



Sniffing out the latest news from CARE STL

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Help end breed-restrictive discrimination

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Welcome to the October edition of The Aly Report! We're celebrating National Pitbull Awareness Month, and later in October it's Vet Tech Appreciation Week (we're looking at you, Kerrie!)

It's Pitbull Awareness Month! Help end breed-restrictive policies.

While it may be Pitbull Awareness Month, did you know that 'pitbull dogs' are not actually a breed? They are often misidentified, because the breed does not exist - it is not recognized as a breed by the American Kennel Club. Rather it is used to describe a mixed-breed dog based on appearance - such as a muscular body and broad head.

DNA testing (source: Animal Farm Foundation) has shown that over 90% of shelter dogs identified as any specific breed are misidentified. This testing, together with bull breeds (bull dogs, bull terriers, boxers, mastiffs, great danes, etc.), results in many shelter dogs facing adoption challenges because they're perceived as pitbulls - a breed that does not exist. These adoption challenges are due to landlords who discriminate against bull breeds, or cities that have legislated that bull breeds are not allowed to exist within their boundaries.

In St. Louis we face similar issues. Dogs are returned from adoption because landlords engage in breed discrimination via bull breed identification or weight limits on pets. These decisions are based on the landlord's ability to get liability insurance for his property. In most instances the breed discrimination is a function of insurance compliance, not landlord decisions.

For Pitbull Awareness Month, we are asking our supporters to advocate for our

misidentified adoptable shelter dogs by doing just two things:

1. [Sign this petition](#) to end breed-restrictive insurance practices in Missouri
2. Share the graphic below (available [here](#)) and a link to the petition with other pet lovers in your network - regardless of where they live, to help end breed-restrictive discrimination nationwide.



Furever Friends Matchmaking: Justine and Brozelle



Justine (kittens, female, 3 months)

When we need to introduce a singleton kitten to other kittens, we use Justine as our helper kitten because she's so cat social. Lately, she's been helping her buddy Dib stay up on his cat skills after his brother was adopted.

Brozelle (dog, female, 3.5 years)

Generally overlooked by adopters and fosters, Brozelle is ready for her turn in the spotlight. She is MUCH beloved by her volunteer friends at the shelter for her zest for life and love for all people.

Brozelle finds the shelter a stressful place,

As much as Justine enjoys her important role at our shelter, she'd love to get into a home where there is at least one other social cat. You could also adopt Justine and Dib together

Walk-in adoptions welcome Tuesday-Sunday, 11AM-5 PM

and we know we could learn more about her if she could just go to a foster home, even if temporarily. She has had some good meets with other dogs and right now, we're saying she's dog selective and will need slow introductions to other dogs in the home.

Walk-in adoptions welcome Tuesday-Sunday, 11AM-5 PM

To celebrate National-Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet Month, all dogs and cats over 1 year old have a reduced adoption fee of \$25.

Adopt Me!

Adopt Me!

Humans of CARE STL: Kerrie Davis and Emily Willis



Kerrie Davis, CARE STL Clinic Manager/Veterinary Technician

October 17th is the start of Veterinary Technician Appreciation Week, and one thing we know for sure is that we appreciate Kerrie!

Kerrie, pictured here with Ellie, under treatment for a wound, answered our questions about being our favorite vet tech!

How long have you been a vet tech? Almost 10 years. I have a BS in Mass Communications and Marketing, but I always wanted to work in the non-profit sector and the job market wasn't great. I've always loved animals and volunteered at a shelter, and decided I wanted to make a career out of helping abandoned animals.

What does a typical day look like for you? I start early at around 5:45am. I give out meds, do medical rounds on the shelter animals, bring surgery patients over to the clinic and check-in additional surgery patients from foster families. I assist during surgery and recovery, run heartworm tests, and order, shoot, and develop xrays when applicable. I respond to emails from fosters and adopters asking for vet care assistance, etc. and I have the medical phone and I am on call every day during the week. Once surgery is done, I update records, record our controlled substances, manage the surgery and vet appointment schedule (which changes a lot due to adoptions), run fecal exams, assist with heartworm treatments, do inventory, order supplies, fill meds prescriptions, and answer more emails. Dr. King and I will go through and look at any new animals or shelter animals that need medical attention, see appointments throughout the day, and handle any emergencies that may come in - which could be any type of animal in any type of situation.

Wow, that's a lot! What do you love most about your job? I love all adoptions, but the ones that stick with me the most are the animals that come in with medical issues. We help heal their bodies so that the staff, volunteers and fosters can heal their spirits and give them the love they deserve and get them on the path to forever homes.

What do you love most about working at CARE STL? I love how unpredictable it is. You never know what will come through those doors! It keeps me on my toes and helps expand my medical knowledge. We are also very involved in the St. Louis community for people with limited resources, but they love their pets and want what's best for them.

What pets do you have? I have two rescue dogs. Banjo is my 65 lb gentle momma's boy - I would be absolutely lost without him. Gemma I lovingly describe as my spunky, bossy, never not moving brat who was a foster fail thanks to my husband!

What advice to you have for someone wanting to become a vet tech? Know going in that you will see some of the worst things humans are capable of, but you will also see so many (albeit more) miracles and positive outcomes. Know that animals possess the ability to forgive and love like no human can and that is what keeps you going when you have some of those brutal cases.

Emily Willis, CARE STL Foster Mom

If you've been paying any attention to us at all this year, you'll know we've had an endless stream of intakes and our lifesaving work would not be possible without our incredible foster families! Meet Emily Willis - CARE STL foster mom!



When did you start fostering with CARE STL? We picked up our first CARE foster, Nigel, on April 27th 2021. We have had 6 fosters in 5 months.

Right: Emily, with her latest foster, dog-fighting survivor, Jane.

Why did you choose to foster for CARE STL? We moved to the STL area in May of 2020. Before the move we lived in a small rural town on the east side of Illinois. I have always been an animal lover and fostered for my hometown rescue twice. I have been a stay-at-home mom since the move, so I searched rescues in the area, and after disappointment at not hearing back following my applications at some shelters, CARE STL responded. Sometimes disappointment leads to where you are really meant to be, and that's how I feel now. The large scale rescuing that CARE STL does may not be featured on The Dodo, but they put just as much love and devotion into helping animals, and that's why I'm here.

What do you enjoy most about fostering? Honestly, there isn't much that I don't like! If you are an animal lover who wants to 'save them all' but doesn't own a farm with 1000 acres, fostering is the perfect way to feel fulfilled. You have a dog or cat come in to your home, hang out with you, build their confidence, get kisses and snuggles, and send them to a forever home when the time comes. After the adoption, you go and pick up the next soul in need. There is zero cost to getting a dog or cat out of the shelter, and they show their gratitude in ways you'll have to see to believe. There isn't a downside!

Who has been your favorite foster to date? My husband's favorite was Scamp. He liked to sit with my husband in the Recliner in the evening, so that won him major brownie points. I can honestly say I don't have a favorite foster. They all had different personalities, and all had things that made them special.

What would you say to someone who thinks that they won't be a good foster because they're afraid they'll get attached to a pet that is only in their home temporarily? If you are

afraid to get attached you are exactly the type of person who should be fostering. We want people like you! You are telling me that you plan to love that dog or cat with all your heart while it's in your home. Every foster gets attached. It's a natural reaction. Our first foster was adopted at an adoption event where I dropped him off and was to pick him back up if he didn't find a family. They called to let me know he found his forever family...and I cried for 4 days straight. Do you know what happened? I realized that crying over a foster who was now happy didn't help a dog that was sad in the shelter. So I went to CARE and picked up our next foster. Saying goodbye does get easier. You will meet amazing families who are looking for a little mixed mutt with dopey ears and watch them fall in love at the meet and greet. And, who says you can't foster fail anyway? We have fostered 6 dogs through CARE, and foster failed our third. We are still fostering. Foster failing doesn't mean you can't foster again, just means you have to decide if your home can fit one more cat or dog temporarily.

My kids have gotten older. They are independent and at the age where they only come out of their rooms for dinner or snacks. I know there are parents out there who can relate! Being needed by our animals and fosters has been a positive experience for me. After dinner we turn on the Cardinals (soon to be Blues) game and snuggle. It's a nightly ritual. I highly recommend all the empty nesters or parents of preteens and teens - to fill that little void that our now independent kids left with a foster. You won't regret it!

The CARE STL 2022 Calendar is coming!

The [CARE STL 2022 Calendar](#) is coming, and we want you to be part of it!

Purchase a pet square in the CARE STL Calendar, available in the first week of December 2021.

When you buy a pet square, your pet's photo will be featured on a day in the calendar. Each pet will also be entered into a voting contest. The images with the top 14 votes will be featured on the front cover, back cover, and each monthly cover page.

Business squares and ads also available (not eligible for placement on cover pages or monthly cover pages).

Buy a square for your pet or your business before October 21st, 2021! <https://www.icarestl.org/calendar-2022>

JANUARY 2022							December 2021	February 2022
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
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CARE STL Out and About in October



Fall Festivities are starting, and we'd love to see you at any of these great events coming up this month!

October 23: Strut Your Mutt

Strut Your Mutt: Join CARE STL for a pack walk from the dog shelter to the Arch and back. Bring your own mutt, or you can borrow one of ours! You can also register to participate virtually! [Register](#) today.

Also this month:

Thursday October 7: Cocktails on the Plaza at Historic Lafayette Square

Tickets required. Enjoy unlimited food and cocktail tastings from your favorite Lafayette Square restaurants.

Saturday October 9: Pawfest at Chesterfield Mall.

Sunday October 10: Coffee, Cars and Dogs at Northwest Coffee Roasting Company

Celebrate your cars and dogs over coffee from 8am to noon!

CARE STL Wishlist Spotlight

We are in dire need of crates for foster families to take home with their foster dogs, and cat carriers for foster cats. Did you know you can buy any item from [our wishlist](#) and have it shipped straight to us?

[Shop](#) dog crates

[Shop](#) cat carriers

You may also donate used crates and carriers to CARE STL at 2700 Walnut Place, St. Louis, MO 63103.

[Donate Today](#)

About "The Aly Report"

When it came time to start an email newsletter, we couldn't think of a name. We could, however, think of the dog in our shelter right now that our volunteers all love. Alejandra is a princess who has been at CARE STL since March 2020. Her personality, lovability and charisma make her the perfect face for our newsletter!

About CARE STL

Center for Animal Rescue and Enrichment of St. Louis (CARE STL) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to create a supportive community rooted in collaboration, compassion, and caring, for people and animals. We are a no-kill open-admission shelter that embraces the No-Kill Equation and follows the guiding principles of no-kill shelters. We work with a network of community partners, business sponsors, adopters, donors, and volunteers to advocate for animal welfare.

www.icarestl.org