



KPETS Keynotes

Our Mission:

KPETS is a non-profit organization established to promote Animal Assisted Therapy / Animal Assisted Activities (AAT/AAA) by recruiting, educating, uniting and coordinating volunteers with the facilities, social agencies and special-needs programs whose clients may benefit from the healing and rehabilitating effects of the animal/human bond. The unconditional love of our pets is shared with those of all ages and from all walks of life.

KPETS Board

- Karen Gerth
- Laura Whitman
- Bill Gerth
- Jim Martin
- Dr. Andrew Sloyer
- Art Amelio

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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Konnected!

I want to share with you something I heard on Paul Harvey not long ago.

***'Ten Commandments for a Responsible Pet Owner'
 as dictated by the pet.***

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainments, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, and yet I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the difficult journey, on the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there. Because I love you so.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets.
 Enjoy and take good care of them.
 Life would be a much duller, less joyful thing without God's critters.

We do not have to wait for heaven to be surrounded by hope, love and joyfulness.
 It is here on earth and has four feet.

The power of Pet Therapy!

I just wanted to pass on a quick story to you. I had a "Karen Gerth" moment because it brought tears to my eyes and when I finally got in my car the tears of joy just flowed as Destiny licked them off my face.

I had an evaluation on Sunday at the Mennonite Home. We ended the visit in Meadowvue to visit Joanie (name changed), she is one of the regulars that attends most of the pre-assessment sessions. She is always in a wheelchair and loves the dogs. I have started taking Lexi and actually all 3 of my dogs (not as a KPETS visit, only as a friend of hers - I would never break a KPETS rule!!!!!!!) once a week to visit Joanie. I always try to take the ones I am evaluating to see her, too. She loves Lexi to get up on her couch and put her head in her lap while she shows me old pictures. She has a suitcase full!!

Anyway, Joanie was not home so we were heading out the sliding glass doors when I heard my name called. There was Joanie with some family members in the lobby. It was her son from Allentown with his wife and 2 autistic children. Joanie was so happy to see Destiny and Kally, the other dog. She sat in the lobby for a short visit.

Her son pulled me aside and told me "thank you for bringing my mother back to us. She has Parkinson's and for months was starting to slip away mentally, but ever since you have been bringing the dogs, especially Lexi, when I talk to her on the phone, I hear my mom again. She is back mentally and doing great because she has your visits to look forward to." I could feel the tears welling up in my eyes but he starting asking

all kinds of questions about KPETS so fortunately I had something to refocus on.

That is why I love K-Pets!!! I takes such little effort on my part, I meet wonderful people and can touch their lives. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for opening up a whole new world to me. It is a win, win for me. I love to meet new people and I love dogs so much and now I am able to bring the two together in such an inspirational way.

My life has been touched and changed because of you Karen. THANKS! Wendy

Syreeta Too!!!!

Syreeta and I had another wonderful experience at Landis Homes last week. The activity director at the one "house" often takes us around to visit, especially to new residents. We went to a table in the main room where an older lady was sitting with an older man and a younger woman. The activity director asked me to introduce Syreeta to the older lady. When I did, she got excited and started petting Syreeta and talking, saying something about " I like this one." and other things I couldn't understand. The activity director said this was the first time this lady had spoken in long while. The younger woman, she said, was the speech therapist and she was in tears hearing this lady speak about the dog so happily. The activity director said "Wow, the power of pet therapy."

- *Bobbie Sayer*



Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS) therapy dog Reni (Laura Whitman's and one of Hershey Medical Center's pet therapy teams) and James, sharing a moment during regular Tuesday night visits. The in-patient program utilizes fourteen therapy teams that visit throughout hospital once a week and special requests on an "as needed" basis.

KPETS Recap

Muddy Creek Presentation

The weekend of April 26/28 was crazy for KPETS. One of the events scheduled was a presentation at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church in Denver. It was a birthday party for all members who turn 80 years or older for the first half of the year or any widow/widowers birthdays. It was quite a crowd. We supplied the entertainment after their lunch.

The variety of dog breeds was great! In attendance were: Bobbie Sayer/Syretta (cock-a-poo), Tom and Elaine Soderberg/Lady Red (Husky), Luanne Rittenhouse/Danny (Am Staf), Rick Camauff/Corky (Am Bulldog), Jenifer Camauff/Truman (Bouviau), and Karen Gerth/Sammy (Golden). All handlers went with the flow of things during the presentation - telling about their dog's breed, the duties his breed was bred to do, and what their pooch's jobs are now! We all did our pet tricks too.

From what I understand, we were a hit. I was told that the folks usually move fastest when leaving immediately after the presentations, so the fact that they hung around to greet and pet the pups was a good sign. One worker in the kitchen mentioned she had a great view of everyone's faces throughout the program and she said she saw there was a whole lot of joy out there this time. That is what it is all about! It made my day! Oh, and it was so cool for my 92 year old aunt to be there for it. Along with my cousin. I think she smiled the most.

- Karen Gerth

Do you Need to be Re-Assessed!

September is approaching and we have a large number of teams that still need to be reassessed. This is the first year to initiate

reassessments. Every three years our therapy pets are required to be re-assessed in order to renew and continue being a team with KPETS. This is to ensure the pet is still appropriate for visiting.

If you received a notice with your Sept 07 renewal notice that you need to have this done, please make your appointment as soon as you can. Contact Wendy at training@kpets.org (717-285-9719) or Mary at marym@kpets.org or Laura at LauraW@kpets.org (717-368-9993).

Reassessments can be done the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, or by appointment if absolutely necessary. Thanks for your cooperation.

- Mary Merrell

Bring Your Kids to Work

Lancaster General Hospital (LGH) had a "Bring Your Kids to Work" day on Thursday, April 24. They invited KPETS to share with the kids what our therapy dogs can do to help people in the hospital and our everyday lives. Nancy Houston/Gilly and Karen Gerth/Podley joined the kids and staff for a fun presentation.

Then a couple nights later, while visiting LGH with Podley during one of our regular bi-monthly visits, I heard a little young voice out by the elevator say, "LOOK, there's a KPETS dog!!" That was way cool!

That same night, when our visit was over, Nicole, our therapist who escorts us during our visits, told me that the nurses were totally amazed by the impact the dog had on one of the patients. The nurses had told Nicole that she really shouldn't have a certain person join our visit in the waiting room with all the others. He was having an extremely bad day and was quite unpleasant. Podley and I had no knowledge of this at all.

We visited with five patients and one family member for about an hour. Podley made his rounds for pets and snuggles. He even played his piano for the 'crowd'. He would go get his ears scratched or belly rubbed for everyone. But his favorite place to be was snuggled over a certain someone's lap. He put his one (and only) front paw ever so gently up beside the person's leg and just snuggled up over his lap for the longest of time. We knew the person had no "boo-boo's" to be concerned with and made sure this was quite all right with him. The conversations flowed, the smiles, the laughter. Everyone was very interactive. We all had such a nice time. And you guessed it - Podley was giving the extra snuggles and loving to the one who needed loving the most that night! I NEVER could have guessed he was having a bad day!

Karen Gerth

New Orientation Site !

May 10th is the date for the first orientation in York. We are hoping to attract more volunteers from the York and Adams county areas. Country Meadows Retirement Community on Trolley Rd in West York has given us a room to use for orientations and pre-assessments.

This orientation is open to all. We are having Independent Living residents from the facility attending to become registered KPETS teams with their pets. Once they have become a team, they will visit other skill levels in Country Meadows and possibly surrounding facilities.

I realize this fell on the date for the Roundtable Breakfast. Sorry. We will change the date of the next York orientation so that this does not happen again.

- Mary Merrell



Picnic Invite

We'd like to invite the dogs again to the annual picnic at the Lebanon VA Hospital.

Friday, June 20 - 11 am till approx. 2 pm.

This would include lunch for you (and the dogs if allowed).

If you'd like to participate, contact Jenny at events@kpets.org.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

On Sunday, April 13, KPETS offered KPETS teams a luncheon in honor of Volunteer Recognition Month. It was our simple way of saying "Thank You!" to all of our dedicated volunteers!!

Adella Houck set up AND ran the whole event at Outdoor World Circle M Campground - luncheon and all!! The facility was perfect and the staff was so helpful. AND THE FOOD !! Thank you Adella for pulling it off.

We announced the volunteer who had the most visiting hours and that was Nan Hanshaw-Roberts. Then we gave out several KPETS patches as we pulled names from a 'hat'.

We shared what KPETS has accomplished and where we are heading. Did you know that:

- You've logged over 1507 visit and group visit/activity hours
- You've done over 560 event and presentation hours
- You've done over 2682 admin hours
- You've traveled over 21,719 miles to visit others!
- You've logged over 594 miles to staff events, do presentations or recruit others!
- You're touch others lives over 18,672 times this past year!
- You've are serving over 90 facilities, organizations or private needs!
- We have over 120 registered teams!

We also presented the newly approved Organization Chart which has lots of opportunities for you to pitch in. And we shared our 09 budget.

We discussed our major financial/non-profit filings:

The Advance Ruling on 501c3 was due and we received final approval !

The filing with Bureau of Charitable Organizations completed. This was the first year required.

So don't forget us this year for the United Way campaign! If you don't see us listed, you can write us in!

AND we showed a demo of the new KPETS Forum. <http://forum.kpets.org>

It was a great way to Konnect and Kommunicate. Hope we'll see you at next year's recognition event!

What's Coming Up?

Join the fun!

To sign up to help with events or if you have any questions, contact Jenny Rule at events@kpets.org or (717) 808-0143 or the contact listed for that specific event! Come enjoy the fun! Get involved!

® **May 19 - Lititz Senior Center** would like a little presentation for approx 35 people. (maybe show DVD) and just explain that we're not service dogs, etc. Lead and extra teams needed.

May 24 - Sunrise Lions Club Presentation. Karen and Pod will share KPETS for a short presentation.

June 14 - Orientation. 9 am till noon. Brethren Village

June 14 - Mennonite Home. 10-11:30 am Fun Presentation

June 20 - VA Hospital Picnic. KPETS teams invited to share our pets with the vets during their picnic.

July 13 - Orientation. 1 - 4 pm. Pet HQ, Palmyra.

Be sure to check www.kpets.org on the **KPETS Kalendar** page for additional updates! Note: Due to

Don't forget the KPETS Forum!

Our forum will be a key source for us to connect with each other and facility representatives. I know it is really new for all of us and we'll all learn as we go. So don't be afraid to post things or ask questions. (I can always go in and delete something if necessary (I think ;-))

Go to www.kpets.org and click on *Konnections* and then *Forum*. You'll need to register and then wait until we 'validate' you. It's for KPETS teams and facilities only. You'll get an email notifying you and then come back and start connecting! If you have any ideas you think will make it better, let us know!

See you on the forum!

Education Corner - Know Your Pet!

Nothing is more important than the well-being of our pets as they do their 'jobs' as therapy dogs. You enjoy what you're doing or you wouldn't be doing it; you can easily tell if the folks you serve are enjoying it; BUT it takes a keen eye and conscientious handler to see if your pet is enjoying it. Remember this is to be a WIN-WIN-WIN situation for 1. you 2. those you visit/serve 3. and most importantly your pet. Without your pet, there is no pet therapy!

We cannot stress enough the importance of reading your pet during visits. Please, if your pet is not enjoying a certain type of visiting, it may not be his/her niche. You may need to look for another type of visiting. There are plenty of opportunities! Just look at our request list!

For me, I've figured out the nursing home, room-to-room visit isn't for either of my boys. For three-legged Podley, it's too much to bounce around from room-to-room, just to visit someone for a couple minutes. He fits perfectly with our hospital visits at LGH because the patients come into one social room to see him. He stays in one room and snuggles (his forte!) with those who come in. Pod is also perfect for READING programs.

With Sammy, I've noticed that LGH isn't a real good fit. Sure, he can do tricks and entertain for a bit, but it's boring for him. He thrives on working with physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. or working with the more active

visits with the at-risk teens. In both these situations he gets to retrieve, or he may get groomed. He gets to go for walks with kids. He has open space to do his tricks for other handlers to help with their self confidence. He's not a real good fit for READING programs. That doesn't mean he may not be in the future, but right now - he's all about moving around.

So each time you go out, watch your dog. Is he/she really enjoying what you're exposing them to. If not, it's ok to switch to something else. Jenny, Gini and I will be glad to help you make the change.

Remember, during any visit, if you see that your pet is stressed or "just not right", it is OK to excuse yourselves. Your pet is your priority! Be a mama or papa bear and watch out for them every minute!

Visit Requests - Teams needed!

As you can see our list of requests is growing and growing. Word is getting out how wonderful pet therapy is for folks in these types of settings. And now there is gaining interest for more diverse types of visits. Even if you can do once a month someplace, each volunteer's commitment is so valuable. We all know how much it means to those we connect with. Thanks so much!

For any event that does not have a direct contact name included: contact Jenny Rule at 717-808-0143 or events@kpets.org for additional information and details.

This is the kind of thing we can start posting in the Forum. Once we all get our feet wet, we'll make the facilities aware of it and let them join in and post and communicate directly with you! So check out the forum. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to let us know! (forum.kpets.org)

Legend: * - indicates new requests, or no visits as of yet

No * indicates ongoing request

Choices Rehab and Adult Day Care in Lancaster United Methodist Church. Special needs Adult Day Care program is looking for team(s) to visit Monday, Tuesday or Thursday any hour between 9 and 3, weekly or bi-weekly.

AseraCare Hospice - Contact Pat Henry at 800-551-4466 or HAP12@aol.com Requires flexible 4 hour hospice training

AseraCare Hospice is seeking pet therapists to share their certified pets with terminally ill patients in facilities in Lancaster/Lebanon. Orientations on requirements are offered on a continuous basis around the area. Please contact the volunteer coordinator at patricia_henry@aseracare.com or 1-888-262-8545 for more information. Visitations are completely around your schedule once or twice a month.

Compassionate Care Hospice - Contact Aubrey Smith at (717) 203-7104 or smith9900@comcast.net. Minimal one-hour orientation will be set up at your convenience - even before or after a visit. Looking for teams in the Honeybrook or Christiana area in Lancaster/Chester county, Masonic Village, Middletown Home, and Jewish Home, Hbg.

Evergreen Estates and SouthernCare Hospice - Lancaster, PA: 1st Saturday each month at 10 a.m. Contact Anita at gyanwolfe@dejazzd.com or 717-627-0478. Or contact SouthernCare Hospice, Karen Getz at 717-285-0177.

***Friendship Community –Leola area group home:** Looking for regular visits. Loss/grief situation - Pet therapy suggested. Prefer Hypo-allergenic, small dog. There are kids. No cats. Evenings after 5 or weekends. Wed/Thurs work best or 1 & 3 Mondays.

Good Samaritan Health System Hospice - Please contact Tracy Johnsen, Volunteer Coordinator at (717) 270-7672 or tjohnsen@gshleb.org. A mandatory hospice training at the volunteer's leisure is required.

***Greyson View Adult Day Care** - Derry Street Harrisburg.

***Havre De Grace, MD**—Day program for at -risk teens is looking for a team or two to come during the day. Summer between 9—noon, school year between 9—3. This is a lot of fun. We have teams going to a similar program in Elkton with great feedback.

***Heart of Lancaster** - Lititz

Heartland Hospice has patients in seven counties from Harrisburg/Hershey down through Chambersburg/Waynesboro. Visits could be in: nursing home, assisted living, apartment or private home. Hospice volunteer training done at the convenience of the volunteer. Contact Sharon Funk, Volunteer Coordinator at 717-240-0018 or e-mail her at: 4675officestaff19@hcr-manorcare.com.

***Keystone Drop-In Center** - a place for adults with mental illness to gather in order to socialize and work on their recovery. We are open Monday through Friday from 9am-3pm. A monthly or even bi-monthly visit would be great. Contact Genevieve Kelly at 717-397-9379 or gkelly@keystonehumanservices.org

Lafayette Elementary - Lancaster is looking for a reading team Wednesdays any hour from 2:30-5

Lancashire Hall - Lancaster: Contact Kelly McIntyre, activities director - KMcIntyre10@comcast.net or 569-3211x 228

Lancaster General Hospital - additional hospital orientation required. Contact Phyllis Clair 717-544-5005 or paclair@LancasterGeneral.org

***Lancaster House South**— Looking for teams to come twice a month in the evening to their rec room for some fun! They hope to motivate some of the tenants to come out and mingle with others and just to brighten their day. So if we can find a few teams to commit to this, they would be so grateful. If interested, contact Jenny at events@kpets.org. Then we'll figure out what day would work best for those interested.

***Lancaster Regional Medical Center** - Adult Day Care, Lanc. Flexible times available. Contact Crystal Reese 291-8055.

Landis Homes, Lititz—Contact Marva @ 381-3555. Visits would be so greatly appreciated!

Lebanon Teams Cedar Haven, Lebanon Valley Home, Manor Care, Hearthstone Nursing, and Stonebridge. Please contact Sylvia at 717-865-2385 or sylvia_flinchbaugh@yahoo.com

***PAI** - East Pete, day program for mentally/physically challenged. Would love to have pet visits on a regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly)! between 8:30 am & 3:30 pm. Contact Joan Clawser @ jclawser@paipartners.org or 519-6740.

***York Area** - Three young ladies group home in York area just off S. Queen. Late afternoon or evenings or weekends, Contact Meredith Dahl at mere9184@gmail.com

KPETS Key Konnectors

Volunteer Roundtable Planner:

Carol Johnston 717-672-0166 or max1024@verizon.net. Volunteer Round Tables are held every SECOND Saturday of odd numbered months at 9 a.m. at Moveable Feast in Mountville. (Carl was having pc problems)

Phone Buddy Coordinator:

If you do not have email, contact Bobbie to get set up with a phone buddy to keep you informed between newsletters. Bobbie Sayer 717-733-0929 or jsayer@dejazzd.com

Orientation Follow-up Guide:

Guiding volunteers through the registration process once orientation has been completed. BJ Shollenberger 717-397-9384 or bjshollen@juno.com or Gini Swartzell 717-732-5772 or vpompoo@aol.com

Membership Files: Andy and Linda Euclide maintain new and existing registered KPETS volunteers. Contact them at: membership@kpets.org or 717-355-5232

Events Coordinators:

Coordinating and staffing KPETS events AND visits - Jenny Rule 717-808-0143 or events@kpets.org and Gini Swartzell 717- 732-5772 or vpompoo@aol.com

Pre-assessment Testers: Wendy McKelvy 717-285-9719 or training@kpets.org and Mary Merrell 717-259-8759 or marym@kpets.org. 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Mennonite Home, Lancaster. Or by appointment with Laura Whitman, (Palmyra) 717-378-9993 / lauraw@kpets.org; Bill Townsend (Oxford) 610-932-4401 / wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com or Mary Merrell (York) 717-259-8759 / marym@kpets.org

KPETS Keynotes Editor - Lori Reed has been helping get the Keynotes published each month. Please, if you staff an event or have any good therapy stories to share, please send them to her at keynotes@kpets.org.

Safety Assurance Leader - Wendy McKelvy. Any questionable pet behavior observed should be reported immediately to Wendy at training@kpets.org or 717-285-9719

Development Coordination - Jackie Diffenderffer and Adella Houck. To help out on this committee, please contact Jackie at jdiddy@verizon.net or Adella Houck at ahouck@embarqmail.com

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS on-line at www.kpets.org/volunteers. Each member should be set up with user name of first initial and last name (ex. Kgerth) and the initial password being the last four digits of your phone number (unless I typed it in wrong). Please change your password once you log in. You can also see a list of your hours. For those without internet access, please mail them to the KPETS address and we will enter them. THANKS SO MUCH!

KPETS Team Evaluators for On-Site Supervised Visits

Laura Whitman	717-368-9993	or lauraw@kpets.org
Wendy McKelvy	717-285-9719	or training@kpets.org
Jody Rosser	717-725-4522	or jrosser@lnpnews.com
Leanne Spurlin	717-898-6418	or lspurlin28@yahoo.com
Bill Townsend	610-932-4401	or wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com
Mary Merrell	717-259-8759	or marym@kpets.org
Margie Smith	717- 624-4742	or margiesracking@earthlink.net
Cindy Wilson	717-589-3734	or beaglemomma5@embarqmail.com
Denise Prociuous	717-834-5694	or dprociuous@sutliff.net
Tammy Sickles	717-832-0348	or dogtrainingisfun@aol.com

No Email??

If you don't have email, and are not receiving calls from a phone buddy occasionally, be sure to contact Bobbie and let her know (717-733-0929). She'll hook you up with someone to keep you posted of opportunities that come out via email between newsletters.

OR—If you are willing to BE a phone buddy to one or two people to help keep them informed of emails that come out between newsletters, let Bobbie know this too. (jsayer@dejazzd.com). We just don't want anyone to miss out on anything. Help us keep KPETS teams connected! Thanks!

Reminders:

We need your help: Your input and feedback is appreciated! Contribute your KPETS Keynotes stories, articles, corrections, comments and suggestions to keynotes@kpets.org, to be published in our monthly KPETS Keynotes Newsletter.

Please submit all your KPETS volunteer hours on-line at www.kpets.org/volunteers.

If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please contact us at info@kpets.org or 717.333.5738.



Have a Story to Tell??

You hear my stories all the time. That's because I send them in. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR'S PUBLISHED TOO.

Just send them to

[Keynotes@kpets.org!](mailto:Keynotes@kpets.org)

We'd all love hearing what you're up to!

- Karen Gerth



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