



————— KC PET PROJECT —————
ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION
 — A SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF KCMO —

KCPP Animal Services Division Report for October 2022

Citations Issued

In October 2022, officers issued thirty-three (33) verbal warnings for violations and ten (10) official Notice to Correct Violation warning tickets to residents. Twenty-six (26) citations were entered into the Thin Blue Line (TBL) system for review and approval by the City Prosecutor. **One (1) case was submitted to the State Prosecutor’s office for felony prosecution.** Prior to the issuance of citations, verbal and/or written warnings for violations are presented by officers, and citations are not submitted for issuance if compliance with animal ordinances is achieved within the given corrective action period established by the officer.

Animal Services Division

Officers were dispatched to **1,053** calls for service in October 2022 *(a 6% decrease in calls from last month)*.

Total Calls by Type Responded to in October 2022

Calls related to stray/roaming animals continue to comprise over half of our monthly call volume from residents.

Approximately 19% of the stray/loose animal calls were related to public safety concerns, such as reports of aggressive dogs or animals in the roadway.

Call Type	October '22	September '22
Enforcement	40	54
Cruelty Investigations/Neglect	165	207
Other Services (PD/Fire/MAST)	105	110
Stray Animals/Animals at Large	597	565
Wildlife	43	45
Bite – Non-Domestic Animals (bats, etc.)	11	51
Bite – Domestic (dogs/cats)	110	93

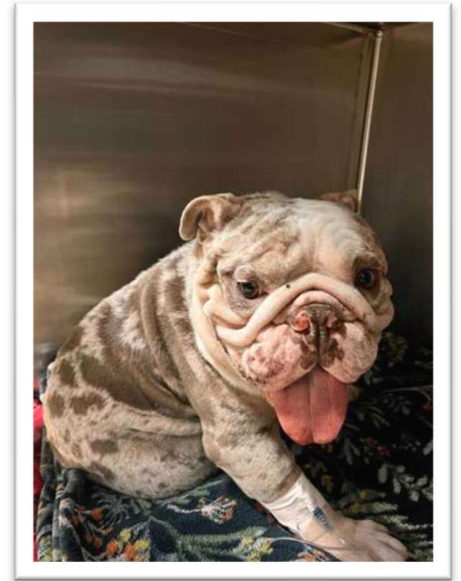
Dog/Cat Bites in October 2022

- ❖ Number of bites from dogs/cats occurring on their own property or inside a home: 65
- ❖ Number of bites from dogs/cats occurring off property, i.e., stray dogs at large: 29
- ❖ Number of bites from dogs/cats in which bite location is unclassified: 16

Stories from the Field

At 3:00 AM on October 21st, Cruelty Investigations Officer Redford was called in to assist the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) with a dog who had suffered severe injuries after being beaten. Once on scene, a KCPD Detective explained that two roommates at the residence had gotten into an altercation over some stolen money. In many situations involving domestic violence, it is unfortunately common for one party involved to harm the pet(s) of the other party to gain power and control over the person. That appears to be what happened in this case.

The dog was a two-year-old fawn and merle English Bulldog puppy named “Rom”. When Cruelty Investigator Redford arrived on scene, Rom was laying injured in the middle of the street in front of the residence, unable to move. Redford quickly rushed the dog to Blue Pearl for overnight emergency care, where doctors diagnosed the pup with several broken limbs and other life-threatening injuries. Rom was transported to KCPD the following morning. When he arrived in our vet clinic, his condition was critical, and in a lifesaving effort, Rom was transferred to Iowa State University for emergency surgery. Sadly, Rom’s condition deteriorated to the point where no treatment options were available.



A full forensic necropsy was performed, and we are working closely with KCPD Detectives and the State Prosecutor to bring to justice the person responsible for performing these cruel acts against this innocent dog. Our dedicated Animal Services Officers are working tirelessly to ensure those who commit animal cruelty are held accountable to the full extent of the law.

Total Number of Calls by City Council District for October 2022

Council District 1	117
Council District 2	65
Council District 3	335
Council District 4	167
Council District 5	274
Council District 6	103
Unassigned	10

In October 2022, calls from Council Districts 3 and 5 represented more than half of our overall call volume.

Call Results for October 2022

Results for Calls with Animals	October '22	September '22	% Change
Animals Impounded by Officers	230	300	23% decrease
Wildlife Relocated/Transferred Out	2	20	90% decrease
Animals Returned Home by Officers	43	33	30% increase

Forty-three (43) loose/lost pets (1 cat, and 42 dogs) that could be returned in the field were reunited with their owners by officers, rather than impounding them at the shelter. This practice allows our officers to build trust-based relationships with our community, keeps pets safe at home, and allows for connection to resources, if needed. Additionally, it preserves limited shelter resources for those animals truly in need of sheltering.

Outreach and Community Support Activities

In October, KCPP's Animal Services Division participated in numerous events to support our community by offering educational materials about our services and provided free engraved pet ID tags to community residents to increase the number of loose pets we are able to return home in the field.

❖ On October 14th, Chief Johnson, Manager Nelson, Officer Brookshire, and Officer Macan partnered with KCPP's Pet Support Center and Director of Community Programs, Amanda Gatten, to give away dog food, cat food and free ID tags at a large food pantry event hosted by the Don Bosco Senior Center.



❖ On October 15th, Officer Macan and Officer Redford attended the KCPP Maker's Fair event and distributed free pet ID tags to attendees.

❖ On October 16th, Manager Nelson and Officer Steele decorated an animal services patrol vehicle for the annual Trunk-or-Treat Community Halloween event at Lakeside Nature Center (above right).



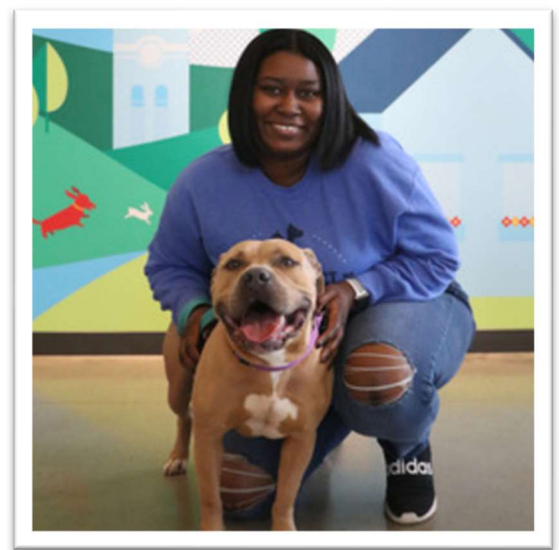
❖ On October 28th, Dispatch Supervisor Kelly Wilson, Officer Mariana Vasquez, Dispatcher Kayla Jackson, and Dispatcher Charles Copeland attended the 26th Annual Night of the Harvest Moon Children's Festival hosted by The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (photos above).

Employee Highlight of the Month

Animal Services Dispatch Specialist, Kayla Jackson, grew up in the Kansas City metro area, spending her childhood in Kansas City, Blue Springs, and Lee's Summit. Kayla graduated from Lee's Summit North High School, where she played basketball as a center. In her senior year, Kayla averaged 10 points and 15 rebounds per game. On top of her busy work schedule, Kayla babysits her nephew often, and takes care of her dog; a rottweiler named Phoenix.

Before joining KC Pet Project, Kayla participated in a three-month internship at The National Tiger Sanctuary, providing customer services, taking guests on tours, educating them on conservation efforts and natural tiger habitats, as well as assisting the care team in the feeding of 15 tigers and 5 lions.

Kayla began her career as an Animal Service Dispatcher at KC Pet Project in August 2021 saying, "I came to KC Pet Project to work with animals but also to give back to the community." ❤️



Animal Services Dispatch Statistics

October 2022	Answered	Unanswered	Total Calls	Abandoned Rate %
IN > Dispatch – 311 Queue	904	158	1062	15%
IN > Dispatch – Dispatch Q	1327	113	1440	8%
IN > Dispatch – Dispatch After Hours Q	326	57	383	15%
Dispatch INBOUND Performance	2557	328	2885	11%
Dispatch OUTBOUND Performance	829	315	1144	28%
Total Performance for October 2022	3386	643	4029	16%

- ❖ Our Animal Services Dispatch team answered **2,557** live phone calls, completed **1,144** outbound calls, and resolved **220** voicemails in October.
- ❖ The Animal Cruelty Tips Hotline received **11** voicemails in the month of October.
- ❖ The top three reasons in 2022 for calls to Dispatch have been: 1) Reporting roaming stray animals (17%), 2) Case Follow-up (13%), and 3) Inquiries regarding ordinance, citations and/or complaints (12%).

Animal Cruelty/Neglect/Abuse Cases Under Investigation

As of October 31st the Cruelty Investigations Team had **85** open animal cruelty cases under investigation:

- ❖ 13 reports of animal abandonment
- ❖ 61 reports of animal neglect
- ❖ 11 reports of animal cruelty

In October, the Cruelty Investigation Team closed **220** animal cruelty case activities for our community, including 45 reports of animal abandonment, 142 reports of neglect, 32 reports of cruelty, and 1 dogfighting case.



Animal Services Officers responded to a cat hoarding case that occurred on October 28th (left). Officers worked in partnership with our Feline Intake team to remove **40** cats and kittens, including a litter of 5 newborns, from a home in Kansas City at the request of an owner who was incarcerated and unable to return home to care for them.

For several hours, our two teams worked together to set traps and safely catch each cat. The cats were transported back to the shelter where our Feline Intake team began medically and behaviorally assessing them, as well as vaccinating them and sending all the underage kittens to foster homes.

Media Coverage/ Public Education/ Partnerships

- ❖ We had a total of 88 media stories and mentions during the month of October. Estimated media reach for the month for animal services and sheltering stories was **94,121,347** million people.

- ❖ KC Pet Project’s Keep ‘Em Together, KC team and Animal Services Division leadership met with BestyBnB to discuss a potential partnership to help KC Pet Project better support the ongoing needs for temporary care for pet families in crisis in our community. For the last year, the team at BestyBnB have been working to keep families and their pets safe, connected, and together.

BestyBnB is partnering with local domestic violence agencies Hope House and Synergy Services to help more victims with pets.

- ✓ **Safe housing for their pets is the #1 barrier preventing victims of domestic violence from seeking immediate help.**
- ✓ Less than 5% of the 2,750 domestic violence shelters in the US have the means to house companion animals.
- ✓ Unfortunately, 7 out of 10 pets left behind are abused or killed in retaliation.

We are excited about the opportunity to help expand temporary care resources and support services for our community through BestyBnB, in addition to our in-shelter crisis boarding program, Home Away from Home.

National statistics report 50% of callers seeking help on 24-hour abuse hotlines DO NOT LEAVE their abusers when they learn they cannot bring their pets with them.

Dangerous Dog Investigations

As of October 31st, there were nine (9) dangerous or potentially dangerous dog cases in various stages of investigations being handled by Officer Jessica Steele, our Dangerous Dog Case Administrator. We are also tracking compliance standards after dogs has been declared dangerous or potentially dangerous, and we have updated our shelter database software to be able to actively monitor and track compliance requirements.

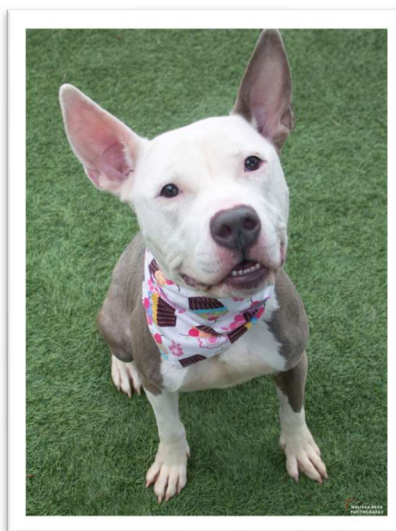
More Stories from the Field

On October 13TH, our Animal Services Division Dispatch Team received an Internet report of two dogs that had been allegedly abandoned in a Kansas City home. Cruelty Investigations Manager Rohrback and Cruelty Investigations Officer LaDue arrived at the reported address and, after checking city databases, were able to establish a timeline that led them to believe these dogs had been without care for several weeks following the death of the owner.

Our Animal Services Division made multiple attempts to contact the former renters of the property as well as immediate family, to determine if the dogs inside the residence had been receiving care. A family member was located, and officers learned the family believed the deceased animal owner had rehomed her dogs a few weeks ago and were unaware there were still dogs left behind in kennels inside the home. The dogs were found very underweight and in unsanitary living conditions. Family members were unable to take over care for these two dogs due to their living situation, so both dogs remained in the care of the shelter.

Carnelo and Laguna (photos above) have since gained nearly 10 pounds and, despite their recent tragic circumstances, are thriving and are back to near healthy weights. They are both currently available for adoption.

“This is why we do what we do” said Officer LaDue when asked about this case. *“These dogs deserve a loving home and I’m so glad we were able to rescue them in time.”*



Kennel Inspections/Field Investigations of Commercial Animal Permits/Domestic Association Permits

In October, Compliance Officer Peggy Oertwig issued fourteen (14) Commercial Animal Establishment Permits, four (4) Animal Display Permits and conducted eight (8) inspections. No exceptions were made for section 14-15 to the keepers of fowl and or other animals.

Continuing Education Opportunities

In October, Cruelty Investigations Manager Richard Rohrback, along with Cruelty Investigations Officer Collins and Cruelty Investigations Officer Redford, attended the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School and passed their tests to become Nationally Certified Animal Cruelty Investigators.

Submitted by,

Teresa Johnson,
Pres/CEO & Chief Lifesaving Officer, KC Pet Project

Ryan Johnson,
Chief of Animal Services, KC Pet Project