

PETS FOR LIFE NEWSLETTER

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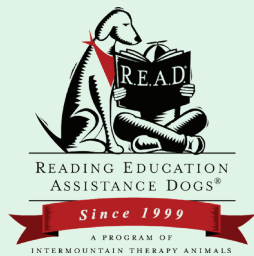
MESSAGE FROM THE PETS FOR LIFE PRESIDENT – COLLEEN KENNEDY

Happy Fall to the great PFL Community and greetings from your PFL President. So much has happened since the last newsletter. Some changes aim to improve and streamline PFL operations while others help our financial bottom line. There are events planned to encourage more volunteer social gatherings outside of their volunteer work, and others to spread the word about PFL to the KC community.

I know you all have busy lives, but please consider attending some of these events. Being part of PFL is a rewarding and fun volunteer job and knowing your fellow volunteers makes it even more enjoyable. On a personal note, I started volunteering in 2001 and 24 years later, I still get together a few times a year with PFL friends I made on my first visit! Lifelong friends sharing the same passion for animals and the connections they make with the people we visit is priceless.



R.E.A.D. PROGRAM



The R.E.A.D. Program--- Reading Education Assistance Dogs --- began 25 years ago in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although, in the beginning, the focus was on the assistance of dogs, it has evolved to include other species.

The R.E.A.D. Program associated with Pets For Life is the perfect example of having another species with



Leo, a national award-winning Birman cat. Leo has become an “expected guest” at our R.E.A.D. Sessions!

Leo became popular after the COVID crisis when one of the fallouts had to do with limited R.E.A.D. Volunteers. Pets for Life had to rebuild as did the R.E.A.D. Program. It just so happened that Kathy Madsen, one of the PFL Volunteers, volunteered with both a Dog and a Cat. After many hours of persuasion on the telephone, Kathy agreed to visiting Monticello Library. Kathy and Leo arrived at the library not aware of what was about to happen. By the end of the session, Kathy and Leo were exhausted by their popularity even attracting more attention than the two attending dogs.

Just look at the picture of Leo and you can see why he is so popular. Don't you just want to stroke his soft fur?!

IMPORTANT NEWS

Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation Party – Mark your calendars!

The 2025 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held on Saturday, November 1st, from 2 pm to 4 pm, at the Powell Community Center (6200 Martway St, Mission, KS). Pets are welcome! An email will be sent separately with more details but mark your calendar to attend and visit with other PFL volunteers.

NEW!!! Pets for Life Logo Apparel Pop-Up/Online Store!

IT IS HERE!! The Pets For Life (PFL) Logo Apparel Pop-up Store is now live. You should have received an email from PFL October 1st introducing the Pop-up Store offering. Included was a LINK to the store featuring 8 requested PFL Logo-wear/apparel items for purchase. (<https://petsforlife2025.itemorder.com>) We have assembled these popular items based on all your feedback to date. Note, that \$5.00 from each item purchased will go back to PFL. The store will remain live until Sunday, October 19th. Order fast to allow the items to be produced quickly and be ready for pickup (hopefully) at our November 1, 2025 PFL Annual Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation Party. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your participation.

Additional day/time for recertifications!

We are happy to announce that in September, we added a second day to the recertification schedule per month. In addition to the third Saturday morning at the Pet Project in KC, the third Thursday evening at the Powell Community Center in Mission, KS is available for recertifications of existing volunteers. This extra day will allow for more flexibility in scheduling as well as accommodate those volunteers who were not able to attend a Saturday session. When you are due for your recertification (every 2 years), you now can choose a Saturday morning or Thursday evening for your evaluation.





WELCOME TO PETS FOR LIFE'S NEWEST VOLUNTEER TEAMS

James O'Keefe and Blue

Ashleigh Adams and Prince

Hector Arrebota and Skye

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Bethann Albert

BPMC Brookdale Men's Club

Todd Bachamp

Ruth Boettner

Tua Flarsheim Char Foundation

VCA Animal Hospital, Inc.

Phil Ward

John William

IMPORTANT NEWS

Mentor Program



In September, we started a Mentor Program to help new volunteers during their first year of visits. The Mentor must have one year experience as a PFL volunteer and be available to join the new volunteer on their first visit, and then to follow up with them at 1, 3 and 6 months. As a seasoned volunteer, you can offer guidance and answer any questions that may come up during a new volunteer's first year. If you are interested in being a mentor, OR, are a new volunteer wishing to have a mentor, please contact Colleen Kennedy at Colleen.m.kennedy27@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This quarter's spotlight goes to Robbi Grogan who has been a volunteer with Pets for Life since 2010 – first with her dog Gunner and then with Sabre. Unfortunately, she and Sabre had to recently retire from their volunteer work. Thank you, Robbi, for all you have done for PFL and we hope to see you again in the future. You will be missed.

“I recently retired Sabre from Pets for Life. He turned 15 in May and unfortunately has had a recent change in his health that affects his mobility. He was due to recertify in August, so it made sense to officially retire at the end of the month after our August visits. He began with Pets for Life in 2012 after my first and longtime therapy dog, Gunner, and I began in 2010, so he has been enthusiastically “working” 13 amazing years. Gunner and I also regularly visited at The Gillham School and the TLC program. Sabre took over for Gunner at Crittenton Children's Center and Ozanam where we visited regularly after Gunner began visiting other PFL places and became a Pet Pal



Robbi with Gunner (left) and Sabre (right).

at Children's Mercy Hospital. Sabre has also been visiting at Children's Mercy since Gunner passed in 2021. Both dogs were part of the R.E.A.D. program.

It has been nothing but an honor for me to volunteer for 15 years with Pets for Life! I cannot believe how quickly those years have passed!! To witness countless adults and children relaxing with my therapy dogs, smiling, laughing and often opening up to us was very rewarding! I truly got so much joy from each visit and Sabre (and Gunner) adored being loved and giving love! They were extremely gentle and so sensitive to the needs of other people. During my 15 years with Pets for Life I was privileged to be part of numerous very special moments during our visits, some of which brought tears to my eyes. I have so many treasured memories! Pet therapy truly does make a difference in the lives of people.

This was a difficult decision, yet I know it is best for Sabre. I'll miss not only visiting and meeting people but engaging with the numerous PFL teams we visited with and the various staff who were involved where we visited as well.

Thank you to Pets for Life for always supporting me as a volunteer and my special dogs. I know PFL will continue to provide wonderful teams for many more years to come!”

FACILITIES REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS

Ignite Medical Resort -Rainbow Blvd. is located at 3910 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103.

Ignite is a rehab/therapy facility that would like to start all visits in the communal room. They will gather those patients interested in seeing the dog. There will also be some room-to-room visits.

Best time to make visits is Monday afternoon around 1:30 or Tuesday/Thursday morning at 10:00 am.

Kaw River Care and Rehabilitation is located at 750 Blake Street, Edwardsville, KS 66111 and offers skilled rehab and nursing and skilled rehabilitation.

Morningside Place is located at 6821 W. 81st Street. Shawnee, KS 66203. Morningside Place is a single-story building built around a fully enclosed courtyard. Their main common area, the Community Kitchen, comfortably seats about 30 residents.

They would like visits any day of the week—including weekends—between 10:00–11:45 AM or 1:30–4:00 PM.

ANew Health is located at 6815 Hilltop Road, Shawnee, KS 66226.

ANew is a facility for acute geriatric mental health care. Clients are typically experiencing depression and/or expressing suicidal thoughts. Volunteers sign in at the reception desk and will be accompanied into a nearby room for pet therapy visits. The room has a couch and chairs and clients will be escorted into the room in small groups (5 or less) for visits. Tuesdays and Fridays are not open to visits, but Saturday is a possibility. After noon or just before lunch (11:00) are ideal times for visits. ANew is located on the ground floor of a new building in western Shawnee.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, October 13
5:30 p.m.

Happy Hour at
Trezore Mare
Pets Welcome!
4105 N. Mulberry Drive,
Kansas City, MO

RSVP to
lexa07@me.com

Sunday, October 16
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dogtober Fest
8201 S. Jasper Bell Road
Blue Springs, MO

PFL will have a booth and
volunteers are needed
for 2-hour shifts

Tuesday, October 28
5-7 p.m.

BIER Fundraiser Event
KC BIER Co.
310 W 79th St
Kansas City, MO

Come support PFL. \$1
from every beer sold will
be donated to PFL.

Saturday, November 1
2-4 p.m.

Annual Meeting/
Volunteer Appreciation
Party
Pets Welcome!
Powell Community
Center
6200 Martway St
Mission, KS 66202



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