energy, and love that it takes to volunteer with your best furry friend (BFF). We commend you in sharing that bond with the community and those in need. Your work is worthy of celebrating!!!

Saint Thomas Acquinis High School

"Stress Less During Finals Week"

Words cannot express my thanks for the pets and their guardians yesterday. People were still feeling the effects in the afternoon, long after the pets had left the building. What a special group of people to take time out of their day and come share their wonderful pets with us.

I know that Bobby's owner was keeping track and counted at least 500, but I think it was more than that, and we also had students who didn't enter the room where Bobby was, but went to another area with three of the other dogs. It was a resounding success. The students haven't stopped talking about it.

The students have already started begging me to have them back before finals next spring.

Please let all the guardians know how much we appreciate their time. I hope we didn't overwhelm them.

The folks here at Saint Thomas Acquinis wish you all the happiest of holidays. Thanks you, thank you, thank you!!!

Laura Cline
Saint Thomas Acquinis High School



Three Dog Bakery Supporting Pets for Life

Not only does Three Dog Bakery provide free Certification Pupcakes to all new Pets for Life volunteers, but they have also invited us to share our mission of "pets helping people." April is National Pet Therapy Month. Three Dog Bakery has invited Pets for Life Volunteer Teams to their Leawood location on Saturday, April 13 from 11:00 – 2:00 to share with their customers about our organization, what you do as a volunteer, and how to become a part of Pets for Life. Let us know if you would be like to help with this special event.

Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Heather

Therapy Pets:

Paisleigh, a two year old Havanese

How long have you been volunteering:
Since February, 2018

What types of facilities do you visit?

Assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, and the library for the R.E.A.D program

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

I love the bonding experience that it provides for Paisleigh and me. There is nothing better than having the opportunity to see her bring a smile to another's face, to witness the way that she can light up a whole room of people, to hear the elderly share stories of pets that they have had throughout their lives, and to see the joy she imparts when someone is having a hard day.

Share a fact about you and your pet.

Paisleigh has a cat sister and a dog brother. You can follow all three of their adventures on Instagram at @callieandwaffle



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

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>

Pets for Life, Inc., Executive Committee: Berna Arana, President; Judy Thomsen, Vice President; Marty Lutzmeier, Secretary; John McGee, Treasurer; Jack Rabby, Jani Roseler, Pets For Life Staff: Sharon Woodman, Program Director; Mary Gorman, Volunteer Coordinator.

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