



Remembering Jim and Bobby Pets for Life Executive Board

Shared by John McGee, *Pets for Life Executive Board*

Jim Schope, long-time volunteer, passed away April 26, 2023. Joining me to represent **Pets for Life** at his May 6, 2023 memorial service were Alexis Martin, and Pat and Gary Bridgford with their two Pomeranians, Tassi and Kikki.



Jim and his Sheltie, Bobby, had been volunteers with **Pets for Life** since October, 2015. They were part of the **R.E.A.D.** and Dogs on Call programs. Currently Jim and Bobby were regularly visiting North Kansas City Hospital and St. Luke's Hospice House.

Many of you remember in 2018, Bobby was reported missing from the Schope home. With the amazing assistance and support from Jim's fellow **Pets for Life** co-volunteers the two were united. Later that year, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in October, Jim and Bobby were honored as the inaugural volunteers in the Pets for Life Advocacy Award.



Over the eight years that Jim volunteered with **Pets for Life**, he always loved sharing uplifting stories, offering comfort and emotional support to the hundreds of people that he and Bobby visited.



becoming a **Pets for Life** certified volunteer with her own dog and with Bobby.

I am happy to report that, Bobby (who was also at Jim's memorial service) has been adopted by a North Kansas City Hospital nurse, who obviously witnessed the value that Jim and Bobby brought to patients and the staff. She is in the process of

Many Libraries and Schools Will Also Miss Jim and Bobby

Shared by Fran Lancaster, *Lead Volunteer for R.E.A.D*

Jim and Bobby were such a dedicated and eager **R.E.A.D.** team. Whenever **R.E.A.D.** teams were needed, there was no doubt that Jim and his precious Sheltie companion, Bobby, would be the first **R.E.A.D.** team to arrive, much to the delight of the children.



The incredible dedication of Jim and Bobby will be missed by many eager young readers.

Tips from our Trainer

Shared by Kay Lampe, *Pet Therapy Evaluator*

When we talk about training, we're really talking about a relationship with our dog. In a good relationship, there is clear communication, reasonable expectations and willingness to compromise. That means we need to be aware of our dog's perspective, limitations, and abilities as we ask them to work with us. Dogs are not "stubborn" but they don't always do what we ask and there is a very good reason from their perspective. The most obvious reason is that they don't understand what we're asking them to do. For example, standing in front of your dog and asking for a "sit" is very different to the dog than standing behind him and asking him for a "sit". So it's important to train in many environments and situations as we teach a behavior. Another reason could be that they don't expect any benefit for complying. Dogs are opportunists and do what works for them. We don't need to offer a treat each time we get a behavior, but there are lots of other rewards such as praise, play, petting or even attention. As you get to know your dog, you'll know what works best for them. Another reason may be that they are uncomfortable with doing what you ask. Asking for a sit on a slippery floor or hot pavement may put the dog in a physically uncomfortable position. The point of all this is that we need to be genuinely aware of what is going on with our dog as we ask them to work with us. If we look for it, we can find a reason for how our dog is responding. That's the key to a good relationship and successful training.

Facilities Needing Volunteers



Aspire – Oak Grove

2108 SW Mitchell Street
Oak Grove, MO 64075

Aspire is a facility that houses mainly long-term care residents and has a special care unit for Alzheimer's patients. They would like visits once a month, preferably on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00, but days are flexible.

Summit View Terrace Senior Living

12101 Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64138

The residents will meet in a common area and there will be no room-to-room visits. Visits are welcome Tuesdays through Fridays from 2:00 – 4:00 and on Saturdays from 1:00 – 3:00.

Garden Terrace – Overland Park

7541 Switzer
Overland Park, KS 66214

This facility is requesting volunteers to visit their skilled nursing and rehabilitation areas.

Pets Helping People

Shared by Leonard Pittala,
a Pets for Life Volunteer
with his dog Buddy

Buddy helps people in so many ways, whether it's comforting residents in senior living or interacting with medical staff needing a break from the grind of the day. He always brings a smile!



Buddy with one of his new friends!



Welcome to Our New Pets for Life Volunteers

Diane Mathis and Moose
Terri Montgomery and Jake
Joanna Burress and Stella
Joanna Burress and Trek
Autumn Leach and Hank
Autumn Miller and Nitro
Huntington Davis and Ali
Maggie Chiu and Sampson
Dana Bourn and Greta

Patricia Clark and Annie
Michele Potter & Louise
John Wade & Cheyanne
Tami Rose and Bailey
Julie Boresow and Zoe
Kristi Ashton and Olive
Keri Snyder and Cooper
Cate Smith and Barney
Lynn Sparks and Max

Thank You for Your Support

The Junior League of Kansas City, MO.	\$3,000.00
Kendra Scott fundraiser	\$609.00
Fairway Animal Hospital	\$400.00
Margaret Keating	\$ 50.00
Arthur Wortman	\$ 36.00
In memory of Cheryl Rhot	
Miriam S. Krum Living Trust	\$ 50.00
Alexis Martin	\$ 25.00
In memory of Jim Schope	
Deborah Campbell	\$ 50.00
In memory of Jim Schope	



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/>