

Cape Cod Pet Collective

**Creating intergenerational
social connections
based on a shared love of animals.**

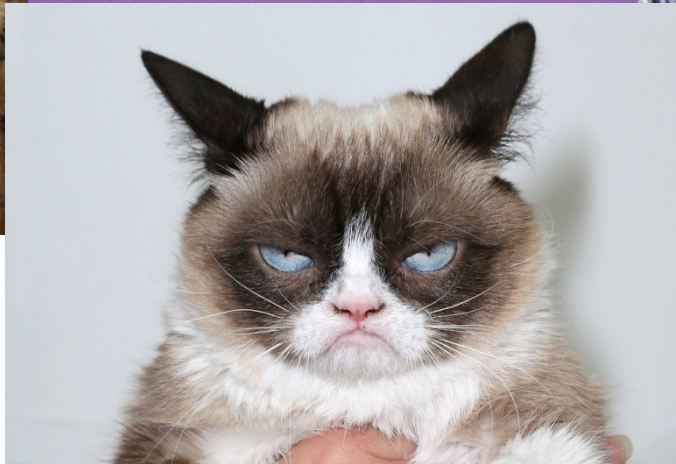


Do you know?

- Over **25%** of our year-round population is over the age of 65.
- 1 in 3 Americans over the age of 65 **lives alone**.
- **Social Isolation** negatively impacts a persons health:
 - Increases heart attack and stroke risk
 - Accelerates cognitive decline
 - Increases risk/severity of mental health and substance disorders
- **Loneliness** is as important a factor for early death as smoking.

Here is the good news...

- We can **do something** about it!
- Increasing social connection is **good for people of all ages** and makes our neighborhoods and communities safer.
- Add **animals** to the mix and they **help to...**
 - Increase sense of connection and companionship
 - Improve ability to trust and engage
 - Increase overall sense of happiness
 - Reduce blood pressure and lower cholesterol
 - Relieve depression, anxiety, and stress



Program Ideas

I. Pet Share

Share your pet with a senior! Connect and find time when your pet can visit or they can visit your pet.

II. Pet Connect

Help a senior who has a pet! Take their dog for a walk, drive their cat to a vet appointment or just visit.

III. Pet Assist

Help people plan in advance how a pet will be cared for if they are hospitalized or face unexpected circumstances. Develop a network of volunteers to care for the pets.

Anticipated Impact

- Increase social connections in our community
- Reduce isolation and improve health for all involved
- Reduce volume of animals who may otherwise end up in a shelter due to lack of planning
- Make new friends
- Give your lazy pet something to do while you are at work – it is good for their health too!

Next Steps

1. Recruit volunteers
2. Work on a name and logo
3. Secure a fiscal sponsor
4. Develop policies and procedures for making connections
5. Launch a pilot program!

Contact Information:



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THANK YOU!!!