



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

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Lancaster, PA 17601
888.68.KPETS
(888.685.7387)

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KPETS Keynotes

Keeping Pet Therapy Volunteers Konnected!

United Way Funds Coming In!

We just received our first quarterly checks from the 2008 United Way's Campaign! This is absolutely awesome! Thank you so much to all of you who donated this year by writing KPETS on your donation forms. *Thank you* letters are being sent out to those who contributed and gave their names. But there were additional individuals who wished to remain anonymous. I hope you all see this THANK YOU. Your generosity could not come at a better time. It is with so much appreciation that we are writing this note.

Where Does The Money Go?

KPETS has been around since 2003, starting out as a few folks from Karen's church visiting nursing homes in the area. You all know the story about more people wanting to join in, so we broke off as a church-affiliated group. You may be aware that the national organizations could not keep up with the demand to register all the volunteers who wanted to get involved. Thus, KPETS was incorporated and attained 501(c)3 status in late 2003. With a continuous influx of dedicated volunteers, that very small beginning has grown to over 170 volunteer teams serving Lancaster and ten surrounding counties and Northern Maryland. KPETS is no longer a small group of friends visiting nursing homes. We are a true business entity with a whole new set of responsibilities.

Three years ago, Karen cut her full-time job to part-time to help KPETS continue to grow. Other volunteers have pitched in to help in so many different areas as well. From evaluators, pre-assessment leaders, orientation presenters, coordinators, administrative helpers to assist with membership files, newsletter, email group maintenance, new member contact, new member follow-up, phone buddies, the list goes on and on.

Even with all this volunteer help, we could no longer function from so many different locations and homes. KPETS needed to centralize the functions that make us unique in our field. In order to help us do this, KPETS has just opened a business office. It is located in the United Way Building on Janet Avenue in Lancaster. What a great place for us to be! Our neighbors are wonderful. They have donated desks to us as well as a dry-erase board! I think we're in the right place!

Another over-due addition is our first part-time staff person, Jenny Rule. Jenny will now be Assistant to the Executive Director or Karen's assistant. This will relieve Karen of some of the administrative duties that take up hours of her day. The Board decided Karen's time can be better spent in community involvement and pursuing sponsors to fund the growth of our mission. Karen will still be volunteering her time.

Since 2003, we've been saving up for these two major steps; we are finally there. Moving forward, funding will continue to be key to KPETS' survival.

KPETS would not be the success it is today without all of our dedicated volunteers. You make KPETS what it is. But, we still need more volunteers to meet the ever-growing requests for visits. So check out our requests lists, now on-line at www.KPETS.org. Click on *Konnections* then *Facilities Seeking Teams*. It's sorted by county. You can even add a comment for others to see. If you have a request, just let Jenny know and we'll be sure to add it to the listing.

Another way you can help us reach more people is to recruit more volunteers. So, if you see events that need staffing, please try to pitch in. What can be more fun than hanging out with your pooch and sharing with others all the joys of pet therapy!

I hope that answers a lot of questions you may have had. Thank you all for our continued success in serving thousands each year by Touching Lives / Warming Hearts!

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 form.



We need volunteers who are already participating in reading programs to help others who want to get involved. If you are willing to talk with other interested teams on an individual basis to explain what you do and give some guidance, we'd like to post your contact information in the "Mentor " section of the Forum. You can e-mail the information to me at weidmama@etown.edu .

The program below is just one of many; reading through it will give you a general idea of what's involved. KPETS also has a DVD available on this topic. If you're interested in viewing this, contact Karen Gerth.

K9S AND KIDS READING PROGRAM

(Based on a program by Heidi Sherman, who moved away several years ago)

Preparing for the Session:

A quiet, comfortable setting is essential; find a place where distractions will be at a minimum, and bring pillows for you and the child, maybe a blanket for the dog, and a dictionary. As in any therapy session, take time to let the child and dog get acquainted.

Reading With the Dog:

- The child should feel as if the dog is attentive to their reading, so position the dog so that the dog's head is facing the child or looking over the child's shoulder and where the child can pet the dog if they want to. Some kids might want to read lying down next to the dog or lying against the dog.
- If the dog falls asleep, the child might think the dog is not listening – you can tell the child he's just listening with his eyes closed so that he can concentrate better.
- If the child is having trouble with a word, help without doing the reading for the child. You can use the dog's paw to break the word into parts so that the child can sound it out, then ask the child to blend the parts together – always praise when the child succeeds!!
- To help the child develop comprehension skills, you can ask the dog questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "Do you think that could happen in real life?" every few pages.
- If you're not sure the child knows the meaning of a word, you can ask the dog : "Do you know what a greenhouse is?" If the child says they don't know, then the dog and child can look the word up in the dictionary with your help.
- Be very interactive – this helps the child to comprehend and to relax. You can make comments like: "See how Barney put his paw on that one – I think he really liked it!" or "Blue is Barney's favorite color. What's yours?"

Ending the Session:

- When time to end approaches, you can set a boundary by saying: "We don't have time for another chapter, but we can read one more page."
- Let the child end the session by giving the dog a treat or a hug.
- If the child has a pet at home, suggest they practice reading to their pet until the next session.

CONGRATULATIONS KIM SHOWALTER!

Kim and her cat, Molly, are recent additions to KPETS. We extend congratulations to her for receiving the *Henry C. Brandt Legacy Award*. The award is given by the Humane League of Lancaster County to recognize the unselfish love and enduring legacy of kindness Humane League volunteers provide to animals in the Lancaster Community.

Increased Scrutiny of Flea and Tick Control Products for Pets

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control due to recent increases in the number of reported adverse reactions in pets treated with these products. Adverse reactions reported range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, death of the pet.

Flea and tick products can be appropriate treatments for protecting your pets and your family's health because fleas and ticks can transmit disease. While many people use the products with no harm to their pets, EPA recommends that pet owners take precautions when using these products. People should carefully follow label directions and monitor their pets for any signs of an adverse reaction after application, particularly when using these products for the first time. Also, practice careful use of these products on weak, aged, medicated, sick, pregnant or nursing pets, or on pets that have previously shown signs of sensitivity to pesticide products. EPA recommends that a veterinarian be consulted. Additional safety tips are available for taking care of fleas and ticks on your pet. (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/flea-tick.htm>)

Pets may experience adverse reactions from flea and tick control products, including spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of reports to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back.

List of Registered Products

EPA has provided a listing of EPA-registered spot-on flea and tick products. (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/prodname-reg.pdf>) In fact, EPA is intensifying its evaluation of all spot-on products and is providing a more comprehensive list of these products.

EPA is not initiating a product recall of these products nor is the Agency suggesting that the products not be used. EPA recognizes the importance of the products in effective flea and tick control. EPA's objective at this stage is simply to advise consumers and pet owners to exercise caution when using the products and to monitor pet behavior following their use, as some animals have experienced adverse reactions following treatment.

Regulatory Agencies are Taking Action

EPA is evaluating all available data and information, including:

- reports of adverse reactions,
- product market share,
- clarity of product use directions and label warnings,
- product ingredients, and
- pre-market safety data submitted to the Agency in support of registration of these products.

This assessment may result in EPA action to require changes in the registration status of certain spot-on products. EPA will be working collaboratively with Health Canada to address this issue, as Canadian regulatory officials have identified similar concerns about the use of spot-on flea and tick products. EPA intends to update this page periodically to provide the public with the most current information on this issue.

New! If you are viewing on line, you can find more information, at this link. [EPA's Pesticides Q&A database](#).

Tick Removal Procedure

Try this and give us feedback about whether it works! Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball, and swab it for a few seconds (15 to 20). The tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.

Let us know.....email denisegilllin@yahoo.com with your feedback.

KPETS Recap

KPETS TEAMS SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

Two KPETS teams mingled with the Elizabethtown College crowd on April 8th. The residents of Ober Hall held a BBQ to raise funds to aid children with diabetes. Sylvia and Skippy, a Schipperke with a very engaging smile and Troy and Brody, very friendly guy, represented KPETS for this event. Skippy reports that it was cold and windy so he was glad he wasn't in the dunk tank! Our HUGE thanks to both teams for filling a last-minute request!!!!



FUN ABOUNDS AT TOMMY WALK

Ice cream, bubbles, face painting, music, games, animal balloons – the April 19th Tommy Walk and Festival to benefit autistic children had it all! KPETS participated – and stole the show! Who could resist petting Miko, the handsome Great Dane, or Guinness, the fluffy Rough Coated Collie? No one! Maxwell did a great job making sure to be available for petting at all times! Two new pups – Farmer and Kenzie – worked the crowd like pros! Everyone was interested in checking out Kip!

The walk and festival were held at Franklin & Marshall College to celebrate the lives, needs, and progress of individuals with autism and their families. We had several KPETS teams to cover this event. Thanks to: Margie Smith / Guinness; Lori Cordon / Miko; Sue Adams (expert helper); Becki Lieberknecht / William; Tom Lieberknecht / Kenzie; Carol Johnston / Maxwell; Lori Covey / Milo; Bobbie Garber / Kayla; Nicole Byers / and her dog (for walking); and special thanks to Kip – Rachel Hensberger for enduring the sweltering heat in a big furry costume!

If you missed the fun this year, plan to catch the walk and festival next year.

LGH HOSTS "BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK" DAY

KPETS was invited back to this year's *Bring Your Kids to Work* Day sponsored by Lancaster General Hospital. We were scheduled to do a 1/2 presentation for 35 or so kids at the Health Campus. Nancy Houson / Gilly and Karen Gerth / Sammy asked the kids if they knew different jobs dogs can have. We then expanded on therapy dogs and the various places therapy dogs visit - focusing on how they are used in hospital settings. With time remaining, the kids divided into two groups and worked with Gilly or Sammy. One group got to 'walk' Gilly much as someone in physical therapy would do. Nancy holding the short leash, and the child holding the longer one. The other group got to play fetch with Sammy, much like someone working on balance or range-of-motion may have to do in physical therapy, too. Humans and Canines alike had fun!

EVENING OF DOGS AT ST. ANNE'S

Children from St Anne's were invited for an evening with KPETS' therapy dogs on Friday, April 24. Bill Traphagen, a teacher at St Anne's, coordinated the evening. His wife, Sarah AND 6-week old NEW BABY girl and their golden, Poz, were quite a hit that evening. Karen Sage / Sally and Karen Gerth / Sammy, and Bill Mathues / Podley participated in a short presentation, games, and — the best part, reading to the dogs. Reading corners were set up and kids got a chance to sit down in the corner of the gym and read to the dogs. Each team ventured out into a corner. Sammy enjoyed getting his belly rubbed while one young lady read the story to him. And, to boot, the kids raised funds for KPETS by selling snacks and saving quarters for us. What a great group of kids! Thanks Bill T for setting up this fun evening for us.

DOGS AS ART

The opportunity to combine pictures and paws, art and arfs, creativity and canines doesn't come along every day. But D and J Scott Gallery, through the kind invitation of it's owner, Jeri Scott, and her theme, "Year of the Dog" made it possible on April 18th and 19th during Lancaster's Art Walk.

Situated on the second floor of the gallery, participating teams spoke with patrons about the benefits of therapy



dogs and KPETS in particular. While it made handlers a little nervous watching out for wagging tails and expensive antiques and art pieces, no damage was done, and many visitors were impressed by the behavior of the dogs and the scope of KPETS. Perhaps the teams had a special guardian angel watching over them.

NOTE: Jeri's grand-daughter was injured in a biking accident as a young adult. She is a paraplegic, and in the process of training her own rescued assistance dog. Beautiful portraits of her dog were hanging right behind the teams, punctuating the point that the gifts these dogs give is priceless.



PUP - E - PALOOZA: Or, Murray Gets Reiki'd!

The annual Pup - E - Palooza event, sponsored by the student K9 Club at Elizabethtown College, was held Sunday April 26 on Brinser Field at Elizabethtown College. Despite the unseasonable near 90 degree heat, there was a good turnout. As in the past, the K9 Club provided KPETS with a table and a tent which helped the nine teams who attended to stay cool. This year, proceeds from items raffled at the event went to Coast to Coast Dachshund Rescue, Cocker Spaniel Adoption Center, and Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue. The bloodhounds of Summit Search and Rescue did a search demonstration, there was food and beverages for sale, and live music all afternoon. Two large "kiddie" pools in the middle of the field helped the dogs cool off.

Besides Kpets, there were vendors selling dog accessories, several dog rescue organizations, a horse rescue group, Dogs Deserve Better which promotes the end to dog tethering, and two women from Downingtown who were distributing information for Therapeutic Touch For Animals. When I mentioned Murray's chronic allergies to Mary Beth Genter, who represents Therapeutic Touch For Animals and is a practitioner of the Komitor Healing Method, she offered to work on Murray a bit. She explained that what she does is similar to Reike. According to her, dogs have energy chackras just like humans, and opening up these energy centers using therapeutic touch can aid healing.

Murray thoroughly enjoyed his session - he became very relaxed, and wagged his tail throughout the the procedure - it was interesting to watch and learn how therapeutic touch is done!

Despite the heat, everyone in attendance had a great afternoon. This is always a fun event, and the proceeds benefit a good cause. Think about joining us next year!

Summer Booked Up?

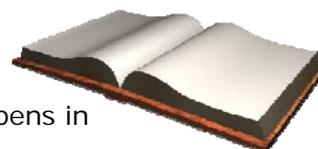
Warm weather, no school, yard work, spring cleaning – all signs summer is on its way! Don't let your summer get booked up with too many activities before you consider a library

reading program!

KPETS volunteers in the Hanover / York area are active in a big way. Fran Holt and her Black Lab, Jackson, along with Lisa Pearl and Golden Retriever, Buster, are making a difference at the East Berlin Library. Once a month in the evening, Buster and Jackson enjoy having children read to them. The children feel comfortable reading to the dogs and don't feel embarrassed when they don't know a word. Fran and Lisa enjoy seeing the improved reading skills of the children.

Wilma Krepps, the Librarian at the New Oxford Area Library, found Books with KPETS on Marjorie Smith's Website. Margie and her pets, Rosie/Rough Collie, and Beamer/Maine Coon, and Mary Merrell and Pippa/Bernese Mountain Dog, helped Wilma start the program. "We are really trying to reach the kids who don't read well," says Wilma. She adds that it also gives the children a way to visit the library and pick a book to read, AND have a fun experience meeting animals trained to respond in a calm way.

The New Oxford program includes a writing workshop. Wilma says it is great to see the kids working together to write a book about the animals – and it's great that it happens in the library!



KUDOS KPETS

It's always nice to know when you are appreciated. Laura Whitman was told by one of the employees at Hershey Med's MICU that a resident thought the pet therapy visits KPETS provides are WONDERFUL— especially since the dogs are allowed into ICU. We are not unnoticed!

Mary Merrell 09/18/51 - May 7, 2009

KPETS lost one of our most dedicated volunteers on Thursday, May 7, 2009 to her battle with cancer. How can we even begin to pay tribute to all Mary Merrell has given to so many in our earthly home.

Mary is the reason KPETS has ventured and grown in the York area and beyond. It all seemed 'meant to be' with her efforts.

For years, Mary would assist Karen doing Orientations in Lancaster every other month, introducing potential volunteers to the organization. She then pursued and set up doing orientations in York area on the other months of the year - first doing the presentations on her own and then recruiting volunteers to assist her. Pet visits in that area are continuing to grow because of the seed she started.

As if that were not enough, Mary would travel to Lancaster twice a month to run pre-assessment sessions with Wendy McKelvy. She and Wendy easily have screened one hundred dogs during their years of pre-assessing.

Mary also pursued branching out the types of visits we did. Getting the dogs into York Hospitals was no easy task, but she did it! There were constant reports of the differences these pet therapy visits made in the patients lives during their hospital stays.

Mary STILL didn't stop there. She would staff our booths at various events near and far. She and her husband Eddie were essential "worker bees" (as Adella would put it) during the Bow Wow Brown Bag Bingo events. We could go on and on.

Mary was not finished here on this earth, but I guess heaven needed this angel there more. Mary, we love you and miss you tremendously. Thank you for all your love, commitment, enthusiasm, morals, ethics, and faithful service to KPETS and the blessing you've been in lives you've touched over the years.



Margie, who has been following in Mary footsteps and is pursuing a lot of Mary's dreams, attended the service on Monday and had a few things to share with those who could not attend.

"The viewing and funeral were wonderful tributes to Mary. So many kind things were said by everyone. For instance, did you know that:



1. Mary helped start the first dog park in Maryland
2. Mary helped many, many Bernese Mountain dogs get re-homed
3. Mary was the person to start an active group of KPETS teams on the York and west side of the river!
4. Mary was considered by many in the health care field, one of the most compassionate, hardest workers in the field of respiratory therapy
5. Mary brought animals, healing and health together at York hospitals



Mary and Abby motivated patients to work harder during their therapy sessions AND helped them relax more easily when resting

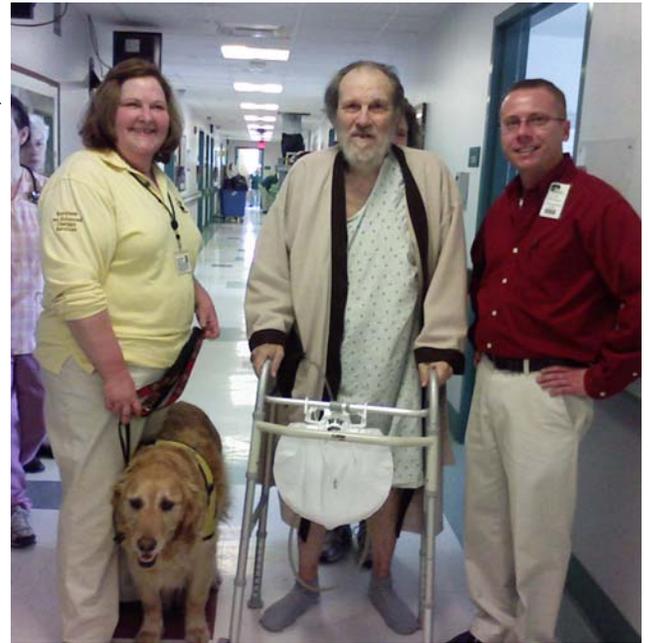


Merrell Foundation: The family was in the process of filing for a tax-exemption foundation when Mary passed away, so the foundation is not set up yet. The purpose is to assist Berner rescue by having funds to purchase those dogs we get calls for that are in horrific conditions at Amish/Mennonite farms or have health problems and the farmer wants to "get rid of it" but still is charging a fee. Dogs would only be purchased when it is obvious it would be a problem for a future owner. Our club doesn't allow us to purchase dogs.

My rescue Rudy is one of those dogs. Mary got a call from a club member about a farmer in Annville that had a 4 month old that he wanted to get rid of...could rescue do anything? Mary visited the farmer under the guise of wanting to buy him, but was trying to get him to lower the price to \$200, which he wouldn't do (wanted \$450). Rudy was un-socialized, living in a barn, not allowed near the kids, constantly smacked in the head for puppy behavior, etc. Mary knew he was going to be a problem for some future owner so she went home and rallied some funds on the side. When she called back, the pup was gone.

Sure enough, two months later, she got a call from someone in the Elizabethtown area looking to re-home their six month old pup because of digestion issues they didn't have the time or resources to take care of. We met them at the event we did at Pet HQ...it was the same dog. Rudy has been with me ever since.

Please pass this info on if you would like. Below is the posting from Pat Long, who will be collecting the funds. It hasn't been set up formally yet, all of us have been focused on Mary exclusively. But for now donations can be sent payable to me with Merrell Foundation in the memo line. As soon as it has its own bank account, I'll transfer the funds to that. And thank you! Pat Long 1164 Old Lancaster Road Berwyn PA 19312"



Mary and Abby supervised the making doggie treats with residents in a retirement facility to give to dogs in need.

CASH BINGO & 4th ANNUAL BOW WOW BROWN BAG BINGO Assistance Needed

KPETS hosts Cash Bingo at Outdoor World Circle M Campground the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, every Friday night in July and August and the Friday of Labor Day weekend at 8pm. I'm looking for a person or team that can be trained and run this fundraiser 1 or 2 times in July and August to give me a Friday night off. There is also a member of the Recreation staff at Circle M that assists with the activity, but the Pennsylvania bingo law requires a volunteer of the nonprofit group be the primary person running the event. Basic cash handling skills and the ability to call bingo numbers on the PA system a must.

Preparations are getting on the way for the 4th Annual Bow Wow Brown Bag Bingo, which has been KPETS largest fundraiser for past several years. A lot of work takes place prior to the event and we need your assistance. Below are a number of items that you can assist with making this event even more profitable for KPETS than in the past:

- Assisting with mail outs to potential companies for silent auction items
 - Soliciting local vendors for items for the bingo prizes or raffle items
 - Selling raffle tickets for the Dover 500 raceway tickets
 - Soliciting companies for sponsorship
 - Soliciting vendors for food product for the food/bake sale area
 - Donate a raffle basket
 - Assembly and wrap raffle baskets
 - Assist with stuffing gift bags prior to the event
- Deliver and display flyers about the event

These following tasks will need volunteers for the day and evening of the event

- Decorating for the event
- Pricing food products for the night of the event
- Transferring gift bags from one area to the event
- Displaying the silent auction items and raffle items
- Greeters with KPETS dogs
- Working the bingo cards and gift bag tables
- Working KPETS information booth
- Selling Raffle tickets

Working in the food service area

Let's demonstrate the power of people at work and make this event the best in KPETS history!

Please contact Adella Houck at ahouck@embarqmail.com

Canine Freestyle Happening

We all love spending time with our dogs, walking, snuggling, showing them off.

Have we got a happening for you! A day packed full of fun and canine freestyle. The opportunity to participate in this event is open to KPETS teams first, so sign up now.

What: Canine Freestyle Happening

When: Saturday, June 20. Time TBD

Where: Volunteer Karen Sage's brand new barn with mats and fenced-in area, 171 Bethany Road, Ephrata



Who: Instructor Bonnie Hess, owner of Faithful Companion Dog Training, LLC, Certified dog trainer, clicker trainer, mentor/trainer for Animal Behavior College.

Why: To have fun with your dog! Basics will include: an overview of the exciting sport of canine freestyle, clicker training, focus, attention and use of rewards to develop a stronger relationship, foundation behaviors and

training new behaviors, back chaining and forward chaining, how to choose music and spotlight your dog

Reserve your spot today! \$60 for the day.



This will include a light lunch. Payment due in advance and due by June 12. Refunds for cancellations will be honored up until 6/15.



Just think of how much fun visiting will be when you can show off even more cool steps with your pooch.



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!

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 *konnnected* 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 has many opportunities for anyone interested in a reading program. The Mountville Library is requesting volunteers for this summer. Contact Jenny at events@kpets.org for more information.
May 11	Lutheran Village, South Hanover (Utz Terrace not Utz Drive) Contact Margie at margiesracking@earthlink.net
May 12	7:00 pm <i>Pre-assessment Session</i> - Mennonite Home, Lancaster. Due to limited space, contact training@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
May 16	11:00 am to 4:00 pm <i>Kids Karnival</i> - 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 19	10:15 am to 11:00 pm <i>Landis Homes Fun Presentation</i> - Landis Homes Lancaster. Need KPETS teams to help put on fun presentation to residence at the home (contact Jenny). Teams signed up: Lois Gerlach, Andrea Harnish. 6:30 to 7:30 pm <i>Lutheran Village on Sprenkle Dr. in York Presentation</i> . KPETS is looking for teams to help put on a presentation at Lutheran Village on Sprenkle Dr. in York. If you can help, please contact Harriet at hubamus@verizon.net or 266-2163.
May 26	7:00 pm <i>Pre-assessment Session</i> - Mennonite Home, Lancaster. Due to limited space, contact training@kpets.org to reserve your space.
May 30	10:45 am to 12:00 pm <i>Camp Koala</i> fun presentation for the kids, Dillsburg. Camp Tuckahoe Berevemant Camp for kids 7-12. 30-45 minute visit to camp (contact Jenny). Teams signed up: Becki, Margie, Lisa.
May 31	9:00 am to 3:00 pm KPETS booth at John Rudy Park, York 5th annual <i>Dogs' Day in the Park</i> . Staffing needed for booth! Contact Margie at margiesracking@earthlink.net . Teams signed up: Nicole, Lisa, Carla and Margie
June 5	AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP PICNIC: 6 pm at Coleman Park. The Lebanon Autism Support Group is holding their family picnic. They would love to have KPETS teams come and work the crowd. If you are interested, contact diane@grumbine.org or denisegillin@yahoo.com for more information.
Jun 6	10:00 am to 3:00 pm <i>Block Party</i> at Lutheran Good Sheppard Church. KPETS will be having a booth at the Block Party being held by Good Sheppard Lutheran Church in Greenfield, Lancaster. If you would like to help staff the booth, please contact Jenny at events@kpets.org
Jun 7	<i>Volunteer Recognition Party</i> . Come for an afternoon of fun w/your pooch. Bring a food dish to share at this get together with KPETS teams at Karen Sage's new barn. There is plenty of room indoors and a fenced area for the 'kids' to play. RSVP to Jenny (events@kpets.org)
Jun 8	4:00 to 5:00 pm Mountville Library, Mountville Kick off <i>Summer Reading Program</i> . KPETS will run summer read program at the library. (starts June 8th) Contact Jenny if you need to see the read DVD & you want to participate! Teams signed up: Suzanne, Carol, and Joan
Jun 9	7:00 pm <i>Pre-assessment Session</i> - Due to limited space, contact training@kpets.org to reserve your spot.
Jun 13	9:00 am <i>Orientation - Lancaster</i> - Fellowship Hall, Brethren Village, Lancaster
Jun 20	Even months - the 3rd Saturday of the month <i>York Roundtable</i> , Rosie's Restaurant in New Oxford, PA RSVP Margie at margiesracking@earthlink.net <i>Relay for Life, Therapy Dog Lap</i> Lower Dauphin High School in Hershey. Contact Cindy Stewart mdstew22@aol.com for information.
Jun 23	7:00 pm <i>Pre-assessment Session</i> - Mennonite Home, Lancaster Due to limited space, contact training@kpets.org to reserve your space.
Oct 10	Mutt Mixer and Flea Market: This event will be held at Stumpf Field / McMinn's Park, 1350 Fruitville Pike, Lancaster from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm (Rain Date: 10/11/09). Proceeds will benefit Furry Friends Network, a 501(c)3 non-profit, animal rescue group. If you would like to represent KPETS at a booth, contact Jenny at events@kpets.org .

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.)*

Thanks to the volunteers that participated in the fun presentation at the Acadia Carnival at Greenfield on April 17.

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

IMPORTANT:
Change in location of

KPETS STORAGE

The storage has moved! It's now down the hall to the right in 281. Everything else regarding access remains the same. Contact Jenny at events@kpets.org if you need equipment to staff a booth.

ALL registered KPETS Teams are now registered on the forum.

You should have gotten an email with your user name and pw. Thanks to Sue Schreffler!! We're trying to make it as easy as possible for you to stay Konnected!

*** 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	lsurlin28@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	ssdrsr@ptd.net

WE NEED YOU!!!!

When I signed up to be a KPETS volunteer, I had a certain perception in mind. My dog and I would visit elders in retirement communities to brighten their day. A year later, I'm still finding out that there is so much more to KPETS than that one aspect.

Visiting retirement communities, although rewarding, wasn't our thing. By staffing KPETS booths at different events, I found new, interesting programs that are a better fit for our particular talent and personality.

Additionally, I saw a new need within the organization. There are more and more requests and events vying for our time. We call upon our volunteers with greater frequency to meet the opportunities of these prolific requests.

I challenge you in two ways. First, think about Expanding Your Horizons by staffing a booth at an event you are unfamiliar with. There are benefits. You will meet other KPETS volunteers and maybe experience something you will want to try. Secondly, if we all commit to one or two booths a year, the commitment doesn't overwhelm any one KPETS team.

KPETS is so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. To keep ourselves growing and strong as an organization, we need to keep the public aware of our services. Please consider this call to action as a way to make our organization even stronger. The next time you see an email asking for booth volunteers - take time to think about how you can benefit from helping out.

By Denise Gillin



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