



KPETS

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
- Bill Gerth
- Jim Martin
- Dr. Andrew Sloyer
- Laura Whitman

590 Centerville Road #107
Lancaster, PA 17601
888.68.KPETS
(888.685.7387)

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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Connected!

Occupational Therapy Presentation Gives Renewed Meaning

Stephanie Nelson is an occupational therapy (OT) student at Elizabethtown College. On November 21st, she presented a research paper on the use of animals in therapy to her fellow OT classmates. To enhance her presentation, Stephanie invited KPETS teams to attend. Two teams participated – Laura Whitman/Rennie (plus Lola!) and Denise Gillin/Riplee.

Stephanie talked about the different types of animals used in therapy – dogs, horses, pigs, cats, birds, and even rats to highlight a few! She also stressed the different types of therapy animals are used for - including physical and emotional.

The audience showed genuine interest in her topic. They asked questions, told stories of their own pets, and interacted with Rennie, Lola, and Riplee during the presentation. It was good to see learning in action.

The examples Stephanie provided to show how animals impact on human lives were truly extraordinary; service dogs for the deaf and blind, reading programs for children and animals, horseback riding for balance skills, etc. One item in particular caught my attention. She showed a video of a prison program called "Second Chance." This program pairs inmates with rescued dogs. The inmates are with the dogs 24 hours a day: feeding, caring, and training them. When deemed ready, the dogs are put up for adoption. The caretakers learn responsibility, compassion, trust, and love – so do the dogs! Win-win situation!

As members of KPETS, we understand how special a pet can be. It's not necessary to have scientific facts to back up the extraordinary power of the human-animal bond. We get it! However, as Stephanie talked about her personal experiences with animal therapy and presented the scientific information her research uncovered, the profoundness of interacting with my pet everyday became overwhelming.

Each of us can most likely recite numerous conversations with people about pets being so much work – and expensive. The discussions center on providing – food, water, shelter; expenses – vet bills, boarding; and care – shedding and walking. Yes, a pet needs care and it's a lifetime commitment, but the return on investment is more than worth the effort.

How fortunate for those of us who already know how animals enhance our lives!

Dog Saves Woman's Life - He's related to a KPETS dog!

This is Kris Frey's KPETS therapy dog, Triton's brother! What a talented family! You may remember Triton as Sandy, Annie's dog from Dutch Apple's show: "Annie". But check out this incredible video through the link below, if the link does not work please cut and paste it to your browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvsaauMOoPI>

Prayer requests ! ! ! !

Please keep these folks in your prayers. I won't go into details due to HIPAA regs but do pray for their health and recoveries!

Bobbie Sayer, Bill Townsend and Mary Merrell!

KPETS Recap

Dogs Gone Shopping!

On October 11th, November 8th and the 15th several of KPETS therapy dogs took some much needed time off and went to the mall. Lucky for KPETS, they were still working. Several teams staffed the Bon Ton Community Days event where people purchased coupon booklets for \$5. The \$5 went to KPETS and the customer received a \$10-off coupon and several other 20%-off coupons.

No question about it, the dogs were a huge hit. It's not every day that you see dogs at the mall. KPETS raised \$1,201 from this event. I'd like to thank the teams that staffed the three in-store selling days and the individuals that sold booklets to friends, neighbors and co-workers. I would especially like to thank the Bon Ton for caring about the community and sponsoring this event.

Why We Do What We Do

This year the Elizabethtown Borough gave KPETS the #1 spot in its annual Santa Claus parade - the therapy dogs and handlers have proven to be one of the most popular groups at this event, and on Friday Dec. 5th we led the parade!!

This year, proudly carrying the KPETS banner, was a very special family. For the past year, initially my basset Murray and I, and more recently Denise Gillin and her greyhound Riplee, have been making home visits to three Elizabethtown brothers who have autism. The boys have bonded strongly with Riplee over the past few months, and this seems to have given them the motivation to march in the parade.

On the night of the parade there were marching bands practicing near us as we lined up, flashing lights, and a lot of people milling around. For these boys all of these



factors were a challenge. They wanted to march with the dogs though, and despite some nervousness and a little anxiety, they overcame these challenges and finished the entire parade route with us while their parents proudly carried the KPETS banner!

As we marched through the town square I walked behind the oldest boy as he smiled and waved to the crowd, and was overwhelmed with the thought that this is what KPETS is all about: this is why we do what we do!

Mary Gottfried

Cookies and K9s At E-town College

The K9 Club, a student organization at Elizabethtown College which supports local rescue organizations, sponsors a "Cookies and K9s" event during finals' week that is quickly becoming a college tradition.

On Tuesday Dec. 9th eight KPETS teams met in Ober Lounge to share homemade cookies and mingle with students who needed a break from studying.

This is a fun event for everyone involved. Students who are missing their dogs from home cuddle and play with the dogs, and the dogs love all the attention!

The event will be held again at the end of Spring semester in May - think about coming out and joining us for some delicious dessert and good conversation!

Mary Gottfried

STUDENTS & DOGS COUNTDOWN TO FINALS

- 10 dozen stressed students
- 9 KPETS teams
- 8 missing textbooks
- 7 exams to study for
- 6 plates of cookies
- 5 wet noses
- 4 papers due
- 3 exuberant labs
- 2 broken calculators
- 1 dancing poodle

This was the countdown at the Cookies and K9s stress buster event at Ober Hall, Elizabethtown College on Tuesday, December 2nd. Many students took time out from their studies and projects to visit with the canine pack. The dogs reciprocated in several ways: several donned reindeer antlers for this special occasion; some performed tricks and played games; and others reveled in ear scratches and someone to lean against.

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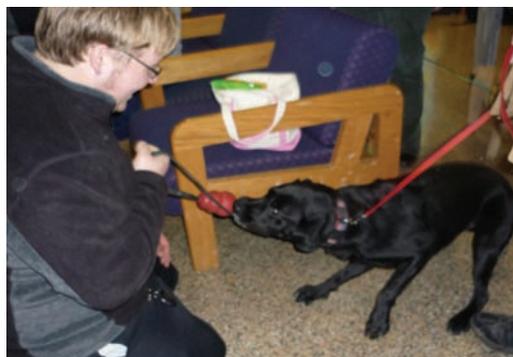
KPETS Recap

After playing with the dogs, the students left with renewed strength and resolve to continue their studies. After playing with the students, the canines left for a good night's sleep to dream of uneaten cookies. All faces left wearing a smile!

Thanks to the Elizabethtown College K9 Club for hosting this event.



Murray offers empathy to students



Tug of war is enjoyed on both ends

Denise Gillin



KPETS dog enjoys the company of student Stephanie Nelson



Shall we dance?

Central PA Pet Sitters Names KPETS as Beneficiary of Fundraiser

KPETS is constantly being asked to come and talk to various community clubs regarding KPETS and what we do, who we serve, etc. Part of our mission statement is to educate the general public about animal assisted therapy, so we are always willing to come speak. We hope it may help us recruit new volunteers too. A small donation is usually given, that is tucked away to pay our bills, etc.

One of these talks turned out to be even more beneficial. Karen did a talk for Central PA Pet Sitters. It was holiday time and the group was small. We could have talked dogs all day! The next day I received an email with great news from Kim Wenger, one of the sitters!

How exciting is this!

*"This year, we have unanimously voted to make KPETS the beneficiary of our fundraiser. We would like to help you continue the great things you're already doing and help you expand your mission. We did have some reservations about holding the fundraiser with the economy being so rough, but we feel that people will still support it--we may just have to work a little harder!
We hold the fundraiser at the Mt. Hope Winery, in the mansion. The date will be March 7, 2009. It runs from 2:00-5:00 PM and we have all kinds of great stuff going on--raffles, silent auction, food, a doggie fashion show etc. If someone from KPETS is available, we would love if you would give a short presentation from about 3:30-4:00. We like to have the organization we're donating to have some time to tell those attending about what they do, how they do it etc."*

- Kim

I'm so excited. So mark the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there!

Karen Gerth

Something for Gracie



If you were to ask me to describe any one of the many dogs affiliated with KPETS, I would have to say “amazing” – precious gifts on loan to us for too short a time. I was blessed and privileged to have shared in the life of one of those gifts.

She came to me as unexpectedly and as gentle as she left. I will never forget the first time I saw her. I was asked by a neighbor if I would be willing to “dogsit” his sister’s golden retriever for a week while they were on vacation, which I gladly accepted. Being without a dog at the time, we were spending our days dog sitting a variety of dogs, while we waited patiently, and, I must admit, often impatiently for God to answer a specific prayer. A prayer for a “dear, sweet, kind, gentle, healthy golden retriever (puppy, we thought) that could be used in a vision we had for a special children’s ministry at our church.

When I entered my neighbor’s house, there she was – a beautiful 4 year old golden standing at the top of the steps. As soon as we caught each others eye, she quickly descended the steps, with her tail wagging to and fro and sat down by my side. I knelt down beside her and gave her a huge hug. (Not something I would ever do normally to a dog I first met), but I couldn’t believe my eyes, for she was the very image of the golden I had lost many years before, and somehow I could sense just as gentle and sweet.

Less than 24 hours had passed from that hug when my neighbor asked me if I would be willing to take their sister’s dog permanently. It seems their sister was getting up in years and was looking for a good home for her special friend, and they were not able to provide the time needed to properly care for her. Needless to say, I was ecstatic – not to mention speechless – but before I said yes I had to have the ok from my family. You see, my daughter was praying for “a puppy” to cuddle and love, my husband was looking forward to another non-aggressive dog with whom he could pretend to “wrestle”, and our son, now nearly 18, was hoping for a dog who could just “be cool”.

It only took one look, one introduction for Gracie to win everyone’s heart. I was soon to discover that she had that effect on nearly everyone she met. And to “put the icing on the cake”, she was to each member of the family, what they were hoping for in a dog.

And so home with us she came and began her “therapy dog” training shortly thereafter.

Gracie had already been trained in the basics, so all she needed was some fine tuning to receive her therapy dog certification. Actually, it was really just me that needed the real training. She was a natural at it, and just made me look good.

Gracie began visiting residents in retirement homes, loving all the hugs and special attention (and of course, people trying to sneak her treats). From there, we were introduced to the R.E.A.D. program together, and spent a few years “listening” to some good books read to us at the Lititz library. She also was a big hit at our church, where Karen Gerth & Sammy helped us to birth a “Paw Pals” dog ministry to special needs children. Gracie was such a good sport, allowing me to dress her up as any kind of Bible character as long as the program involved being loved and petted by the children, with some treats thrown in for good measure, naturally.

There are so many precious memories I have of Gracie, just like we all do of our dogs. Things they do, times they make us laugh, ways they let us know what they want, and ways they even protect us from danger. I’ll never forget how she barked and danced around in our family room one morning before I was to leave for work. This was not a normal routine for her by any means – normally she would just run back to bed – you know, someone had to keep it warm during the day. Investigating the house showed me that water (from the heavy rain that morning) was coming through our electrical box in our basement. She alerted me to similar instances more than once for which I am so tremendously thankful.

But, the thing I treasure most about Gracie is the way she showed me to just love people unconditionally, to not be afraid to show love, not to be upset if the love is not returned or is even rejected, and to take time to just “be there” for people. I’ll never forget one time while just Gracie and I were manning a KPETS booth. A lady approached us in a rather quiet manner. She was soft spoken and cordial, but something specific seemed to be on her mind. Gracie got up and walked over and sat right next to the lady, putting her head gently aside the woman’s leg as if giving her a hug the only way she could. The lady reached down to pet Gracie’s soft head, and then the tears began to flow from this dear woman. It seems that she had lost her “best friend” not so long before and Gracie’s tender, compassionate hug overwhelmed her.

I thank God for creating such fine animals as Gracie and all the other KPETS therapy dogs. I believe they can teach us so much more than we could ever teach them – about what’s really important in life – and most importantly about the unconditional love God has for each and every one of us - no exceptions.

Thank you for letting me pour out my heart at this extremely difficult time. I’d like to add one final thing – God truly overwhelmed me with Gracie as a gift. And not to honor him with the following would be unfortunate. The lady who gave Gracie to us would accept nothing from us for her – in fact, she wanted to give us new toys, food, and money to buy anything else we needed to make Gracie’s transition to her new home comfortable. I was to find out, after receiving Gracie’s AKC papers, that Gracie’s real name was Amazing Grace. How appropriate, I thought. Just like God’s gift of grace –unmerited favor with Him– free to all - no strings attached.

Hug your dog for me – Gracie would like that!

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!

- Jan 11: Alt Gift Fair Check Presentation (Adella)
- Jan 12 at 2 pm: KPETS Therapy Dog Swim at Brethren Village in Lititz. Space is limited so KPETS therapy dogs ONLY! RSVP asap - only 10 dogs!
- Jan 10 -17: "Discover What Dogs Can Do". KPETS will be filling 2 hour time slots at this event held at the Farm Show Complex. Contact Brett at bermiller@state.pa.us for a time slot. Please let Jenny know too so we know how many KPETS teams attended. Thanks
- Jan 22 at 1 pm: Fun Presentation for Ephrata Women's Group. KPETS will be putting on a fun presentation for an Ephrata Woman's group. We will be giving a brief presentation on what KPETS is and does, tricks, games, and mingling! Fun Fun Fun!
- Jan 29: Speaking engagement (Karen) for Lancaster Amputee Support Group
- Mar 12: Central PA Pet Sitters putting together their fundraiser this year on behalf of KPETS - Mount Hope Winery in the mansion! Mark you calendar now!
- Mar 19: KPETS Walk in Obedience Presentation (Karen +) Lititz
- Mar 20: Speaking engagement (Karen) to Ephrata Women's Group

Hannah's Wish - *by Marilyn Mackey*

I'm sure you have read about this story below in the newspaper or saw it on TV so I am passing it along. Too make a long story short, after reading this e-mail I sent a card to little Hannah but then I went one step further and decided to take Buddy Bear to visit her, which I did this morning.

Hannah is a delightful little girl and just loved Buddy Bear. I put him on her hospital bed and she cuddled him and said how soft he was. It took all my strength to fight back the tears but seeing her so happy really helped. I told her that I would come back to visit her after Christmas and she was delighted.

After I left there, the tears came streaming down my checks and I wondered why God would take such a young and adorable little girl. Hopefully a miracle will happen but if not, I realize it's for a reason even though I don't know what it is. The one good thing that has come out of this is, that despite the sorry state of today's world, hundreds of people have reached out to Hannah and I have been blessed to be a part of that.

But now we can do it again! Hannah's birthday is 1/16! Let's send her birthday cards from all our KPETS teams along with a pic of your pooch(s) to make her smile!

Send your card to: Hannah Garman, 704 Orchard Rd, Lititz, PA 17543

Original Email stated: This is the true story of my 5-yr old 2nd cousin, Hannah Garman, who was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, a rare and incurable brain tumor. She was going to be the flower girl in our wedding in May, but was diagnosed a week after we asked her to be the flower girl. This is especially sad because her mother died 2 yrs ago from breast cancer. Right now she has lost most of her motor skills. She is confined to bed and cannot really do anything or play with the gifts she is getting from people, but she LOVES getting cards - she has gotten so many from people she does not know and just loves to have grandma read about the people who send them and see their pictures and is so proud of all her cards. Her room is just filled with cards. . .

Caution about chicken jerky products

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) remains concerned about a potential association between the development of illness in dogs and the consumption of chicken jerky products. This is the same potential problem the FDA has been investigating since September 2007.

The affected chicken jerky products, also called chicken tenders, strips or treats, are imported from China. The FDA continues to receive complaints of sick dogs from their owners or veterinarians who associate the sickness after eating the chicken jerky products.

The FDA, in addition to several veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States, is working to find out why these products are associated with illness in dogs. To date, scientists have not been able to determine a precise cause for the reported illnesses. The FDA has conducted extensive chemical and microbial testing but has not identified any contaminant.

Tips for our clients

Recommend that our clients do not substitute chicken jerky products for a balanced diet. The products are intended to be used occasionally and in

small quantities. Owners of small dogs must be especially careful to limit the amount of these products.

Remind our clients to closely watch any dog consuming chicken jerky products. They should stop feeding the product if the dog shows any of the following signs, which may occur within hours to days after feeding the product:

- decreased appetite, although some dogs may continue to eat the treats instead of other foods
- decreased activity
- vomiting
- diarrhea, sometimes with blood
- increased water intake or increased urination

Consumers and veterinarians should report cases of illness associated with Pet foods or treats to the FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator listed for their area

Visit Requests - *Teams needed!*

HELP !! 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. Please consider filling one or more of these requests!

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.

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.

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.

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

Adult Daycare at Choices Rehab in Lancaster Methodist Church is looking for a team to visit weekly or bi-weekly, Mon. Tues. or Thurs. for any hour between 9-3.

Denver Nursing Home- would like weekly visits from cats or dogs. Some residents asked for cats. Contact is Nancy at 336-2213

Lancaster General Hospital. Teams needed for a variety of visits at a variety of days and times. 4 hour orientation is needed.

Greyson View- Adult daycare in Harrisburg (off of Derry Road.) contacted KPETS to start regular visits. She is looking for visits to start in the afternoon any day Monday through Friday.

Heartland Hospice: opportunities 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 volunteer's convenience. Contact Pauline Goulet, Vol Coordinator at 717-240-0018 or e-mail her at: 4675officestaff19@hcr-manorcare.com.

Keystone Drop-in-Center in Lancaster is looking for a KPETS team for regular visits for special needs folks.

Lancashire Hall- Lancashire Hall in Lancaster is looking for a team to visit on a regular basis with flexible visits.

St Joe's, Reading - inpatient mental health OT/activities is looking for regular visits. Contact Debbie Moser at 610-208-4680

Odyssey Heath Care in Camp Hill Mechanicsburg area. Gini looked into doing hospice work

United Zion Retirement Community- Jessica Kistler at 626-2071 ext. 1006. Looking for visits the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

Ephrata Area- Request for teams for a group home for 2 mentally challenged men. Looking for about an hour visit in the evening once every other week on a Tues, Wed or Thurs.

Heinz-Menaker Senior Center in the Harrisburg Area is looking for a team to visit during the day twice a month. 1824 N. 4th Street, Harrisburg.

Lutheran Home in Gettysburg. Regular visits needed for 62+ folks waiting for pet visits.

Manor Care in Lancaster is looking for a team to visit on a regular basis.

The Meadows in Lancaster, behind WGAL is looking for teams to visit on a regular basis to their Dementia unit. They are fairly flexible with visitation times.

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.

Phone Buddy Coordinator:

If you do not have email, contact Karen to get set up with a phone buddy to keep you informed between newsletters. (888.68.kpets = 888.687.57387). Bobbie Sayer had been doing this but will be out for a while. Please keep her in your prayers!

Orientation Follow-up Guide:

Guiding volunteers through the registration process once orientation has been completed. Nicole Byers - welcome@kpets.org and Gini Swartzell - ginis@kpets.org

Membership Files: Michele Emenheiser and Erin Jackson maintain new and existing registered KPETS volunteers. Contact them at: membership@kpets.org

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
- Margie Smith (York) 717-624-4742 / margiesracking@earthlink.net

KPETS Keynotes Editor - Lori McDaniel 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 - Adella Houck and Jackie Diffenderffer. To help out on this committee, please contact Adella Houck at ahouck@embarqmail.com.

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

If you have web-access, you can submit your 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). You change your password once you log in. You can also see a list of your hours. If you cannot log in, contact Karen.

For those without internet access, please mail completed forms to the KPETS address and we will enter them.

THANKS SO MUCH!

KPETS Team Evaluators for On-Site Supervised Visits

Etown	Laura Whitman	717-368-9993	or	lauraw@kpets.org
Lanc	Wendy McKelvy	717-285-9719	or	training@kpets.org
Lanc	Jody Rosser	717-725-4522	or	jrosser@lnpnews.com
Lanc	Leanne Spurlin	717-898-6418	or	lspurlin28@yahoo.com
Oxford	Bill Townsend	610-932-4401	or	wptownsendoxford@yahoo.com
York	Mary Merrell	717-259-8759	or	marym@kpets.org
York	Margie Smith	717- 624-4742	or	margiesracking@earthlink.net
Hbg	Cindy Wilson	717-589-3734	or	beaglemomma5@embarqmail.com
Hbg	Denise Prociuous	717-834-5694	or	dprociuous@sutliff.net
Palmyra	Tammy Sickles	717-832-0348	or	dogtrainingisfun@aol.com
Ephrata	Karen Sage	717-859-3044	or	ssdsr@ptd.net

Help - What If I Don't Have Email??

If you don't have email, and are not receiving calls from a phone buddy occasionally, be sure to contact Karen Gerth and let her know (888.68.kpets). We'll hook you up with someone to keep you posted of opportunities that come out via email between newsletters.

Bobbie Sayer, who has been doing this, is going to be out for a while. Please keep her in your prayers.

Reminders:

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

Is your pet due to be re-assessed!
Contact Wendy at training@kpets.org

Go to <http://forum.kpets.org> to get konnected with other KPETS folks on our on-line forum! Let's use this cool tool to stay connected!

Submit your **newsletter stories** to Lori at keynotes@kpets.org.

If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please contact us at info@kpets.org or 888.68.kpets.

**We have a
few
Kalendars
left!**



KPETS - Keystone Pet Enhanced
Therapy Services
590 Centerville Road #107
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