Pets for Life

PETS FOR LIFE, INC.
Pets helping people

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GREETINGS EVERYONE!!

Joni Roeseler
Pets for Life
Board President

I'm hoping that everyone is doing well. Here at Pets for Life, we are very excited about the transition back to "normal" utilizing the safety protocol recommendations of the CDC. It has been a year full of uncertainties and closures. As things start to open back up, the uncertainties will probably continue....each facility will have their own protocol for reopening back up to visitors and volunteers.

So, it will be a slow process and volunteers need to be sure and follow the facility protocols, and if unsure, check with the Pets for Life Office.

So, cautiously—let the visits begin!!!

I look forward to working with everyone in my new role as Pets for Life Board President. We have a great team!!

A bit about myself---I have been involved with Pets for Life for over 20 years. With my wonderful dogs, Sally Jo, the English Foxhound, Tucker, the Golden Retriever, and Warren the Standard Poodle, all now in heaven. We visited hospitals and nursing homes. My Standard Poodle, Henry Oh Henry, has not decided for sure if therapy work is right for him – but he is a great traveler and makes friends where ever he goes. I've also been involved as a Pets for Life Board Member and participated in planning volunteer recognition events.

I truly believe in the mission of Pets for Life and feel that facilitating pet interaction is therapeutic for all!! Thank you to everyone, especially for volunteers, therapy pets, and staff for your service and patience during this transition time! Please let the Pets for Life Office know of any concerns or questions you may have if a facility contacts you to begin visits. There is absolutely no pressure for volunteers to resume if you feel uncomfortable in anyway.

Best regards,
Joni and Henry Oh Henry

VOLUNTEERS AND PET TEAMS

Health Forms: It is important that all the pets be up to date on their vaccinations. Since there were no visits for over a year, perhaps some of the volunteers have not updated their pet's vaccination records with the Pets for Life Office. If your vet needs a form, contact the Pets for Life Office and we can easily fax or email one for updates.

Volunteer Team Evaluations: Note that we are testing new teams, as well as, renewing existing teams. Please contact the office to set up a testing date if your evaluation is more than two years old.

Volunteers must follow CDC guidelines and any additional requirements of the facilities they visit.

Fun Things to Do with Your Pet: As the transition to "normal" may take some time, please continue to have fun with your dogs and look for opportunities for social interaction – enjoy!

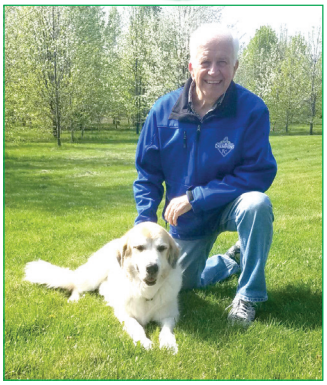
FACILITIES

Several facilities have contacted the Pets for Life Office as they are ready to resume visits. This is very helpful. The Pets for Life Staff will also reach out periodically to see if facilities want to resume visits.

New facilities interested in Pets for Life visits, please contact the the office at 816-363-3665.

In addition to hands on pet team visits, we can also do touch-less pet parades. Contact the Pets for Life Office for more information on this type of visit.

Sam Will Be Missed.....



Shared by Dave Meek

Sam was a wonderful dog who brought much happiness to many people. We got involved in St. Luke's Hospice because Vicki brought students from her classes at the Nursing School to the facility. When I thought about the patients, I thought we were there to minister to the patients. I quickly realized we also were there to help the families in the end of life time with their families. The families talked with Sam, petted her, hugged her and it seemed to give many a sense of peace in a situation most people had never dealt with before. Sam had a kindness and special way about her that most people loved. My dog was one of the best dogs that I ever met. She brought love to everyone she met. We were blessed to have her in our lives for over ten years and I was so proud that she brought kindness and love to staff and patients every time we visited the Hospice House. Sam taught Vic and I so many lessons and we will be forever grateful for the Staff and Patients at the facility.

"Pets Helping People"

Shared by Pam Rotert

Rivvy and I started visiting Promise Hospital about a year before COVID. They care for very sick patients in Promise Hospital, several are non-responsive. On our first visit the activity director was very excited to take us around. There were two separate incidents that were heart warming. One was a Veteran that had no family. He doesn't really speak to anyone. When we walked in, he looked at us and said, "Spoiled!" And I laughed and responded, "Yes, Rivvy is pretty spoiled." The activity director was in awe of the one word because he never responds to anything.

Then one other patient couldn't even lift his head, but he was making direct eye contact with me. I looked at him and he was moving one finger to get us to come closer. I held Rivvy so he could pet him with that one little finger. When we left the room, the Activity Director had tears running down his face. We sooooo miss our visits!!!

To Honor and Remember Rosi

Shared by Judy Steadman

I miss my Rosi – more than I can possibly express in words! She came to us as a "rescue dog" on January 11, 2014. When we got her, she had spots on her back and pink ears. She had lived with a dog groomer, who fixed her up as a clown for a dog show. Needless to say, we got lots of "looks and comments" when we'd take her on walks. My husband passed about a year and a half after getting her and because she was such a loving dog, I decided to get her trained through "Pets for Life." We visited some nursing homes, and went through training for the R.E.A.D. program, but because of COVID-19, we were never able to accomplish reading with kids. Our main volunteer work was spending time at St. Luke's Hospice House each week until COVID-19 struck. Rosi seemed right at home from our very first visit, and brought joy to many through those months. She definitely became my "soul mate" once my husband was gone. She was always at my side, and when it was bedtime, she'd snuggle with me and fall asleep on my shoulder. I bought a sign to have in my yard which says, "If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever!" I'm convinced that the unconditional love and loyalty from a pet is one thing we should all experience!

After Rosi passed, a friend sent a sympathy card which read:

To make Heaven
The perfect resting place
For loved ones we adore,
God made sure
Those Pearly Gates
Contained a doggie door.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

First Name: Christina
Your Therapy Pet: Walker
How long have you been volunteering? 2 years.
What type of facilities do you visit? Assisted Living

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with Pets for Life?
We enjoy getting to know the residents and forming relationships with them. Bringing a therapy pet to the residents allows them to think back on fond memories they have of their own pets, and we love hearing those stories. One of my favorite memories with Pets for Life was from one of our first visits. A resident was so excited to see Walker, she ran from her room to the common area where we were. I have never seen an elderly woman move so fast! She became one of our favorite residents, and we always made sure to visit her each time. We are anxiously awaiting the day we can return to our facility!

Share a random fact about you and your pet.
Two fun facts: Walker's name is based on the name of the building in college where my husband and I met. We wanted to name him something meaningful to our relationship. Also, Walker gained a mini goldendoodle sister in November. It took him a while to warm up to her, but he definitely enjoys the company now (although she annoys him at times like all little sisters do)!

Time to Retire

Shared by Michelle Schroeder

Jackson and I were certified as an Animal Assisted Therapy Team in August of 2014. I was a classroom teacher who was taking some time off from teaching to be more present for my two daughters who were young teens at the time. I came across an ad in a local magazine for Pets for Life and I knew that Jackson and I could make a good addition to the organization. Like most labs, Jackson loved everyone she met and I was anxious to share her with others.

Our very first assignment was at Lakeview Village in Lenexa, KS. I will never forget our first day there because one of the first residents we encountered was so excited to see us and as a thank you, tossed Jackson a whole Donut!!! Jackson was hooked from that moment on.

Although we visited an elementary school and juvenile facility, Jackson seemed most comfortable with the elderly residents. We continued to visit Lakeview Village, assigned to two different floors, and remained visiting there for over five years.

Jackson knew her way around the place and was always patient to wait at the doors to be welcomed in!

She was a natural and it never ceased to amaze me how much her presence could light up someone's day. Often it was the residents who you thought for sure might pass on a visit that day, who brightened up the most when they laid eyes on her.

Jackson will be 13 this summer and getting in and out of the car is not the best for her hips and legs, although she still brings joy to those we meet in the neighborhood every day. I am back to teaching full time, but am grateful that we had so many great years with Pets for Life.

Thank You for Your Support

Fairway Animal Hospital	$160.00
Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation	$3,000.00

Volunteer Teams Needed for Pet Parade

Pet Parade

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Village Shalom
5500 West 23rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66209

Please contact the **Pets for Life** Office if you are interested in helping with this event.

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.

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