

Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together

BOTH ENDS of the leash



While another amazing year for the dogs and youth we serve has come and gone, the volunteers and staff of Teacher's Pet have all eyes on an amazing 2014! First things first, we are excited to introduce you to our brand new 'Both Ends of the Leash' newsletter – a quarterly publication designed to provide exciting updates on the successes of this program, as well as future plans, and to inspire and educate individuals on the human-animal bond. Here we will share stories, training tips, 'thank-you's', ways to get involved, and much more! If you are new to Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together, we encourage you to read the information below and familiarize yourselves with our work!

Our Kids. Teacher's Pet works with at-risk teens and adolescents who have shown interest in being in our program. Currently, we work with youth from the following facilities:

- Children's Village in Pontiac, MI
- Crossroads for Youth in Oxford, MI
- Kingsley Montgomery School in Waterford, MI
- Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center in Mt. Clemens, MI

Our Dogs. Teacher's Pet works with hard-to-adopt shelter dogs who are temperamentally sound but behaviorally challenged. Program dogs are temperament tested, vaccinated and spayed/neutered. Currently, we work with dogs from the following facilities:

- Angelic Tails in Oxford, MI
- Kg Stray in Oxford, MI
- Macomb County Animal Shelter in Mt. Clemens, MI
- Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills, MI

Our Program. While duration and content of our program may vary slightly based on the youth we are working with, each session is generally divided into two segments.

- Classroom. Students spend time learning about humane education, dog behavior, dog body language/communication and responsible animal care.
- Training. Each student is paired with a shelter dog for the duration of the program and trains his/her dog in basic obedience using only positive training methods.



2013 AN INSPIRING SUCCESS

Duke & [M] Duke came to Angelic Tails first as a puppy for day camp, then as a surrender. He was extremely fearful and reactive to most people he encountered. Laura & Bob and the staff at Angelic Tails worked hard for a few months to get him settled and less afraid of the world around him. In February we decided he was ready to make his world a little bigger and he met [M] at Crossroads for Youth Teacher's Pet program.

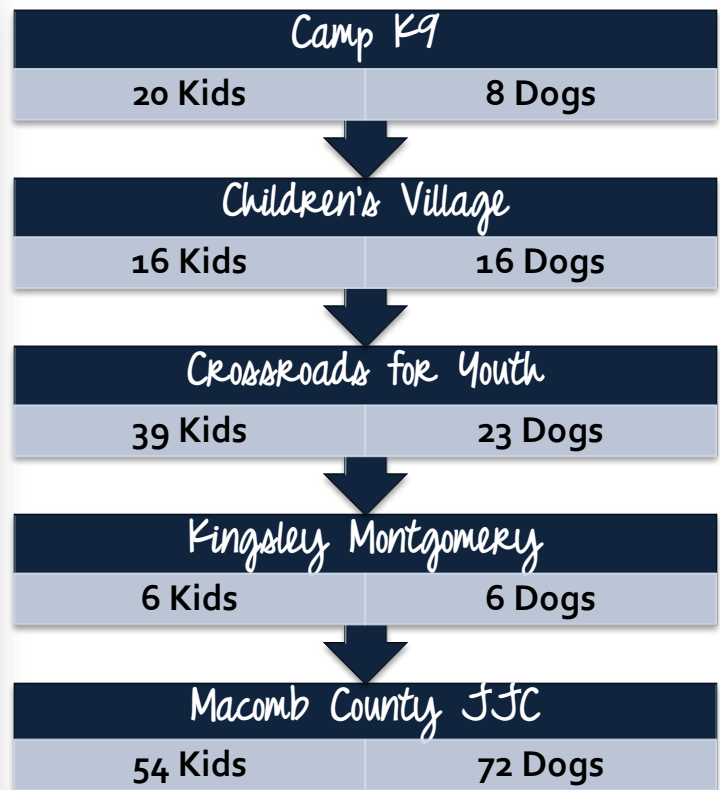
[M] and Duke were both afraid of each other. For the first day, [M] tossed treats to him from the side, and Duke hesitantly took the treats if [M] wasn't looking. It took a few days of patience and slow movements, but eventually [M] was able to sit in a chair and Duke came up to greet him. Victory! What an amazing 5 weeks! :)

Duke made a forever friend in [M]! While Duke was fearful at first meetings with people, [M] taught him to be comfortable in his own paws and he learned to trust. With this bond, [M] was able to teach him so much ... from a simple sit to saying his prayers on a chair! But more importantly, [M] taught Duke to be a settled, comfortable, confident dog.

Flash forward--Duke now lives with 2 furry siblings and his best friend, and 8 year old boy. He was afraid of children when he first came to us, so this was a great achievement! **EVEN BETTER!** [M] now works for Angelic Tails Kennel! He is entrusted to walk dogs that need special handling and works to enrich the lives of all the dogs awaiting their forever home.



“DOG PROGRAM HELPED ME FIND MY PURPOSE IN LIFE, TO HELP ANIMALS.”



2013 Totals
135 Kids & 125 Dogs

Alright Michigan

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

With one of the coldest and snowiest Michigan winters still lingering around, you better believe that your dog is going just as stir crazy as you are! Quick trips outside to go to the bathroom just aren't cutting it, and you may be starting to see a change in your dog's behavior. Here are a few of our favorite tips to keep your beloved dog happy and healthy during this sub-zero season!

Play Indoors! There are safe, easy and non-destructive ways to fulfill your dog's needs to exercise, play, interact and use their mind without a tennis ball in the park.

- **Tug-Of-War.** While some may believe this form of play to teach the dog poor behaviors or even, gasp, cause aggression, if done correctly can actually provide a great form of mental and physical exercise. Be sure your dog knows the 'release' command to ensure it is a game and not a challenge.
- **Hide-And-Seek.** Our favorite! First practice 'sit' and 'stay' commands with your dog. Once mastered, have your dog sit and stay while toys, treats or even people are hidden around the house. 'Release' your dog and let them find all of the hidden objects or people! You will be amazed at how long this game can go on and what a great form of mental and physical exercise this provides.

Doggie Day Care. If your dog is dog social and you have the funds to spare, indoor play centers or doggie day care facilities provide a safe, warm environment for you dog to exercise all day while enhancing their dog socialization skills..

Grooming. A bath or a brushing session is a great way to break up the monotony of a day spent indoors. Done with love and care, grooming can provide affection and relaxation, and provide olfactory enrichment via aromatic shampoos.

Obedience Training. What better of a time to practice focus, sit, stay, leave it, coming when called, etc? Not only will this have your pup in prime form for leash walking season, it is also a great mental exercise and bonding opportunity. Add in the 'stay' command while increasing distance, and voila, we've added physical exercise when he/she is released to come to you! Oh, and don't forget the treats!

Interactive Puzzle Toys. Never underestimate the importance of mental stimulation/exercise. These toys commonly involve an incentive (treat) for mastering a challenge, and can provide hours of fun while improving cognitive function. Such toys are gaining in availability and popularity, and can be found at your local pet supply store!

Outdoor Exercise. While braving the elements multiple times a day for bathroom purposes, a few minutes of additional exercise is simply a matter of preparation and staying warm. Jackets and neck warmers help to hold in body heat while booties keep paws safe, dry and warm. Always monitor your dog's behavior and head indoors immediately if you notice signs of pain or stress



“ DOGS ARE NOT JUST DOGS...THEY HAVE THIS NATURAL ABILITY TO TEACH US TRUST, PATIENCE, COMPANIONSHIP, AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.”

Get Involved WE NEED YOU

Volunteer. We ALWAYS need experienced volunteers to work with our dogs and youth both in the program and at the shelter. We will train! We also welcome extra hands and hearts at our adoption events and special events.

Adopt. Looking for the perfect addition to your family? We've got you covered! Follow us on facebook and petfinder to stay up to date on our amazing adoptables.

Donate. Teacher's Pet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and we survive off of monetary and supply donations from our generous supporters. Monetary donations of all denominations help ensure proper and individualized medical and behavioral rehabilitation occurs for each and every dog, we can continue to reach increasing numbers of youth with the power of the animal-behavior bond, we can provide after-care opportunities for both dog and child, and have all supplies necessary to ensure maximum success for all involved. Donate today via PayPal on our website or facebook, or contact us for other donation options!

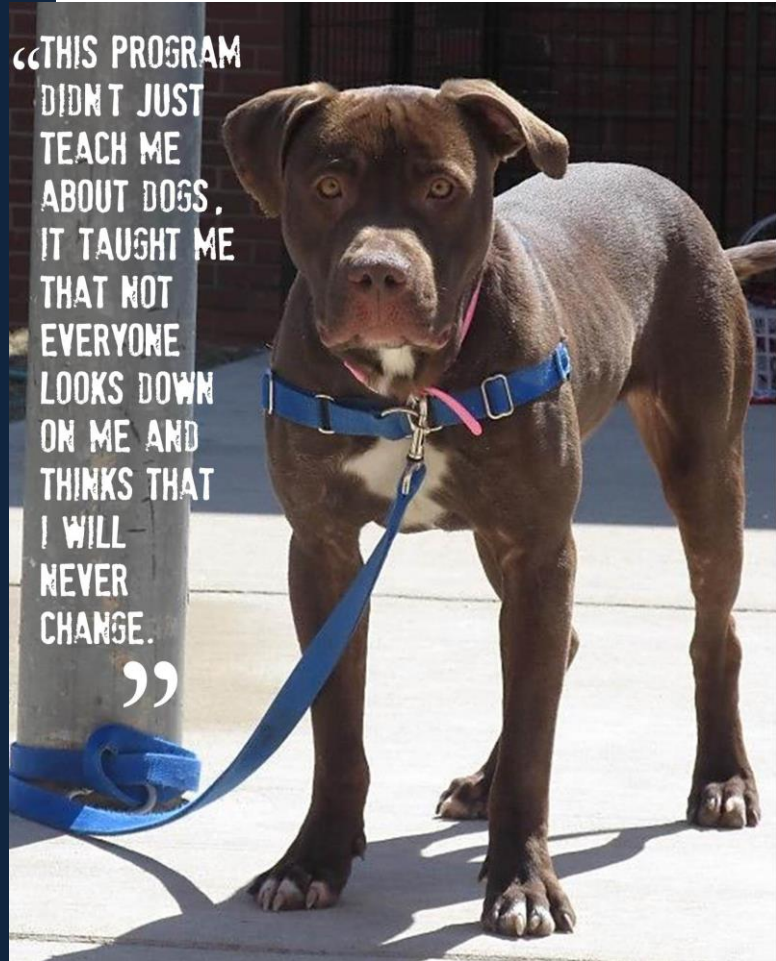
Foster. As all of our dogs are shelter dogs, there are times when the shelter environment is not an ideal match for one or more of them. After graduation from the Teacher's Pet program, we make every attempt to pull those dogs and get them into a temporary environment that is more suited to their needs. We train fosters and dogs alike, and provide all support you need!

All Donations are Tax Deductible!

HUGE THANKS To our supporters!

Angelic Tails
Camp Bow Wow St. Clair
Shores
Children's Village
Club Pet Too
Credit Union One
Crossroads for Youth
Genesis Credit Union
Herk Pet Training
K9 Stray Rescue League
Macomb County Animal Shelter
Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center
Mark Hackel & the Macomb County Executive Office
Oakland Pet Adoption Center
Shores Kennels
Sound Counseling

“THIS PROGRAM DIDNT JUST TEACH ME ABOUT DOGS, IT TAUGHT ME THAT NOT EVERYONE LOOKS DOWN ON ME AND THINKS THAT I WILL NEVER CHANGE.”



Wish List

Chewy/Meaty Treats
Large Milkbones/Longer Lasting Chews
Peanut Butter
Collars (Med. Or Lg.)
Leashes
Heavy Slip Leads
Large Carabiners
Sheets/Blankets/Towels
Laundry Soap
Toys (esp. Kongs, Nylabones, interactive toys, stuffies and TENNIS BALLS!)
Chuck-It Ball Thrower
Medium and Large Wire Crates
Rugs
Dog Beds – Any Style
Hand and Face Wipes
Poop Bags (we love to make the kids pick up poop!)
Furminator Dog Brushes
8"x10" Bulk Picture Frames
Gift Cards
Gas
Pet Supply Stores
Amazon.com
Photo Developing (Meijer/Walmart/etc.)
Office Supply Stores

Thank you Thank you

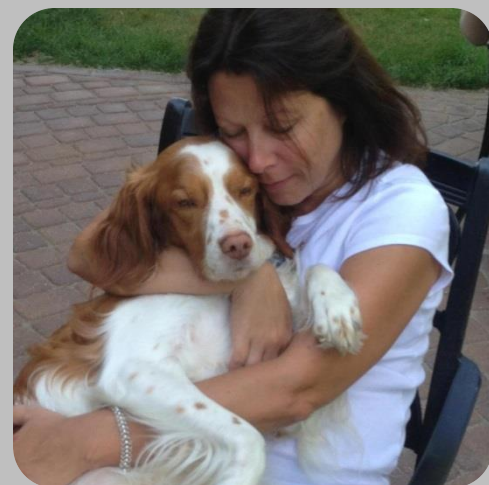
THANK YOU

Here are a few groups of individuals who have supported our mission by donating much needed supplies! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and so do the dogs and youth we serve!



The Sterling Heights Kiwanis High Noon Club donated MANY tasty treats for our dogs!

Thank you Sterling Heights Kiwanis High Noon Club!



Volunteer and supporter Amal Khadra Schmitz rallied her friends and neighbors and donated 20 Kong's and 21 jars of peanut butter!

Thank you Amal!



A group of students from Mt. Clemens High School collected and donated a TON of great items for the dogs of Teacher's Pet.

Thank you Mrs. Hannah and Ms. Mitchell's Classes!



Long time volunteer and supporter Deb Monroe donated bags and bags of blankets, harnesses a crate and a bed for the dogs!

Thank you Deb!



Camp Bow Wow Saint Clair Shores included us their Holiday Donation Drive! Items collected included toys, blankets, treats, dry and wet food, peanut butter, bowls, brushes, collars, leashes and crates.

Thank you Camp Bow Wow SCS!