



April 2026

The Pet-A-Pet Gazette



A Publication of The Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc.

**Celebrating 40 Years of Community Service
1986 - 2026**

Thanks for Brightening Someone's Day!

Membership

Our fiscal year begins on July 1st. Renewals are due by the end of June. Please submit your renewal registration form and dues to your coordinator by then. Our insurance does not provide coverage for registrations that are not up-to-date. You will need your veterinarian's signature on the form, so please plan ahead to get your registration in on time.

We appreciate your dedication
to Pet-A-Pet Club!

Have a great summer!

New Board of Directors

Beginning July 1st a new Board of Directors will take on their positions. A separate announcement will be sent to the membership listing the new Board members and their contact information. If you would like to join the Board, please reply to the email from which this newsletter is sent.

Volunteers Needed

Do you have friends with friendly pets? **Please tell them about the Pet-A-Pet Club.** Our waiting list is growing (see page 2), and we'd love to accommodate all of the facilities who need our services. **Please post our flyer** at businesses in your area (vets, groomers, pet stores, etc.). Flyer has been sent as a separate attachment.

Embroidered Apparel

For your convenience an order form is included as a separate attachment. To be included in the next order. please send by **June 5th**. Keep in mind that the embroidery company is a one-person operation. We consolidate orders to save on incoming shipping costs. Fulfillment time varies.

Volunteer Visits

Our members have been very busy with regular visits and special events. Here's a sample of what's inside:



Wilson & Merida
visiting the ICU staff station
at Trinity St. Joe's.

Coordinators & Volunteers Needed



Let's brighten more days!

Please consider volunteering at another location. Some of the coordinators of facilities already on our schedule may need more teams for their visits.

Or become a coordinator at a facility of your own. There are many facilities in need of our services. Requests come in regularly. The list below is updated as of the publication date of this issue.

If you are interested in coordinating visits with any of these locations, please contact Lisa or Dave Volker. See the Coordinator Corner for their contact information.

Waiting List

Facility Name	City
Crystal Creek Assisted Living	Canton
Clawson Senior Center	Clawson
Program of All-Inclusive Care for Elderly	Clinton Township
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern MI	Detroit
John D. Dingell VA Medical Center	Detroit
Early Talent Learning & Development/Ally	Detroit
Henry Ford Health	Detroit
National Heritage Academy	Detroit
Volunteers of America (homeless shelter)	Detroit
West Oaks Senior Care & Rehab Center	Detroit
American House	Grosse Pointe Farms
George Washington Carver Academy	Highland Park
Provision Living at Livonia	Livonia
Oakmont Livonia Senior Community	Livonia
Woodhaven Retirement Community	Livonia
American House	Livonia
Martha T Berry Medical Care	Mount Clemens
Maple Manor Rehab	Novi
StoryPoint Novi Senior Living	Novi
SKLD Plymouth	Plymouth
Serene Gardens	Rochester Hills
American House East 1	Roseville
Carriage Hill Assisted Living LLC	Shelby Township
PACE Southeast Michigan	Southfield
Pomeroy Skilled Nursing	Sterling Heights
Waltonwood at Lakeside	Sterling Heights

Mission Statement

The Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the human-animal bond by sharing the many health benefits of time spent with animals.

Our volunteers, and their well-behaved pets, visit individuals who may not otherwise have access to animal companionship — bringing comfort, joy and connection through gentle and affectionate interactions.



Coordinator Corner

Lisa & David Volker, our co-Directors of Coordinators are available to help you with any questions or issues and provide coordinator packets as needed.

Contact [Lisa](#) (248-884-4201) or [David](#).

Registrations for the coming fiscal year are due by **June 30th**.

Please send your Coordinator form to Lyn Ehrman when you submit your members' registrations.

Thank you for your commitment to Pet-A-Pet!

Volunteer Visits

American House Somerset



Volunteer Visits

American House Somerset



Volunteer Visits

Pet-A-Pet
enjoying a visit at
Michigan
Veteran Homes
of Chesterfield



Handler Cindy Q. with Daisy



*What an honor to serve those
who served us!*



Handler Jan K. with Duffy



Handler Diane P. with Bowser



Village of East Harbor

St Patrick's Day Parade



Cindy Q. & Daisy, Diane P. & Bowser, Diane E. & Abby, Jan K. & Duffy, Sue K. & Rowdy, Mike K. & Koya, Heidi H. & Hank



Special Events

Wags, Whiskers, and Wheels Adoption Event

Fox Subaru Macomb



Wags, Whiskers, and Wheels Adoption Event

Fox Subaru Macomb



Volunteer Visits



David Volker and the Collies Clarisse, Barnaby, & Hamish at Westlake Health Campus in Commerce Township

We appreciate the Volk's dedication to Pet-A-Pet even after moving out of the area.



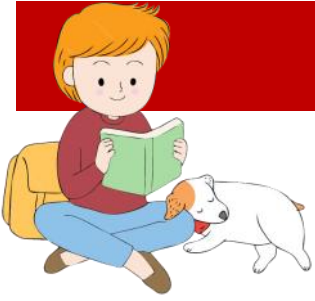
Special Events continued

As part of their SOS (Sources of Strength) week, Lake Orion High School invited Pet-A-Pet to participate. Members Diane P. with Bowser (Bernese) and Ellen H. with Annie (Griffon) were able to attend this wonderful event. There were lots of smiles, tail wags and belly rubs!



Reading With Dogs

Event at New Hope Lutheran Church





Summertime Treats

While you may want to share a cone with your pet, it's best to avoid giving ice cream to dogs. Puppies have the enzyme they need to break down their mother's milk. After they're weaned, however, their bodies produce less lactase. This means that many adult dogs are lactose intolerant and they can experience anything from severe to mild gastrointestinal discomfort, including loose stools, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, or gas. Dairy products with high fat content can also cause pancreatitis in dogs.

Dogs can suffer from allergic reactions to the proteins found in milk and dairy products like ice cream and can manifest as vomiting and diarrhea or result in red, itchy skin rashes.

Also, ice cream is loaded with sugar, which can lead to weight gain and obesity, and can cause other health problems. Even if the container says it's sugar-free, you need to read the label to make sure that it contains no xylitol, which is extremely toxic to dogs.

Lastly, some flavors of ice cream may actually be dangerous for dogs. Chocolate, for example, is toxic for dogs.

Alternatives to Ice Cream

If you want to give your dog a cold treat, freezing some fat-free plain yogurt might be a better choice. Because yogurt is fermented, it contains less lactose, so it's easier for dogs to digest. Use caution because although yogurt is easier for dogs to digest, some will not tolerate it. Unless they suffer from lactose intolerance, plain yogurt is safe to eat for most dogs. It's usually better tolerated than ice cream, and the bacterial cultures in yogurt are great for intestinal health. Don't feed your dog a commercial frozen yogurt, since it will be loaded with sugar. Just be sure to choose plain yogurt without any added flavors, fruit, added sugars, natural sweeteners, or artificial sweeteners. Read the label carefully to be sure the product does not contain toxic xylitol. If your dog doesn't handle yogurt well, consider other options like lactose-free, dairy-based yogurt, or dairy-free yogurt made from plant products. Coconut milk can also be used if liquid is needed to thin out a recipe. Always read the label to avoid any unsafe additives or ingredients.

Another good treat for dogs is "nice cream." All you need are two ripe bananas and a food processor or blender. Blend the bananas until creamy, and freeze them. This fruit-based dessert is safe for dogs to eat, and provides some nutritional value. Bananas are high in potassium, vitamin B6, vitamin C, and fiber. They do contain sugar, so feed your dog bananas in moderation.

You can also consider purchasing a dog-safe ice cream product or making your own frozen treats at home using a vet-approved recipe.

Any dog-safe tasty liquid can be turned into a frozen treat. Simply pour into an ice cube tray and freeze so your dog can have a cube or two whenever you like. Consider your dog's taste buds and try something meat-flavored, like no-salt-added beef or chicken broth.

Hide-and-Seek Ice Cubes

For an extra-special indulgence, create hide-and-seek treats. First, only fill the trays halfway before freezing the liquid. Once frozen, place a small treat like a blueberry or piece of freeze-dried liver in the middle of the cube, then fill the rest of the tray with the remaining liquid. Once the entire cube is frozen, there will be a tasty surprise waiting inside when your dog licks or chomps the ice.

For a longer-lasting treat, consider filling your dog's hollow rubber toy. (Just be sure to block all the openings but one before pouring in the liquid. You can use a hard treat like a dog cookie as a cork or plug holes with dog-safe peanut butter.) After filling, stand the toy upright in the freezer until the liquid has frozen. Not only will the chilly toy cool down your dog on a hot day, but the work it takes to get every last drop of broth will keep your dog occupied for longer than other types of treats and provide mental stimulation.

Soft-Serve Treats

For an ice cream alternative with the same texture and consistency as the real thing, try blending frozen fruit with plain, unsweetened yogurt. Watermelon is safe for dogs and most pets love it, so it makes a perfect choice for this recipe. Cantaloupe chunks are another excellent option. Be sure to remove the rind from either melon, and always feed sweet fruit treats

More Alternative Treats to Ice Cream

in moderation, taking the calories they provide into account with your dog's regular diet.

First, cut the fruit into bite-size chunks, removing any seeds as you go. Then place the fruit in the freezer for at least four hours until frozen. If you spread out the chunks on a cookie sheet or in a freezer bag, it will prevent them from freezing into a single clump. Once the fruit is frozen, place it in a food processor or blender with about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of plain, unsweetened yogurt for every 2 cups of fruit. Blend until smooth, tweaking the amount of fruit and yogurt until you have the thickness you would like. Place in a separate dog bowl, or on top of your dog's dinner, or stuff in a hollow rubber toy and serve right away. (For more of a challenge, stuff this mixture inside a hollow rubber toy, then pop it back in the freezer to solidify.)

Dog-Friendly "Popsicles"

For a frozen fruit smoothie on a stick, make bananas the foundation of your dog's treat. Slice a few bananas, then freeze the pieces for several hours. Next, mix the fruit with a few spoonfuls of plain yogurt in a food processor until you have a smooth base with the thickness of a milkshake.

Now you can blend in whatever mix-ins your dog would love. Consider bacon bits for a meaty treat, frozen strawberries and blueberries for a red, white, and blue celebration, or pumpkin puree. When all the ingredients are blended together, pour into ice pop molds or paper cups, then freeze.

To release the "popsicles" from the molds, let them sit at room temperature for a few minutes or run warm water over the mold for a few seconds. If you use paper cups, simply peel the paper off before serving. If you have a toy breed, try mini-water cups instead of full-size drinking cups.

Don't use real, wooden popsicle sticks, which might be a choking hazard for your dog. Instead, try dog-safe alternatives. You can use bone-shaped dog biscuits, salmon skin treats, bully sticks, or any other stick-shaped, edible chew. For a safe yet non-edible stick, consider nylon chew bones. The stick will give your dog something to hold on to while licking and chewing the "popsicle." Plus, chewing the stick will provide even more fun for your dog when the smoothie is gone.

Cold and Sticky

Peanut butter is safe for dogs and unsalted, no-sugar-added varieties are a great addition to frozen dog treats, so long as you read the label to confirm there's no xylitol listed. The stickiness of the peanut butter gives recipes a thick, ice-cream-like texture. Mix a small amount with plain yogurt and fruit, or blend it with mashed bananas to add extra flavor and density to the final treat. If the peanut butter is too thick for the blender, warm it first or add some liquid such as meat broth to the mix.

You can also make peanut butter the star ingredient. Simply layer peanut butter in the bottom half of ice cube trays, ice pop molds, or paper cups. Then top off with a layer of yogurt or meat broth and freeze. Pop the layered frozen treat out of the tray or mold or peel off the paper cup before serving.

For fun icy treats, consider using silicone baking molds in shaped like dog bones. The peanut butter should slide right out of the mold once it's frozen, and your dog will love cooling down with a cold and sticky treat.

Source: AKC.org



AKC Therapy Dog Titles

Pet-A-Pet is approved as an organization whose members can apply for the AKC Therapy Dog title. The purpose of this program is to recognize AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team. The AKC Therapy Dog title (ThD) can be earned by dogs who have been certified by AKC recognized therapy dog organizations.

All dogs are eligible to earn the AKC Therapy Dog title, including purebreds and mix breeds. To earn the AKC Therapy Dog title, dogs must be registered or listed with AKC and have a number in order to earn a title.

To earn the AKC Therapy Dog™ title, you and your dog must meet the following criteria:

1. The dog must be registered or listed with AKC.
2. Certified or registered by an AKC recognized national therapy dog organization.
3. Perform a minimum of 50 visits. (Novice title is available for 10 visits.)

Visits must be documented with time, date, location, and a signature of a staff person at the facility (e.g., school, hospital, etc.).

Volunteers are solely responsible for documentation of visits, registration with AKC and therapy organization and submission of application and fees to AKC.



The Pet-A-Pet Club does not provide certification for therapy dogs.

Therapy Dog Titles

AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) Must have completed 10 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog (THD) Must have completed 50 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) Must have completed 100 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) Must have completed 200 visits.

AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) Must have completed 400 visits.

For details on the program and requirements, please visit
www.akc.org/dogowner/training/therapy/index.cfm.

The AKC form to record your visits will be sent with this newsletter.

Kroger Community Rewards

Kroger Community Rewards is a free program that lets the Pet-A-Pet Club earn needed money each quarter based on registered customers' purchases.

Register your **Kroger Plus Card** account online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions. The Pet-A-Pet Club's **NPO number** is **TX120**. Those without internet may call 1-877-745-7444 to sign up. Then just use your Kroger Plus card (or enter your alternate ID) each time you shop.



Please consider these **benefits**:

- Pet-A-Pet Club earns donations based on all purchases (even gift cards).
- You earn gasoline discounts at Kroger and Shell stations.
- It's easy and costs you nothing!
- Annual re-enrollment is automatic.

Please tell your family and friends how they can support the Pet-A-Pet Club.

