



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.

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- Karen Gerth
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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Connected!

Expanding Your Horizons

By Mary Gottfried

This column will appear in Keynotes monthly. Its purpose is to make readers aware of programs, presentations and resources that can help you plan activities and maybe find your niche as a pet therapy team. All the information presented here can also be found on the KPETS Forum under "Presentations and Resources" in PDF downloadable format.



In the fall of 2007, KPETS had a request from a mother of three autistic brothers who wanted KPETS to do regular home visits with her sons. My regular commitment is at Manor Care in Elizabethtown, and I welcomed the opportunity to try something different. But I had a lot of questions on how to approach this challenge.

In developing guidelines for this program, I called on my background in clinical psychology and also a good deal of common sense. The end result seemed to work, and when Denise Gillin took over the visits in the summer of 2008, she added to the original "Dog Lessons" to complete the program attached below. The resulting program works for us and is both fun and rewarding.

Denise has become KPETS' resident "expert" on working as a therapy team with autistic kids- she would love to talk with other teams about getting involved with this program, and I'd also be happy to answer any questions about what you can expect when you get started in this area. You can find our contact information on the KPETS Forum under "Mentors".

AUTISM HOME VISITS

GUIDELINES FOR THE FIRST THREE VISITS: "DOG LESSONS"

During the first contact with KPETS and prior to any visits, the parents must be made aware that they need to be present during all visits and interactions with the therapy team. They are responsible for the child; the volunteer is responsible for the dog.

Parents should also be aware that these visits are not therapy in a medical sense. While the visits can help the child develop social skills, learn how to appropriately interact with a dog, and provide a fun experience, we are not certified medical therapists in any sense.

Goals of the Initial Visits:

Because many autistic children become overly excited when first seeing a dog, the goal for the first three visits is to establish some guidelines for the visits to follow. This is also a chance to communicate some basic information about dogs to a child who may know very little about them.

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(Dog Lessons - con't) First Visit: How to Greet a Dog (about 25 minutes)

On the first visit, leave the dog outside while you enter the home: a parent can hold the leash for you. Explain that yelling and rushing at a dog could frighten it, so it would be best to sit on the couch and let the dog approach them.

Bring the dog inside: at this point the child can give a treat if they are comfortable with that, and then come down to the floor to pet and play.

Talk about how to interact with a dog being walked by someone on the street: approach calmly, ask permission to pet. After more petting and questions, end the visit. Leave a "Color Me Kip" and follow up with a personal note to reinforce positive aspects of the child's interactions that day (your dog can 'write' the note, and thank the child for giving a treat, giving water, petting nicely, etc.).

Second Visit: How to Interact with a Dog (about 25 minutes)

Repeat routine of first visit: have the child sit on the couch to calm him down as in the first visit then bring your dog in.

Sit on the floor and talk about how to pet a dog: head rather than tail, quiet approach rather than sudden moves. Then general play, a small toy can be used if the child is comfortable with that.

Talk a little about breed characteristics and why dogs have been bred with specific traits (long ears, short legs, etc.), then question time.

Follow up visit with personal note 'from the dog' thanking the child for specific positive aspects that day.

Third Visit: How to walk a dog (about 45 minutes)

Repeat routine of first two visits, leaving dog outside while the child sits on the couch. Bring the dog in.

Sit on the floor, and talk about how to walk a dog. Point out the poop bag attached to the leash, and emphasize safety and being in control at all times. Parents must come along on the walk. As you walk, you can point out the dog's behavior and why he does certain things: sniffing, lifting a leg, etc.

Follow up with a personal note 'from the dog' thanking the child for specific positive aspects of that day's visit.

SUBSEQUENT VISITS

Remember dogs and kids should have fun. Input from the parents about their child can help make the visits more meaningful. However, make sure expectations are realistic; we are not professional therapists. Be aware of the simple things you observe and give the child reminders that will help him or her learn appropriate behaviors.

Also take into account that Autism is a spectrum disorder. Individuals vary among the different components and level of severity. Some common characteristics include impairment of social communication and interaction; restricted and repetitive activities and interests; low self-esteem; processing of sensory/tactile information. Autistic children can learn appropriate skills and coping mechanisms through observation and reinforcement.

Below are some examples to help you:

Impairment of social communication and interaction: First, the animal becomes a stimulus for interaction. The child will be more inclined to speak to or about the animal. It's a conversation starter for lack of a better term. Secondly, dogs can be used to provide examples of behavior to "teach" the child proper social norms. For example, ask the child how they know the dog likes his ears scratched. Help the child to identify the cues from the animal – the dog moved closer, wagged his tail, etc. Another example is if the pet moves away because the child is stepping near the animal's feet. Help the child understand that the dog is moving because he is being crowded.

Restricted and repetitive activities and interests: Pet therapy can be a calming influence. The child gently touching or stroking the dog can help the child refocus and gather their thoughts.

Build self-esteem: Ask the child questions about greeting a dog or other topic from the first three visits. Helping them articulate the answers builds self-esteem. Being praised for walking the dog and not dropping the leash or identifying a characteristic about the dog can build self-esteem.

Processing sensory/tactile information: Petting a dog can help the child adjust to different sensations in a pleasant way. The dog's muzzle tickling their hand when giving a treat is an example. Most importantly – relax and enjoy the visits. Be open to the outcome.



JoEllen Meyer With Edgar Get Pats



JoEllen Meyer and Edgar Entertain

The Trickle Down Effect

This is probably not a new revelation to most of the teams who have been volunteering for a long time, but for someone relatively new to this, I marvel at what our furry friends can do.

Personally, I have been a volunteer for many years, for decades as a matter of fact, and with four children there always seemed to be some place always needing volunteers. However, a therapy dog visit does not go by without a testament to someone we visit, either a patient or their family, friend, or medical staff that this is, by far, the most rewarding volunteering I have ever had the opportunity to participate in! And, I do not have to explain to fellow therapy dog teams, the human part of this team really is not the major part of the magic performed.

A revelation moment came after a visit to Hershey Medical Center (HMC) a short time ago when visiting on a Friday and Saturday evening. First, it should be mentioned, that this program at HMC has grown not only in the number of teams volunteering there, but also in the number of days we are allowed to visit. When I started, we could visit one evening a week, a short time later two evenings a week. Now it can be seven evenings a week, with two teams able to visit during the afternoon. This is, no doubt, due to some key people in place who value this program: Sue, the Volunteer Coordinator at HMC; Jeannie, our therapy dog "angel" who coordinates special visits and does an outstanding job of promoting the program with photo albums on intensive care floors plus some great little flyers on patient bulletin boards on some floors (note - it should be mentioned, Jeannie is a kitty person, does not even have dogs!); and, of course, our KPETS coordinator, Cindy, who keeps us informed and organized. Without this trio, it would definitely not be an awesome, growing program.

With that background in mind, when visiting recently I started out with some special requests; the first one requested by a physician for his patient. Another was a patient who had to be brought out to the common area. The nursing staff all coordinating and working together with him to get him out for what they said was much-needed therapy. Many people passing by the patient-dog visit had smiles on their face just seeing the interaction outside the patient room.

Then, there were requests from families who had therapy dog visits for their loved ones previously. By Saturday night when we arrived, I was signing in when a gentleman approached me to visit his wife. The night went from there to hitting the 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd, floors, and the emergency department. We got our workout in that 2-hour period! There were so smiles from the people who stopped to talk to Foo or pat his head, whether families or staff...Well, it was priceless.

"One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why." unknown author

When visiting in the emergency department in the last few months, it is amazing how accepted the dogs are and actually welcomed. I was not even paying attention to a page coming through the announcement system when a physician came up to me and asked why we didn't answer the page for a therapy dog!! So, we should now be aware that they really appreciate the value of the dogs with many of their patients. I also found out from one of the emergency department support staff that she had been trying to get this program there for quite a while. When I told her it had been extended to every day of the week, the smile lit up her face.

Absolutely, no doubt, the trickle down effects of each and every one of our visits cannot be measured. Oftentimes we hear on our visits about Sophie's outfits or the beagles with the sun glasses, and know what an impact our visits have made. We are all on the same team, no matter which dog is visiting. They all have the same heartfelt love for the people they visit. When staff asks what kind of treats they can bring in.... well, we just smile and often say the dogs just love to be patted on the head and fussed over.

Carol & Foo



KPETS EMAIL

Are you receiving KPETS emails? Check your filtered or SPAM email to make sure. To ensure you are receiving email from KPETS, add @KPETS.ORG to your safe list and trusted email from @KPETS.ORG.

KPETS Recap

MARCH KPETS ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, I attended my first roundtable breakfast at the Moveable Feast in Mountville. As a new comer to this gathering, I was not sure what to expect. My dog Lucy and I had recently passed our assessments and evaluations and were getting ready to become more involved with KPETS. When I saw the email about the breakfast gathering, I thought what a great way to meet everyone and learn more about the programs KPETS is involved with.

When I arrived that Saturday morning, I walked into the restaurant where a group of people were sitting at tables talking, drinking coffee, and smiling and laughing. A little unsure, I approached the table where I was greeted with smiles and welcomes. Karen Gerth invited me to join the group. I recognized a few people from pre-assessment and joined in their animated conversations. You will be surprised to know that the bantering centered on our dogs and what a joy they are in our lives! Whatever did I expect?!

Other people arrived, some who had been to only orientation and pre-assessment, and joined in with the rest of the group. After a few minutes, Karen welcomed everyone and invited each of us to go around the table and introduce ourselves and what programs our dogs were involved in. There was quite a range of experiences and volunteer opportunities shared that morning.

After the introductions, Karen discussed some upcoming events for April that teams were needed to assist with. Sidebar conversations continued with positive experiences people had with the different events being discussed.

The energy that morning was high, and I could feel the strength of the animal-human bond even though none of our dogs were allowed to join us for breakfast! I knew I was hooked when I took out my cell phone and shared pictures of my Lucy with other KPETS members. The breakfast itself was very tasty and a good price for the food we were served! All in all my first roundtable breakfast experience was enjoyable, and I plan to attend again in May! I encourage everyone to do so as well!

By: Sherrie Matterness & Lucy

KPETS DEMO AT UTZ TERRACE, HANOVER

On Wednesday, March 25, eight KPETS teams descended on the Lutheran Retirement Village at Utz Terrace in south Hanover. The purpose? To let the residents of the Retirement Village as well as residents in the Utz Terrace residential area know about KPETS.

The presentation started with an introduction of the KPETS teams. Harriet Hombach had Mattoon and spoke about therapy animals as well as the puppies she has raised for the Seeing Eye association. Then the Millers with their greyhounds, Polo and Goliath, talked about the speed of

greyhounds and the need for more homes for those coming off the track. Pretty Girl (also a greyhound), with Patti Chamberlain in tow also preened for petting – basically in her own little circle as Patti is on crutches! Then came the small pony – well, really it is Miko and Lori Cordon. Miko is a Great Dane, so they made their way around the room so everyone – and I mean EVERY-ONE! – could reach out and touch someone. Oh, I mean, touch Miko as they didn't have to reach far! Then Donna Gomer had her Cavaliers, Gwendolyn and Cullen, as well as Amanda, her 11 year-old blond Labrador. Sue Adams and Rosie, the rough collie, sat quietly as Rosie snuggled with all the people sitting next to her. Finally, Margie and Beamer, the Maine Coon cat, explained about AAA and AAT, how animals and people can get involved and what we all do. Donna Gomer (keeping her "extra" dogs crated while she told their stories) explained that her Cavaliers are also agility dogs and that Cullen just made his debut with 6 runs and 6 firsts. She figured out that Cullen (who weighs no more than a few pounds) ran 6 ½ yards per minute. Cullen got some cheers on that! The KPETS DVD was shown and questions were answered.

Mostly, people came to pet the KPETS animals, but meanwhile, there are a couple of people interested in joining! So, maybe the May orientation in the York/Hanover area will see some new faces – from the retirement village. Overall, the feedback was fantastic, everyone enjoyed themselves and petting the animals and even the people were on good behaviors! KPETS is fortunate to have the opportunity to be going into this Lutheran Retirement Community – the facility is beautiful, the staff warm and welcoming and the residents are the BEST!

KPETS OFFERS FUN TO SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

A perfect variety of KPETS teams attended the meeting of the Autism Spectrum Support Group of Lebanon County (ASSG) on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 pm at Fairland Brethren in Christ Church, Cleona.

Michelle Emenheiser / Gatsby (Black Lab); Joellen Meyers / Edgar (Old English Sheep Dog); and Denise Gillin / Riplee (Greyhound) showed up to support families of special needs children. The audience listened as each team introduced themselves and talked about KPETS. Three of the children told the group how they benefited from home visits provided by a local KPETS team. Because of the challenges their family faces, having a pet is not a feasible option for them. However, they look forward to the visits and enjoy time spent playing with a dog.

Diane Grumbine, co-coordinator of ASSG, invited KPETS to their monthly meeting because she thought it would give the children an opportunity to meet well-behaved animals and overcome some fears. Gatsby, Edgar, and Riplee did not disappoint the families that attended! The children enjoyed "walking" the dogs, and feeling the differences in their coats.

Gatsby paid special attention to one wheelchair-bound, little girl. When the girl's mother sat on the floor and held her in her lap, Gatsby laid right at her feet. Several

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of the children loved giving Edgar treats, and he was kind enough to eat every single one! Everyone was willing to accommodate Riplee by scratching his ears when he politely asked.

KPETS and ASSG are exploring the possibilities of holding regular sessions for teams to mingle with families of special needs children. If you think your dog would enjoy this type of visit, you can contact Denise Gillin at denisegillin@yahoo.com for more information as this program develops.

Sincere thanks to the KPETS volunteers that contributed to a successful meeting, and special thanks to ASSG for inviting us and providing a monetary donation!

GREEN THUMB HOSTS KPETS PRESENTATION

Green Thumb Society at Brethren Village invited KPETS to be their guest speaker at their March 2 monthly meeting. Jenifer and Rick Cammauf debuted their Biblical-based presentation (Note: We had their permission to do the Biblical presentation.) to the group on a very snowy, uninviting evening.

How do therapy pets and green thumbs go together? Very well! Jenifer told the audience “tails” of dogs in trouble – pulling out a dogwood tree, killing grass by peeing on it, digging up the yard – that kind of thing! Since it was a Christian presentation – she added some stories of how bad Christians can be: “We ain’t Jesus you know!” she quipped.

During the evening, Molly, one of our dog performers, wanted to accept Jesus into her heart so Jenifer demonstrated the Christian ABCs. Molly **A**sksed, **B**elieved, and **C**onfessed (the message of salvation). After Molly, the other dogs in attendance – Truman and Corkey (although both Christians) told the stories of sin in their lives.

One-by-one each dog’s handler described how their good Christian dog was also bad. Shirley Maurer explained that Corkey pulled out two dogwood trees. Rick Cammauf told the audience that Truman pees on and kills the grass. He also made Molly confess to barking and digging up the yard. That wasn’t the end though – after accepting Jesus, and confessing to sins, well, then what? Each dog cast out their sin in the name of Jesus and put it at the foot of the cross.

When asked if they still loved their dogs even though they are sometimes bad and sin, all the handlers answered a resounding “YES!” This demonstrated to the attendees that God’s arms are always open to receive us, and He loves us no water what! God is good!

The audience left with smiles and laughter. They were most kind to us, and we enjoyed performing for them. Thank you Brethren Village and the Green Thumb Society for allowing KPETS to put on this skit. *By Jennifer Cammauf*

MASONIC VILLAGES HOSTS ENTHUSIASTIC KPETS

KPETS had the opportunity to present our group to the Abraham Treichler Lodge meeting at Masonic Villages on Monday, March 16.

It was an honor to be invited because dogs are not allowed on this part of the Masonic grounds. I got to speak on what KPETS is and does, all the venues we are now participating in and how we have grown.

We ended with a little “dog show” that included Sophie, Spice, Brody, Goldie, Kennedy, and Reni.

I actually had many more teams willing to participate, but at the last minute found out the presentation time was cut in half. I want to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and willingness to participate. *By Laura Whitman*

ASSOCIATION OF PERSONAL CARE ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

On March 10, KPETS volunteers attended the **2009 Association of Personal Care Administrators (APCA) Spring Conference** at the Lancaster Host Resort. As a “vendor”, this was a wonderful opportunity for KPETS to get our name out to top decision makers at personal care facilities in Pennsylvania. It was a long day, but well worth it!

The APCA members attending were there for informational sessions with breakout times to browse the vendors. Our booth had a display board, banner, photo albums, and picture slide show on a laptop; however, as usual, the dogs were the biggest draw!

Some attendees had heard of KPETS before, but others had not. Those from far away just loved our services, and want us to expand to their areas!

Thanks to the teams who helped staff the booth that day: Linda Bunnell; Sue Schreffler/Sully; Lisa Deyo/Lilly and Monica; Daniels/Milly; Karen Sage/Sally; and Karen Gerth/Podley. It was nice getting to chat with you on our breaks! *(Lisa, you’re a saint coming so far to help us out! God love ya – Good to see ya!).* *By Karen Gerth*

LANCASTER ACTIVITIES DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Lancaster Activities Directors Association (LADA) held their meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at Landis Homes in Lancaster. KPETS was the guest speaker. Karen and Podley gave a presentation sharing our DVD and PowerPoint presentation on KPETS services and a summary of all the various ways pet therapy can be beneficial.

Pod was a hit! He nestled right up to the Pastor (Pod knows a good man when he meets one!). As the pastor leaned against the back of a couch, Podley settled right in on his feet! The pastor enjoyed Pod’s company so much he didn’t have the heart to move him. Rather than get up, he was handed the microphone and said grace right there with Pod.

We discussed resident dogs versus visiting dogs and all kinds of topics regarding pet therapy. Again, another way to share how KPETS is helping others! *By Karen Gerth*

My Volunteer Experience

I chose to volunteer with the Good Samaritan Hospital Hospice (Lebanon) because it is in the county of my residence and also because my husband works for the hospital. The people at the Hospice office are wonderful to work with. They go the extra mile to accommodate the volunteer. They are so very thankful for the time we share. The list I was given had residents at four skilled nursing facilities. I got a call one morning that one of the patients at Cedar Haven was overjoyed that there was a therapy dog available. I felt led to go that day to see her. Her eyes just lit up when we walked in. She was in her lounge chair so I lifted Sullivan up, and he settled right in beside her. Her daughter was also visiting, and we were both just amazed at how comfortable the two were together. We were invited to visit on a weekly basis. The staff was very nice and friendly. Another lady made the aide wheel her out of the dining room so she could see and touch Sully. Visitors and staff also went out of their way to say "Hi" to us. It's so nice to see them walk away with a smile and a bit of a swagger in their step!



We also visit some residents at the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home in Palmyra. Again, the staff does everything in their power to accommodate the volunteer. Sully and I visit two of the "greenhouses", so called because they allow the residents to grow. There are ten residents in each greenhouse. Their rooms are large and homey and one lady even had her piano in her room. We met a wonderful lady who will be 101 years old in August. She looks 30 years younger and is sharp as a tack. There is one gentleman who just went wild when he saw us. He had so much love to offer, he just wanted to hold and kiss Sully.

I think we get so much more than we give with these visits. It's so interesting to see how Sullivan interacts with different people. He doesn't necessarily like everyone, but he does tolerate them :)

Some people don't particularly want a visit from a dog, but their curiosity gets them in the end. I feel so blessed to be able to give a few minutes of happiness to these people. It is, in turn, a blessing for me because I am able to meet some very exciting, accomplished and interesting people that I would never have known. KPETS provides a wonderful service to those in need while affording the volunteer an opportunity not only to serve others but to receive so much in return.

By Sue Schreffler

United Against Puppy Mills Event

- UAPM will be holding a Longaberger Basket Bingo Fundraiser at the Ephrata Recreation Center, Ephrata, PA on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Doors and kitchen open at 11:30 am and Bingo starts at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$18 before April 18 and \$22 if purchased the day of the event.
- Get more information by contacting Lisa Popp at lolepopp@lmf.net or (717) 865-1052.

CAUTION: Household Cleaners Can Be Hazardous!

Many household cleaners contain toxins that are hazardous to you and your pets. *Karyn Siegel-Maier* writes in her book "The Naturally Clean Home," that a five-year EPA study found the air in an average American home to have chemical contamination levels 70 times greater than outdoor air! The EPA claims half of all illnesses occurring in the United States can be attributed to chemical contamination of indoor air and household cleaners are three times more likely to cause cancer than outdoor air pollution.



Here are some ways you can make safe and natural cleaners:

For a simple **fabric softener** – add 20 drops of your favorite essential oil to a gallon of white vinegar.

To remove **soap scum** – combine 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 drops peppermint essential oil and enough white vinegar to make a paste.

To **disinfect a toilet bowl** – ½ cup baking soda, ¼ cup white vinegar and 10 drops tea tree oil.

To **clean windows** – mix juice from one lemon, 2 cups club soda, ½ teaspoon peppermint essential oil and 1 teaspoon cornstarch in a spray bottle. This will discourage flies and bugs, too.

"Paws for a Cause"

Central PA Pet Sitters Network held their annual fundraiser, "Paws for a Cause" Saturday, March 7 at Mount Hope Winery Mansion. This year it was on our behalf raising \$3400 for us! How's that for fundraising! God love them!

The event included a silent auction, live auction, Chinese auction, and raffle tickets with all kinds of items on which to bid. There was a doggie fashion show featuring rescue pups, and tons of yummy food, too! All KPETS had to do was have an informational table and do a short presentation on KPETS to introduce what we do to the folks attending.

My dog, Sammy's good friend, Melissa Gehman, and her mom, Peggy, came to help me do the KPETS presentation. Sammy worked with Melissa at Schreiber Pediatric in physical therapy. And, I just found out on Saturday that Melissa is Schreiber's poster girl for this year. We demonstrated how Sammy helped Melissa walk and stretch for her therapy sessions. Peggy also shared how having Sammy there really helped motivate Melissa to try harder and actually want to go to therapy. It's hard work for her and Sammy made it fun! Thank you, Melissa and Peggy, for sharing your afternoon with us.

Many volunteers know how much hard work and time goes into pulling off an event like this. We can't thank Central PA Pet Sitters Network enough for doing all that for KPETS' benefit!

Thank you so much Central PA Pet Sitters Network. Thank you!

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Fido Facts

Many dogs suffer from hot spots, excessive shedding, hair loss, and itching. Kymythy R. Schultze recommends properly prepared homemade meals to clear up these common ailments. In her book, "Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats," she recommends the following diet for a 10-pound dog:

- Raw meat: ¼ to ½ cup muscle meat (plus organ meat or egg)
- Raw bone: 1-2 chicken necks
- Kelp / Alfalfa: ½ to 1 teaspoon
- Vitamin C: Up to 500-1,500 mg
- Veggies: ½ to 1 tablespoon pulped
- Essential Fatty Acids: ½ teaspoon



Attention Internet shoppers!

Thanks to everyone who is purchasing products on-line through iGive. KPETS just received a donation of \$59.31. What an easy way to fundraise!

Remember, anytime you shop on the Web, go to www.igive.com. The first time you will have to sign up and designate KPETS as your cause. Note that here is an iGive toolbar you can set for your browser to make using iGive even easier. The best part is – as you shop, a percentage of the cost of your order is donated to KPETS.

Check out the iGive Website – there are many, many top name stores to shop – Ann Taylor LOFT, OfficeMax, Blair, Oneida – to name a few. The site also lists specials and offers coupons to prompt you to buy more to support your cause!

- ® **April 14:** *Heinz-Menaker Senior Center*, Harrisburg, 12:30 to 1:30. Fun and informational presentation for residents.
- ® **April 17:** *Acadia Carnival*, Acadia at Greenfield, 2:00 to 2:50, Fun presentation.
- April 19:** *Tommy Foundation 2nd Annual Edge of Autism Walk/Festival*, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster – 12:00 to 2:00 pm (Walk) and 2:00 to 6:00 pm (Festival). Dogs are invited. Contact Denise Gillin at denisegillin@yahoo.com.
- ® **April 23:** *LGH Bring Your Kids to Work Day* 2:30 pm Nancy Houston needs one or two more teams to help her. Contact Jenny.
- ® **April 24:** *St. Anne's Church*, Liberty Street, Lancaster (parking is on Duke Street), 6:00 to 8:00. KPETS will be participating in a function for students in K-8th grade and their families.
- April 25:** Palmyra's 250th Anniversary. Meet at Pet Headquarters. There is a ribbon cutting to kick off the celebration. Street will be closed off. They would love some teams to come and just mingle with whoever is there. Just come on out. 33 East Main Street at noon.
- April 26:** *Pup-E-Palooza!* (PEP) is at E-town College, two shifts – 8:30 to 11:00 (opening) and 2:00 to 4:00 (closing/returning booth items). This is always a fun event. If you can help staff the booth and sell items, please let Jenny know!
- May 2:** *Annual Arthritis Walk*, Dove Church, Ephrata, three shifts—5:00 to 6:30; 6:30 to 7:45; and 7:45 to 9:00 to man booths. For more information, contact Jenny at events@kpets.org.
- May 9:** *Hummelstown Pets on Parade*, Check out their Website, www.hummelstown.com, for details or contact Sue Schreffler at bichon10@verizon.net.
- ® **May 16:** *Kids Karnival - Children's Miracle Network*. Zimmerman's Truck Lines in Mifflintown. Proceeds benefit Children's Miracle Network. It's a fun family carnival. KPETS has been asked for the past 3 years to be there with some therapy dogs. Gini Swartzell and Cindy Wilson usually charm the folks with their crowd pleasers, Tucker, Casey and Maggie (sometimes Trey if it's not too hot). For more info, contact Cindy Wilson @ cindyw@kpets.org or call 319-1136
- May 16:** *Lebanon Humane Society's Pooch Picnic in the Park*, Lions Lake, Lebanon—11:00 to 3:00, Booths—contests, pet costume, funny pet tricks, largest, smallest, pet/owner look alike, photos, ask the trainer, and demonstrations. Contact Sue Schreffler at bichon10@verizon.net for details.
- ® **May 19:** *Presentation Lutheran Home* on Sprenkle Drive, York area on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30pm. Contact Harriat at hubamus@verizon.net or (717) 266-2163 with any questions. It will be mix of KPETS and Seeing Eye dogs.
- ® **May 30:** *Camp Koala* - Dillsburg Pa Camp Tuckahoe Berevemant Camp for kids 7-12. 30-45 minute visit to camp (contact Jenny)
- May 31:** *5th Annual Dog's Day in the Park* at John Rudy Park in York, three shifts – 8:30 to 11:00 (opening/picking up booth items/setting up); 11:00 to 1:00 (staffing booth); and 1:00 to 3:00 (closing/returning booth items). This event is sponsored by Animal Rescue, Inc. If you are available to help staff, please contact Jenny.
- ® **June 8:** *Mountville Library Reading Program Kickoff*—4:00 pm. Contact Jenny at events@kpets.org.
- ® **June 20:** *Hershey Relay for Life*, Lower Dauphin High School—Therapy Dog Lap. Contact Sue at bichon10@verizon.net.
- June 20:** *Kanine Freestyle Training Events* at Volunteer Karen Sage's new pole barn in Akron.
- August 4:** *National Night Out*, various events in Palmyra and Hummelstown. Sue Schreffler at bichon10@verizon.net has more information.
- ® **August 8:** *Knights of Columbus* in Lancaster is having a golf tournament at the Four Seasons with all proceeds going to KPETS.
- Sept 6:** *Back again this year - our biggest fundraiser so far. Bow Wow Brown Bag Bingo*. Circle M Ranch near Millersville. Contact Adella Houck (ahouck@embarqmail.com) if you can help gather raffle items or pitch in for this huge successful events.

KPETS Orientations:

May 2: 9 am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hanover / **June 13:** 9 am Brethren Village, Lancaster / **July 12:** 1 pm Pet HQ, Palmyra

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

KPETS VOLUNTEER ROUND TABLES !!

Second Saturday of odd numbered months - 9 am - Moveable Feast, Mountville (Take the Mountville exit off Route 30 – heading east – go north 1 block; take first left and look for strip mall). RSVP to Carol Johnston max1024@verizon.net or (717) 672-0166.

Third Saturday of even numbered months - 10 am - Rosie's Restaurant, New Oxford (Route 30 between Cross Keys and New Oxford – strip mall on the right heading west). RSVP

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

® Note: Due to insurance purposes, events designated ® are only open to REGISTERED therapy teams (KPETS, Delta, TD Inc. etc.)

KPETS Key Konnectors

Volunteer Roundtable Planner: Volunteer Round Tables are held every month.

Times and locations listed with "What's Coming Up"

Carol Johnston 717-672-0166 or max1024@verizon.net.

Margie Smith margiesracking@earthlink.net. York Volunteer Round Tables

Phone Buddy Coordinator:

If you do not have email, contact Patty Sarago (717) 761-0396 to get set up with a phone buddy to keep you informed between newsletters

New Recruits Assistant: Helping guide new inquiries for KPETS to Orientation. Sue Schreffler - bichon10@verizon.net or (717) 838-9672

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** maintains new and existing registered KPETS volunteers records. Contact her 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 Karen Sage karens@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** / **Denise Gillin**. If you staff an event or have any good therapy stories to share, please send them to 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 - To help out on this committee, please contact karen at kareng@kpets.org

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!

*** EVALUATORS NEEDED ***

Rapid growth is making it difficult for our current evaluators to keep up with the demand of new teams needing their evaluations!

If you think you would like to be an evaluator for KPETS, please contact Karen at kareng@kpets.org to discuss.

*** EVALUATORS NEEDED!

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	ssdrs@ptd.net

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. There is gaining interest for more diverse types of visits. Please consider filling one or more of these requests!

Abraxas in Morgantown-looking for teams to visit and work with boys at the facility. Would LOVE a Dane!

Acadia in Greenfield-looking for teams to visit regularly on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th (when there is one) Tuesdays of each month. They would love a very interactive dog - likes to retrieve, is very friendly, and can play a crowd (group of 8-12).

Adult Service Facility in Gap-looking for regular visits on Tuesdays at 1 or 2 OR Thursdays at 10 or 10:30. They would like visits at least once a month or as often as possible.

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.

Autism Spectrum Connections Program in Cleona-looking for teams to provide visits with autistic children. Fairland Brethren in Christ Church (529 West Penn Avenue, Cleona, PA 17042).

Calvary Fellowship would appreciate monthly visits

Cambridge Lancaster on Rider Ave

Choices Rehab Adult Daycare at Lancaster Methodist Church in Lancaster-looking for a team to visit weekly or bi-weekly, Monday Tuesday or Thursday for any hour between 9-3.

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

Country Meadows / West York: First Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. Contact Jeff Boyer (717) 650-2683.

Deer Lake in Landisville looking for visits for low income elderly apts.

Denver Nursing Home-Weekly visits from cats or dogs. Contact Nancy at 336-2213 for information.

East Berlin Library First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm: Contact Fran Holt (717) 292-5743.

Ephrata Area- Request for teams for a group home for two mentally challenged men. Hour-long visit in the evening once every other week on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Gap Adult Daycare - teams for visits on Tuesdays or Thursdays

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

Greyson View Adult Daycare in Harrisburg (off Derry Road.)-contacted KPETS to start regular visits. Visits to start in the afternoon any day Monday through Friday.

Heartland Hospice has opportunities in seven counties from Harrisburg / Hershey and Chambersburg / Waynesboro. Visits could be in nursing home, assisted living, apartment or private home. Hospice volunteer training at volunteer's convenience. Contact Pauline Goulet, Volunteer Coordinator, 717-240-0018 or e-mail 4675officestaff19@hcr-manorcare.com.

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

Kennett Square, Chester County looking for regular visits for nursing home. Contact Betsy Bryant at bbryant@kennett.net or (610) 444-0741 extension 211.

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

Kreutz Creek Elementary School In York, looking for teams for a reading program during school year

LRMC Acute Rehab for Inpatients in Lancaster-looking for teams for both physical and occupational therapy to be involved as a group treatment session. A typical treatment session lasts for 45 minutes. The best days right now are Tuesdays or Wednesdays after 1:00 pm.

Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster-teams needed for a variety of visits at a variety of days and times. Four-hour orientation is needed.

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

Landis Homes in Lancaster looking for one-on-one or group visits

Lebanon area for visits to Cedar Haven, Lebanon Valley Home, Manor Care, Hearthstone Nursing, and Stonebridge.Spang Crest or Lebanon Valley Brethren Homes

Lutheran Retirement Village, South Hanover (Utz Terrace) open visiting. Contact Margie Smith at

Visit Requests - Teams needed!

margiesracking@earthlink.net or (717) 624-4742.

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

Luther Acres in Lititz would like teams to visit

Manor Care - West York

Manor Care - Lancaster

Mountville Library is looking to start a summer reading program on June 8th, weekly or bi-weekly reading visits.

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

New Oxford Library: Second and Fourth Thursdays of each month, 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact Margie Smith (717) 624-5743

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

Presbyterian Apartments in Harrisburg: homebound woman on 2nd Street loves animals but isn't able to have one. She wants KPETS dog team on regular basis. An all-purpose room is available for activities such as fetching and tricks.

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

Southern Care Hospice in Middletown needs team to visit woman at Longwood Estates (Maytown). Contact Jenny at events @kpets.org if interested.

St. Joan of Arc School in Hershey is looking for AAA visits

United Zion Retirement Community-looking for visits the 1st Wednesdays of the month. For information contact, Jessica Kistler at 626-2071 ext. 1006.

Welsh Mountains Home is looking for a one time or regular pet visit(s). Residents love animals, but due to the location of the facility it is extremely hard to get visits.

Wernersville State Hospital needs visits for the chronically and severely mentally ill

A Few Changes Are Coming . . .

Our requests for visits is becoming overwhelming! It has been very difficult to keep up with the listing here in the Keynotes. We now have the KPETS "Visit Requests" on the website. Go to www.kpets.org - choose Konnections - and then choose *Facilities Seeking Teams*. This will take you to an open area of the Forum. KPETS admin will add requests, but you can view and even communicate with each other under each topic. Beginning with our May Keynotes issue, we will not longer list these requests in the newsletter - possibly only listing new ones. Don't worry, you will have access to this list by using the web's Konnections link or you can go directly to it via <http://forum.kpets.org> any time you need it. Thanks for your understanding. Please do look at this list frequently. It is broken down by county to help you find your area more easily.

* * * * *

Another change due to the growth, is we now have two Kalendars. One is set up for our regular recurring visits schedule. And now there is separate Kalendar for our special events, orientations, pre-assessments, training and Round Tables - or any non-regular visit event. Our events were getting lost in with the visits so now we have two kalendars - one dedicated for each. To find them, go to www.kpets.org - choose Kalendar/Events tab. Listed are links to the Kalendars. If you go to the wrong one, don't worry. At the top of the page is a link to take you to the other one!

Please check the calendar containing on-going visits to verify that your regularly scheduled visits are listed and listed correctly. Please send any corrections to visits@kpets.org. We will try to keep this calendar updated, but we sure could use a volunteer to maintain this one. **Let us know if you would like to volunteer to keep this one up to date!**

We hope you will use these new tools to help fill requests and to keep you informed.

For those of you without email, don't worry. All events will still be listed in Keynotes. As for visit requests, just let us know if you need more places to visit. We can work with you to find a need that fits you and your pooch!

Thanks all for you understanding, cooperation and dedication!

CAUTION: Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine'. It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine. More information available at: <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>



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.



KPETS - Keystone Pet Enhanced
Therapy Services
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Lancaster, PA 17601