



SUMMER 2025



Keep Your Dog Cool in the Heat

Hydrate, Hydrate Hydrate

It is important to have water on hand at all times during hot humid days to avoid dehydration. Feeding ice cubes can also help cool dogs down.



Morning & Evening Walks

Taking your daily stroll during early morning or evening hours will help you and your dog avoid the midday sun, heat, and hot pavement.



Beware of Hot Cars!

NEVER leave your dog in a parked car. Dogs don't sweat like people, so overheating is a serious concern. The temperature inside vehicles becomes lethal within minutes.



Protect Against Fleas and Ticks

Make sure your dog is on proper flea and tick medicine during the summer months when fleas and ticks are the most active. Check your pet frequently when outdoors or in wooded areas.



Keep off Hot Pavement

Air Temp	Concrete	Asphalt
85°	105°	115°
90°	125°	130°
95°	140°	155°

Hot asphalt and pavement can quickly burn a dog's paws. Check the temperature with the back of your hand for 7 sec. before walking with your dog.



Watch for Signs of Heat Stroke

Excessive panting
Disorientation & weakness
Reddened gums
Fast heart rate
Dehydration
Temp above 104 F
Vomiting & diarrhea
Seizures
If you see these signs, get to an emergency veterinary hospital immediately.



Heat stroke is always a medical emergency.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
PAWS WITH PURPOSE
Matching Dreams with Companions

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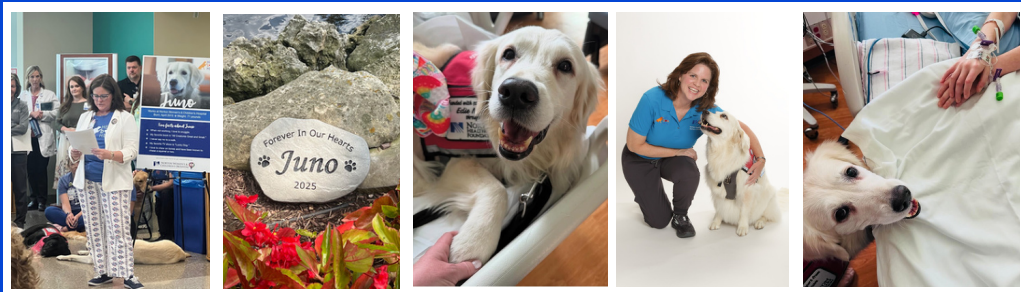
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On April 19th, our beloved Juno, a Norton Facility Dog raised and trained by Paws with Purpose, passed away after a cancer diagnosis. Unfortunately, there were already complications from the cancer, so treatment was not possible. Juno had just celebrated her 10th birthday and had served as a facility dog for 6 years. In her lifetime, she also gave birth to numerous puppies, many of whom became facility and assistance dogs.

Heather Stohr, Child & Family Life Services Manager, was Juno's handler and loving dog mom. Juno was truly a cherished member of Heather's family, and Heather expressed how grateful she was to work alongside sweet Juno every day. Juno's service to Norton was passionately funded by Edie Nixon through the Heel, Dog, Heal program, a part of the Norton Healthcare Foundation and Norton Children's Hospital Foundation.

On June 25th, those closest to Juno from Paws with Purpose, Norton Hospitals, and the community at large gathered to celebrate her life and the healing that she brought to so many children and families. Juno's legacy lives on in every smile she sparked, every fear she eased, and every child she comforted.

HONORING juno



A big thank you to our event sponsor:



Thank you to DiOrio's Pizza & Pub in Prospect, who generously donated their courts and party room. Also thank you to John Singerman, the tennis and pickleball pro from Louisville Indoor Racquet Club, who donated his time to teach the game to pickleball newcomers.

Thank you also to the following businesses for basket donations: Creative Aesthetics Skin Spa, Target, Jack Fry's, Butcher's Best, Uptown Cafe and Barry's Bagels



Thank you to all those who supported our

PICKLEBALL fundraiser



CLIENT spotlight

REBECCA MELCHER & TATUM

Meet Tatum: Making a Paws-itive Difference Every Day at Old Mill

It's hard to believe how quickly Tatum has become part of the Old Mill family. I first met her in September 2023, and she began accompanying me to school not long after. By February 2024, she was officially placed full-time at Old Mill under supervision. Since then, Tatum has quietly become my four-legged sidekick, going to the elementary school every day in Bullitt County!

I reached out to Paws with Purpose (PWP) because I needed a credible, reliable, and experienced organization that truly understood the unique dynamics of working so closely with students ages 3–12. I wanted a partnership with a group that would support not just the placement of a facility dog, but also the relationship-building and training that come with it. Learning that PWP also places dogs through Norton Children's Hospital's Heel, Dog, Heal program gave me the confirmation I needed to take the leap. I knew then that they were committed to high standards, compassionate work, and long-term success. Paws with Purpose equips handlers with the tools and training to safely and effectively integrate dogs into their daily practice, amplifying their impact.

Since joining our school, Tatum has had a powerful effect—not only on our students and staff, but on me personally as well. Her presence is calming, reassuring, and constant. She gives me the confidence I need as a school counselor to handle high-stress situations with more clarity and compassion. I've seen her ease student anxiety, support kids through tough moments, and help create a more inclusive, welcoming school climate.



A typical day for Tatum includes morning greetings, visiting classrooms, joining counseling sessions, or simply sitting with a student who needs a moment of quiet connection. She motivates students, reinforces positive behaviors, and helps them feel seen—just by being her calm, gentle self. Getting a smile, a pet, or a wave from her 625 best friends is the best part of her day, every day.

Paws with Purpose doesn't just place any dog—they match highly-trained dogs with schools, hospitals, and organizations to provide therapeutic support, emotional regulation, and comfort in high-stress settings. Supporting PWP means investing in the kind of healing, connection, and transformation that Tatum brings to our halls every single day. Supporting Paws with Purpose means investing in healing, hope, and heart. Whether it's a child finding the courage to speak, a student calming down with a paw on their lap, or a school feeling more like a community—the Paws with Purpose mission is fulfilled.

PWP around town



VOLUNTEER spotlight



WALTER DENHAM

A couple of years after our golden retriever, Tiger, crossed the Rainbow Bridge, our kids Sean and Kathryn wanted to get another dog. Sandy and I discussed it with them and said we would like to get another dog; however, with our jobs, we could not possibly give it the attention it would need. Whatever pup we got would be alone for most of the day and it wouldn't be fair to it.

At the time, I was working for St. Francis School in Goshen as a bus driver and custodian. Every year, the school would have a fair highlighting non-profits so the kids could pick one to help throughout the year. That year, there were two volunteers from PWP with a fluff ball named Bella. They talked about the program and its mission. That afternoon, I talked with Sandy about PWP and we did a little more research into it. We talked with the kids about becoming weekend trainers and how we could have a dog around once again. It was stressed to them that the dog would not be ours - we would be helping others who need help with day-to-day life. That was 2012. We were vetted to be weekend trainers and, in Jan. 2013, we met Ann Egan in a parking lot with a puppy. She handed us a little black

female lab named Devan. Then came Gabby, Nobel, Zillow, Ellie, Elton, Unity, and now, Callie.

Throughout the years of having Saturday classes, which are important, I've learned a lot. I've learned to be confident with my dogs even in stressful environments because they look to you for support. You are their assistance person. They need to be reassured that it is ok and be confident. Treat, treat, treat. And I've learned that if I make a mistake, it is not going to break my dog. Learn from it, make it better, and move on. The connections and bonds I have created with the weekend handlers are near and dear to me. And the ladies at KCIW. They are the true heroes.

If someone is thinking of becoming a weekend trainer, remember it is a lot of work. Weekend classes, outings, teaching your dog, late night potty trips, saying no to people who want to pet your dog, etc. The hardest part is when you get the call saying it is your last weekend with your dog, but it is 100% worth it. You are part of a program that forever changes lives, both two-legged and four-legged.

After hearing and witnessing how much Gabby enriched Sarah's life, it became apparent to me that by being a weekend trainer, you are a part of something bigger. Making people's lives better, either as a solo recipient or a facility handler, you are helping more than you know.



UPCOMING

events



Summer - Early Fall 2025

August 1st, 9 AM – 4 PM

Seven Counties Services Employee Retreat

Baringer Pavillion, Baringer Hill at Cherokee Park

PWP dogs will greet and interact with employees of Seven Counties, which offers mental health, substance abuse and developmental counseling services.

August 16th, 8 AM - 1:30 PM

Gynecological Cancer Symposium, Gilda's Club Kentuckiana
2440 Grinstead Drive, Louisville, KY 40204

Our volunteers and dogs-in-training will share information about PWP.

September 18th, Midnight - 11:59 PM

Give for Good Louisville

This is the biggest online giving day in the Kentuckiana region.
To donate, visit GiveForGoodLouisville.org or
pawswithpurpose.org.

September 20th, 10 AM - 2 PM

Holy Trinity Health Fair, St. Matthews

Multi-Purpose Building, 501 Cherrywood Rd., Louisville, KY. 40207
PWP volunteers and dogs-in-training will greet attendees and provide information about PWP.

September 22nd, 1 PM

Jessica's Journey Golf Scramble Fundraiser

Valley View Golf Club, 3748 Lawrence Banet Rd.,
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

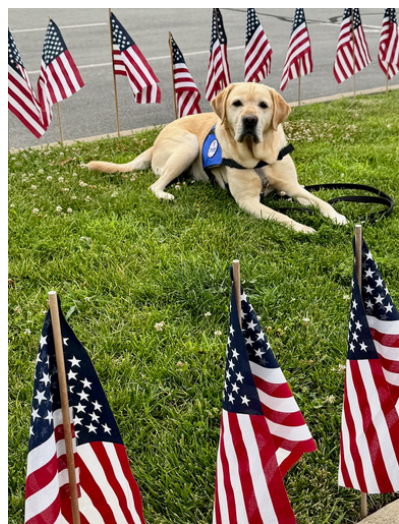
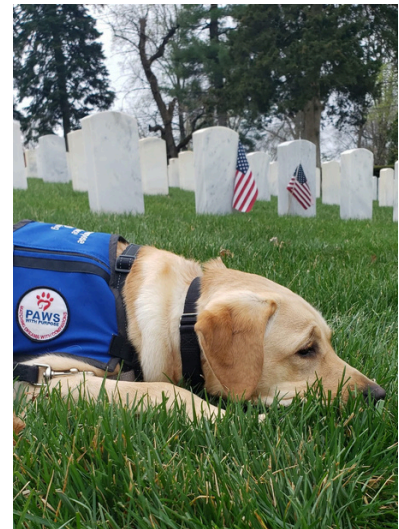
November 8, 10 AM - 2 PM

Parkinson's Event, Louisville Marriott East

1903 Embassy Square Blvd., Louisville, KY 40299

PWP will interact directly with attendees and showcase our services and provide information that could enhance attendees' quality of life.

Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram for
additional events
and updated
information
throughout the
year



DOG first aid kit



Be prepared to handle minor medical emergencies when on-the-go.

- Slip leash
- Soft muzzle
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Hot pack
- Cold pack
- Tape
- Cotton balls
- Paper towels
- Flashlight
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Alcohol prep wipes
- Antibacterial gauze
- Gauze pads
- Benadryl
- Betadine scrub
- Wet wipes
- Gloves

CHEERS TO OUR graduates



Meet Meryl Kasdan and Yazie!

Congratulations to our newest PWP graduates. Yazie is a 2 ½ year-old labrador and is a successor dog for Meryl's PWP assistance dog Fergie.

WAYS TO GET involved

Become a part-time puppy trainer

To be a puppy trainer, you must have a love for dogs and the commitment to include the raising of one of our dogs in your home. PWP provides regular training classes for all of our part-time puppy trainers and their current dogs. Part-time puppy trainers provide a means to house, train and nurture Paws with Purpose Assistance dogs-in-training. Our trainers pick up their puppies at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) and provide socialization and distraction training. Part-time puppy trainers then provide feedback to the dog's inmate handler to help assist her with developing a plan for continued training. For more information on how to be a part-time trainer, reach out to us at info@pawswithpurpose.org.

Sponsor a puppy in training

As a Puppy Sponsor, your business can be involved in the adventure that results in a new level of independence and an enhanced quality of life for children and adults with disabilities in our community. If you have ever seen our puppies in public, you know how much attention they draw. Imagine your company logo on one of our puppies' training vests. For more information about how you can be a Paws with Purpose Puppy sponsor, contact us.

Volunteer

PWP always needs assistance with the events we host as fundraisers for our program. We also currently have needs for volunteers to assist in these areas: Grant writing assistance, help with presentations and exhibits, administrative assistance, social media, and marketing/PR. To volunteer, visit our website or email info@pawswithpurpose.org.



OUR board

Sheilah Abramson-Miles, President
Sue Wettle, Vice President
Elaine Weisberg, Vice President
Dolores Biles, Secretary
Diana Quesada, Treasurer
Julie Marks



WAYS TO give



To give, scan the QR code to visit our website



- Make a one-time donation
- Make a recurring donation
- Buy items to donate off our Amazon Wish List
- Leave a lasting legacy through planned giving
- Partner with PWP as a Sponsor

PAWS UP TO OUR supporters

Dr. Jamie K. Young, DVM

Irvin & Alice Estcorn Foundation



FOUR EVERGREEN FOUNDATION

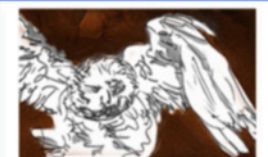
METROPOLITAN VETERINARY SPECIALISTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

Clark Family Foundation

Fred & Opal Woosley Foundation

The Cralle Foundation

AND TO OUR vest partners



Michael Weisberg



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DAVIS JEWELERS



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