



Kirksville – Protect Our Pets is a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity that was founded in July of 2013.

**Our mission** is to control pet overpopulation in Kirksville, Missouri, and in the rural area within 30 miles of its city center; to reduce the number of dogs and cats who are neglected, surrendered, or abandoned within this area.

#### **Membership levels:**

Individual: \$36  
Student and Senior: \$12  
Junior Pet Lover: \$6  
Family: \$50  
Business: \$120

#### **KV-POP Board:**

Laci Cook - VP  
Claire Peckosh - Sec  
Michelle Prewitt - Treas  
Susan Swogger  
Bridget Thomas - Pres

**THANK YOU** to our members and donors! Your generosity and compassion make NEMO a better place for pets and their people!

# **KV-POP Update**

Kirksville-Protect Our Pets  
Smart, Compassionate, Proactive

Volume 4.1  
Spring 2018

## **Are there Fifty Animal Lovers in NEMO?**

KV-POP relies on an active group of members to help us set priorities, maintain a community presence, and launch new initiatives. Individual members pay dues of \$36 per year, or just \$3 a month; family membership is \$50. Our current goal is a solid group of 50 pet lovers supporting us annually. Right now we only have 20.

### **Please renew or join today!**

If you are already a member of KV-POP, we want to thank you for your support. We have done so much good work in our community over the years and this past year has been no exception: in 2017 we helped 184 community members spay or neuter their pets: 126 cats and 58 dogs.

This results in a grand total since our beginnings of over 1000 pets fixed. Do the math: A cat can produce 2 or more litters of 8 kittens per year. The dog reproduction average is 6 puppies per litter and a female dog can go into heat 4 times a year. Think about the potential for how many hungry and homeless pets we have prevented and pat yourselves on the back. Good work, Y'all.

## **Spring Spay/Neuter Campaign 2018**

World Spay Day is February 27<sup>th</sup> and, as is our tradition, KV-POP is giving away coupons for **\$25 off spay or neuter\*** at local veterinary clinics. We offer 2 coupons per family. All people need to bring is proof of address. This has been an incredibly successful program. Last year we gave away 160 coupons, and 81 animals were fixed.

Here are the times and locations of this year's coupon distribution.

### **Tuesday, February 27**

4:00-6:00 PM  
Kirksville  
Adair County Public Library

### **Saturday, March 3**

10:00-11:00 AM  
Lancaster  
Schuyler County Public Library

**\*Folks who need more help may complete an application.**

## **Upcoming events: Mark your calendars!**

### **May 5: Doggies and Donuts**

Doggie Playdate and Crispy Crème Donuts  
Pawsitive Animal Works

### **September 22: Woofstock**

Fun for the whole family: food, games, crafts, animals, music, and bonfire!  
Peckosh Landscaping, Hwy H/Boundary St (just north of the Troy Mills Store)

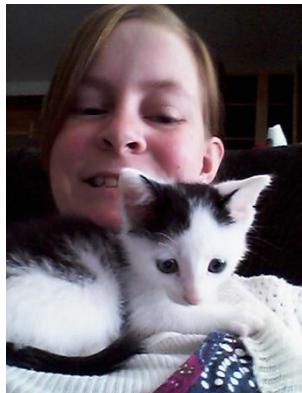
**Thanks to these local businesses for hosting these fundraisers!**



### MO Pet-Friendly

The Missouri Department of Agriculture recently awarded KV-POP a \$2,000 grant from the Missouri Pet Spay and Neuter Fund. This program is designed to assist low-cost spay and neuter options for dogs and cats throughout the state. The Pet Spay and Neuter Program is funded through the sale of "I'm Pet Friendly" license plates through the Missouri Department of Revenue. Each plate sale generates \$20 to the fund. Are YOU pet friendly?

Order your plates today at <http://www.mostatehumane.org>



### A Community of Compassion

KV-POP volunteers attended the fifth annual Project Homeless Connect event in Kirksville in late October. We served twenty people, making pet identification tags for them or helping them complete our spay/neuter application. Everyone who applied received some sort of assistance.

Thanks to Julie, Jade, and Nancy for kindly volunteering at this event!

KV-POP receives an average of ten applications per month. 97% of applications are from low income individuals. The other 3% come from people who have stumbled upon a bad situation.

"I didn't want to see the breeder have her put down as no one would take her with the under bite but to us [this dog] means the world."

"Currently not working. Have been having health issues and trying to get all that taken care of."

"I got [the voucher] ...thank you sooo much"

*"I just really need help with getting them fixed. The last thing I can do is afford more puppies."*

*"I am feeding 6 stray cats that live outdoors, 4 females and 2 males. They are probably about 6 months old. I would like to have them spayed and neutered but cannot afford to pay full costs for all 6."*

Thanks to Kirksville Small Animal Hospital for performing nearly 100 S/N surgeries at reduced rates for KV-POP in fiscal year 2017!

## **Local Companion Animal News**

A giant shout out CONGRATULATIONS to KV-POP board member Laci Cook at Pawsitive AnimalWorks for opening at the new location on 101 N. Baltimore (formerly Teresa's Bridal). We held our most recent board meeting there and took the tour. It's a beautiful, spacious, state of the art facility with all the amenities a pet and its owner could want. The most brilliant addition is a self-serve dog washing station. Shampoo and conditioner are applied from the spray nozzle into a giant holding sink and an air dryer is available for finishing the job. You can see it yourself from the front window and you may never do the dog-wash-bathroom-mop-up again!

The Pet Pantry, facilitated for years by Stephanie Foré, has been closed since September 2016, but there is good news on the horizon. Stephanie and KV-POP are in conversation with PAC (Pantry for Adair County) about possibly distributing pet food from their new facility (opening in spring). This collaboration will require volunteers and financial support. Send an email to info@kv-pop if you want to get involved. Deep thanks to PAC for caring for ALL the community.

Katy Fine-Newman of Field of Dreams has been operating the Kirksville TNR program since September of 2015. Volunteers use live traps, purchased jointly with KV-POP funds, to capture, spay/neuter feral cats and return them to their locations. The cats are ear tipped so people will recognize that they have been fixed. This process stabilizes the number of feral cats in a neighborhood by preventing over population as well as preventing the almost inevitable suffering and death of so many kittens. We thank Katy, Avery, Bob, and others on her team for this difficult, enormously time-consuming labor of love.

A belated shout out to Mark Laughlin (former KV-POP board member) and Rich McKinney for their dedicated fundraising and design work in developing the McKinney Bark Park on Franklin St., which opened in September 2014. Thanks as well to the City of Kirksville for its support in building and maintenance. The park is located just across from Knights Inn and north of UPS at what once was a roadside park. If you have never visited, stop by, or drive down the hill on Halliburton St. to watch the dogs at play. This is one of the most successful, most utilized parks in town. There are two sections: one each for large and small dogs. A double gate allows visitors to leash and unleash their dogs safely before entering or exiting. Benches give owners a place to chat and to rest under large shade trees. And the dogs get to run their tails off. In addition to giving dogs a place to run, the freedom of the park environment invites owners to socialize their dogs and to train them. In decent weather there are regularly 3 to 10 dogs playing in the park. Mark and Rich have EnRiched many lives. It's a busy happy place.

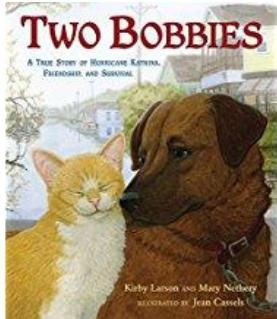
### **A Note from Claire Peckosh (board member 2013-present)**

As you can read from above, our community of animal lovers is making a profound, but often unseen difference in the lives of pets and owners in our area. It's all too easy to see the hunger and neglect and need of people and pets in our community, and I don't foresee that going away any time soon. But people like Bridget, our KV-POP president, Laci Cook, Mark Laughlin, Rich McKinney, Katy Fine-Newman, and Stephanie Foré—and YOU, our KV-POP members are taking the large and small steps to improve the quality of life in Kirksville and Adair County, one and two and 10 animals and owners at a time.

There's a passage from the Tao, which I have found helpful in my life. I think it characterizes the work we are doing here. Act as water: see where there is an emptiness and an opening, then fill the gap. We may never end the need for shelters or the problem of feral cats or pet overpopulation or neglected, untrained, unexercised dogs, but our animal community leaders—and YOU—find those "openings" and fill them in. If you haven't joined KV-POP, please help fill the gap. If you are already a member, consider an added contribution. Thank our animal community leaders and if you can promote and help with their work, please, please do.

## Animal Stories—With Happy Endings!

No tear jerkers for me. I remember holding back sobs when I read *Lassie Come Home* to my children. Only uplifting, happy animal stories from here on out. Here are three books written for children (but a pleasure for all) which I recommend and an adult mystery series I can't wait to read. - Claire

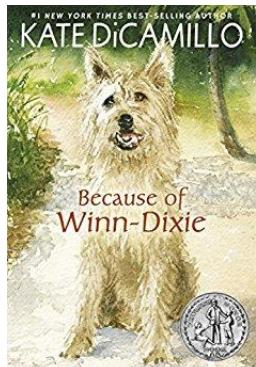
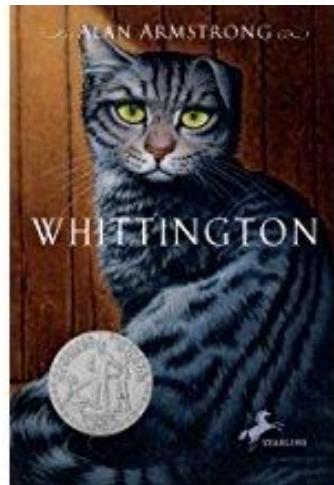


**Two Bobbies**  
by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery

An illustrated book for primary school readers and up about an inseparable dog and cat, named for their two bobbed tails, who are rescued after Hurricane Katrina. A lovely story of friendship and mutual aid that promotes understanding of disability and pet adoption.

**Whittington**  
by Alan W. Armstrong

A barn full of farm animals, commandeered by The Lady, an authoritative Muscovy duck, allows Whittington, the ancestor of 14th C London Mayor Dick Whittington's cat, to join their clan. The farmer's two grandchildren, who have recently lost their parents, come every day to feed the animals. Abby confides to her animal friends that Ben is having trouble learning to read, and the animals decide to help. Whittington rewards Ben's reading efforts with tales of his famous ancestor's past. A Newbery Honor book for upper elementary and up. Wonderful characters and storytelling.



**Because of Winn-Dixie**  
by Kate DiCamillo

An absolute classic for all, but written for 3rd grade and up. When Opal, a lonely and troubled little girl, sees a rowdy, disheveled mutt wreaking havoc in the Winn-Dixie grocery she makes an on the spot decision to claim him for her own. Through "Winn-Dixie" she meets a warm and near magical group of friends, all who have been through their own troubles and who teach her the lessons of forgiveness, acceptance, and grace.

**Dog On It**  
series by Spencer Quinn

I haven't read these mysteries, but I can't wait to start. Publishers Weekly says "Quinn's winning debut introduces one smart canine detective and his partner, PI Bernie Little of the Little Detective Agency, who's pretty quick on the uptake himself. Chet, a lively mongrel with one white ear and one black ear, serves as the book's narrator, communicating with Bernie via doggy methods that verge on the telepathic...." Funny, punny titles like *To Fetch a Thief* and *Paw and Order*.

