A Fancy Tale

Anyone who has been involved with the Humane Society of Greater KC for any length of time knew Fancy. Also known as “Duchess Fancy Pants”, the beautiful Akita mix came to HSGKC as a young stray 12 years ago and immediately stole the hearts of staff and volunteers alike.

Fancy was a proud, feisty girl. People loved Fancy and Fancy loved people, but she was not overly crazy about other dogs or cats. This aspect of Fancy’s big personality made it a bit more difficult to get her adopted. Some of Fancy’s favorite past-times were lounging in the kiddy pool, going for walks, and hanging out with her many human friends.

Over time, Fancy mellowed a bit with age, becoming more tolerant of other pets. She was adopted a couple of times but, unfortunately, neither worked out. HSGKC staff members were both disappointed and glad at the same time when Fancy came back to the shelter. Each time Duchess Fancy Pants trotted right back to the kennel, proud and unfazed. In her mind, HSGKC was truly home.

May 8 was a very sad day at HSGKC. Fancy was having severe health problems and could not get up on her own. This had happened for the third day in a row, and the very difficult decision to let her go was made. Several of Fancy’s longtime friends came to say goodbye, and her caregiver family was with her at the time of her passing, which was quick and peaceful.

Christine Blank, our dog adoption coordinator, summed it up the best – “We all loved Fancy, not only staff members, but volunteers and board members, too. Fancy had the best life we could give her. Even though she is gone, please know each and every one of you made her life better by being in it, and ours for having known her.”

Fancy ruled her HSGKC “queendom” with a smiling face and wagging tail. She truly touched our hearts and enriched everyone’s life who knew her. Because of this, HSGKC felt it was only right to create a lasting tribute to her memory, called Fancy’s Fund. Donations to Fancy’s Fund will be used to help care for senior pets and get them adopted so they can spend their golden years in loving homes. We are happy that Fancy’s legacy will live on forever to help other senior dogs like her.
Saving and Improving Lives ... Once Client at a Time

The math is pretty simple: we spend about $1.9 million a year on our shelter, our low-cost, subsidized veterinary clinic, and our outreach programs. That's about $5,200 per day. Because of our commitment to animals who might not otherwise have a chance, the cost for care of a single animal can be as much as $5,000 over the course of their stay with us ... more, for those that are harder to adopt.

What the heck are we spending all that money on? Food, certainly. Staff and administration, you bet. Facility maintenance and upkeep, of course. And then there's the Clinic.

Last year, we helped almost 19,000 animals at our low-cost clinic. Without us, many of our clinic clients would be unable to provide a loving home for their pets. When most people think of us, they think about the shelter and adoptions, but a huge part of our mission is to keep pets in their homes by helping low- and fixed-income families with low-cost, subsidized veterinary care for their beloved companions ... care that costs us about twice what we charge for it.

Individuals in low- or fixed-income families love their pets just as much as the rest of us do. They may have only recently come upon hard times ... or may have been born into them. In some cases, they're struggling with debilitating disabilities or untreated medical conditions of their own. But they bring their pets to us because we see past all that, to the concern in their eyes, the care and worry on their faces, and the love in their hearts for their animal companions. Companions who don't care how big their paychecks are, or what kind of car they drive, or how fancy their house is.

Our clinic clients don't hurt any less at the loss of a long-time companion who's come to "that time." Their tears are just as real when their pet has been attacked by another animal, or struck by a car, or abused by a neighbor. For many, that animal companion is one of the few beings in the world who will give them unconditional love and respect, regardless of their station ... who can heal through a wag or a purr, and who asks in return only the occasional scratch behind the ears, or rub on the belly and to be cared for and loved.

So when you think about supporting our mission of saving and improving lives. Think of the animals we care for and adopt through our shelter, to be sure ... but also think of the lives you help us to enrich through the simple act of providing basic veterinary care — care that would be unaffordable without your support.

Keith Wiedenkeller
President / CEO
Ask a Vet!

Interview with a HSGKC Veterinarian

What is Heartworm Disease and how is it spread?

It’s a parasitic infection of worms that eventually live in the heart. It is spread when a mosquito bites an infected animal and then transfers the larvae to the next animal it bites.

What are the symptoms?

Generally, there are no symptoms until the disease is fairly advanced, at which point you see coughing and weight loss—these are the two symptoms most associated with heartworms. Fever and bloody nose will also occur. More severe cases include difficulty breathing and lethargy. The end stages are abdominal swelling and eventual collapse.

What is the treatment?

Unfortunately, treatment is often long and expensive. It varies on several factors: the dog’s age, size and breed, if there are other detectible health issues, extent of infection, length of time infected and the dog’s tolerance to medications.

There are multiple medications used in treatment. Doxycycline, an anti bacterial is necessary to kill the bacteria-like organism the heartworm carries. If the bacterium reaches the blood stream, it can be fatal. For the baby worms circulating in the blood stream, an oral treatment of Heartguard Plus is necessary. Benadryl should be taken with the first dosage to counteract possible allergic reactions. For adult worms, Immiticide is used. It is an arsenic derivative formulated to kill the worms. Treatment can be dangerous as the dying worms can cause blood clots as they are carried into the blood stream for absorption. Blood clots can cause lethargy, collapse and even death.

Once animals are treated, activity needs to be restricted for 6-8 days. No running, jumping, unsupervised time in the yard, playing with other animals, or walks beyond bathroom breaks. Complications can occur 6-8 weeks after treatment. Follow-up heartworm testing is necessary 6 months after treatment.

Is Heartworm disease preventable?

Yes, monthly heartworm prevention is available. It is a prescriptive medication sold in different sizes based on the weight of the animal. It kills all baby worms before they can reach the heart. Treatment (Immiticide) is hard on your animals and quite expensive. Prevention is incredibly simple and well worth it.
Art Unleashed, Vegas Style

On Friday evening, August 22, it will be time to “put your Vegas on” at the Humane Society of Greater KC’s 17th annual Art Unleashed! At this event, you will be magically transported to “sin city” Las Vegas without ever having to leave Kansas City. Held at a new venue, the Cerner Riverport Landing — formerly known as Sam’s Town Casino — this event promises to be the best pARTy of the year! Come and join in the fun with your friends and colleagues. You will enjoy delicious food, adult beverages, great art, casino-style games, and live music. Best of all, 100% of proceeds benefit the dogs and cats of HSGKC!

Of course, Art Unleashed will continue to feature a silent and live auction of pet-themed and other original and limited-edition art generously donated by local and regional artists. We are also planning to have several experiential packages up for auction. This year’s Honorary Event Chair is Kim Jones, a well respected Kansas City attorney, animal welfare advocate and art enthusiast. We are happy to have Loren Halifax back as our event emcee and the Nigro Brothers as our Live Auctioneers. Mobile bidding will be provided by Qtego, and art consulting provided by Paul Dorrell of Leopold Gallery.

Individual admissions and table host opportunities are now available online at artunleashedkc.org! This is a not-to-be-missed event, and we hope you will come out and pARTy with your friends and fellow animal lovers. What happens here … helps the pets at the Humane Society of Greater KC!

Sponsored in part by:

Julie Hull  Mike & Michelle Kimbell

Dog-N-Jog 2014 = Success for Homeless Pets!

The Country Club Plaza became a dog’s play land on Sunday, June 8 for the 27th Annual Dog-N-Jog. Several hundred dogs and their humans trekked the Plaza for the one- and two-mile run/walk and to enjoy the various dog activities. A grand total of more than $56,631 was raised for the animals! Special thanks to our emcees that kept the dog lovers entertained: NBC Chief Meteorologist Gary Lezak, KFKF radio host Debbie Erikson, Q104 radio host TJ McEntire, and Happy Faces Entertainment.

A big thank you to our top three pledge collectors that went above and beyond to collect donations for the HSGKC shelter pets from their friends, family, neighbors and co-workers: Crissy McNellis, Stacey Rieckmann and Patricia Levine. The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City would like to thank all event sponsors, participants, vendors and volunteers. This event would not have been possible without you!

Special thanks to our Leash Leader Sponsor, VCA Advanced Care for Pets.
**A Chained Life is No Life at All**

by Sarah Grossman

It’s dark. It’s hot out. Your throat hurts from the sizzling heat. Not to mention, you’re overdressed for the mid-summer warmth. You look for water, there is none. Where is the water? Food is long gone, but it doesn’t mean you’re not still hungry. There are noises: animals, people and something you cannot quite determine. You turn to run, but you cannot. You’re chained to a tree.

While this may sound like the start of a thriller novel, it is something much worse. It’s the life of chained animal. More than 200,000 dogs in the United States spend the majority of their lives tethered outside. That’s a very sad statistic.

There are many side effects to living a lonely life outdoors. As pack/social animals, chained dogs do not receive the socialization necessary to keep them happy and content—they become lonely, bored and anxious. Because of this, 85% of dogs that attack have no familiar relationship with their owners. Since the space they can consider “theirs” is so small, these animals can also become quite territorial. This can lead to aggression causing the dogs to attack children or others who approach them. 76% of dogs that attack are kept as property animals rather than family pets. These factors show the importance of taking the animal off the tether and creating a healthy relationship with the animal.

Weather elements can also cause problems. Dogs are more susceptible to heat stroke and heat stress than humans. They have sweat glands on only their feet, and panting is not as effective as sweating to cool a body. If a dog’s temperature is at or above 104°F, veterinary attention is necessary. In contrast, cold temperatures in the winter can cause dogs to experience hypothermia. It is important to protect your pets from the elements. With continuous tethering, it is nearly impossible to be constantly aware of your pet’s condition.

Because of these dangers, the Humane Society of Greater KC, and the majority of animal welfare organizations, strongly suggest against tethering for extended periods of time. Some cities, such as Raytown, Missouri, even prohibit unattended tethering. Fines can range from $35 to $100. There are alternatives to extended tethering: keep your animals indoors; create a large fenced-in area for your dog to play in—certain communities will even provide free fences; give your dog more space to roam and spend more time socializing and caring for it. If it is not possible to do these things, then find the animal a new home with brighter prospects. The dog will be happier and less prone to violence.

It’s dark, but it’s comfortable. It’s a hot summer, but you’re lying on a cool bed in the comfort of your home. Next to you is water and food. You want for nothing, and a loving family surrounds you. If an animal has a home, this is the home it deserves; the life it deserves, because a chained life is no life at all.

**Bart, Gia and Porter were all chained dogs that were rescued by HSGKC. Bart has been adopted into a loving home; Porter and Gia are still waiting for theirs.**
New Faces

Staff Spotlight

The Humane Society of Greater KC has three new employees, Monica Whitaker, telephone receptionist; Nicole Setticase, Veterinary Technician; Sarah Grossman, Special Events/Communications Intern.

Monica Whitaker is the pleasant voice at the end of the line when you telephone the Humane Society of Greater KC. Before coming to work for HSGKC, Monica was a clinical social worker for the State of Missouri, so she’s a very good listener and really knows how to help people! In her 28 years of working for the State, Monica helped a wide range of people from children to senior citizens. Her passion has always been about helping the elderly, and her work involved providing services in their homes and long-term care to prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation and to advocate for resident rights.

Obviously, another one of Monica’s passions is the well-being of animals. She says “I have rescued a number of dogs over the last 50+ years of my life.” Monica currently has elderly dogs that are a big part of her family. Formerly a volunteer for HSGKC, Monica has been an employee for six months. She says she is thrilled to work here and loves the Humane Society’s mission and the part she plays in it.

Nicole Setticase’s first shelter rescue was in 1999 while still in college. She is a longtime volunteer of the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City dating back to 2005. Her involvement extends to several projects, committee positions, special events and animal socialization.

Nicole continues her fostering of dogs and cats, the latest foster being Oliver Twist, a kitten, who will be up for adoption soon.

Nicole has a deep interest in animal care with experience in care giving for both her companion animals as well as her fosters. Nicole and her husband, who she met at the Humane Society, share their home with several companions. She continues to volunteer and donate to the shelter, her latest gift being the new garage door for the dog intake area.

Sarah Grossman is our Special Events/Communications summer intern. She says “I absolutely adore animals, particularly cats. I have two, and they are both quite adorable!” Sarah comes to us from Drake University in Des Moines, IA. She is majoring in Public Relations with business studies and psychology minors. Sarah said she feels incredibly blessed to be a part of the HSGKC Team and cannot wait to see all we accomplish this summer!
In Our Thoughts

Honorariums and Memorials
This list includes memorials and honorariums of $100.00 or more from April through June 2014.

In Honor of Person
Carol & Joe Foster
Debbie Kirschner
Garry Newquist
Keith Wiedenkeller
Nancy Archer
Pete Dahl & Joyce Melton
Diane M Bureman
Cure’ of Ars Church
Joe & Tonnie Purjanic
IBM
Barbara Leclerq
Vincent & Anne Schiavone

In Memory of Person
Barbara Hallem
Debi Myrick
Emma Virgo
Emma Virgo
Helen Harmon
Marjorie Bowen
Marjorie Bowen
Rhonda Gillette & Kathy Bush
James & Linda Everett
Miles & Deborah Millsbaugh
Sandra & Joseph Schneiter
Ada A Anderson
Jennifer L George
Ronald & Mary Lou Bowen

In Honor of Pets
Chief, Champ & Missy
Feta & Rocco
Husker
Lidia & Libby
Luci & Abby
Milly & Molly
Raja & Meredith Paranjothi
Stephen & Breann Cartwright
Thomas & Andrea Klingner
Angela M Williams
Kenny & Pam Koscielny
Carolyn Fulkerson

In Memory of Pets
Annie
Bobi
Buttons
Cleo
Emmie
Fancy
Gus Gus
Heidi
Kinko, Charlie & Wyatt
Kizzy Mae
Madison & Calli
Meck & Samson
Ramona Miller
Riley
Sadie Sue
Summer
Tobey
Vegas
Woody
Mary Wadick
Jackie McClellan
Stephanie Saucedo
Roger & Helen Tranckino
Cindy Fowler
Vincent & Anne Schiavone
Vincent & Anne Schiavone
Mary F Jackson
Michael & Nancy Foltz
Helen Coniglio
Lynnette & Michael Grunden
Lori Austin
Mike & Michelle Kimbell
Julie D Roberts
Carolyn Green-Nigro
Vicki Howe
Candace Fasone
Bill & Karen Bishop
Linda and Terry Riley
Can’t Adopt? Sponsor A Pet Instead!

Happy Summer! We hope you will share your love with our homeless pets by making a gift to the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City. Sponsor a pet or make a donation to Fancy’s Fund.

It's easy to make a gift:
• Complete the gift envelope inside this newsletter;
• Go online at hsgkc.org and click the “Donate” button;
• Complete the form to the right (Fancy’s Fund donations) and mail it to HSGKC.

The 17th Annual Art Unleashed

Join us August 22 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm at Cerner’s Riverport Landing for this fun-filled event! Visit artunleashedkc.org.

YES! TO DONATE TO FANCY’S FUND!

☐ I would like to donate ___________________.

My gift to Fancy’s Fund will give a senior dog or cat a second chance for a healthy life and a loving forever home.

I would like to pay via:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Credit Card # ____________________________
Expiration Date ________________ CVC _______

Name on Card ___________________________________________

Mailing Address _______________________________________

City/State/ZIP _______________________________________

Billing Address _______________________________________

City/State/ZIP _______________________________________

Your Phone __________ Your Email ______________________

☐ My check made out to the Humane Society of GKC is enclosed.

Mail to: HSGKC • 5445 Parallel Pkwy • Kansas City, KS 66104

My gift is a memorial for: ______________________ (person/pet)

My gift is in honor of: _______________________ (person/pet)

Please notify:

Their Name ___________________________________________

Their Address _______________________________________

Their City/State/ZIP _______________________________________

Their Phone __________ Their Email ______________________