



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do pet therapy teams go?

Visits can take place at almost any healthcare facility including, but not limited to: nursing homes, senior residential communities, rehabilitation centers and programs, mental health facilities, group homes, local libraries, veteran homes, and all different ages and sections of hospitals—all in community rooms or bedside.

How long is each visit?

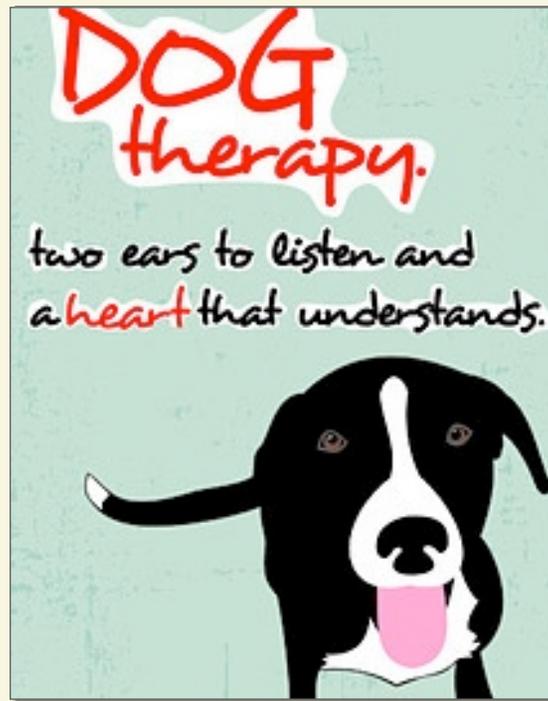
Generally visiting the facility takes one hour, and you may or may not be going around with another team.

Is this expensive?

The training classes price ranges may vary depending on where you go, plus a small fee for the evaluation, and some organizations ask for donations/registering fees, but that's nothing compared to the rewarding experience of a visit. Contact your chosen organization for details.

I'm on the fence about pet therapy...

Don't be! If your pet shows the right signs and you think you might be able to put in one visit a month, then there's no reason not to make others smile.



SUGGESTED PET THERAPY ORGANIZATIONS

▶ Creature Comfort Pet Therapy
www.ccpettherapy.org/ 973-285-9083

▶ Therapy Dogs International (TDI) www.tdi-dog.org/ (973) 252-9800

▶ The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs
www.golden-dogs.org/ (973)292-3316

▶ Pet Partners www.petpartners.org/ (425) 679-5500

For more organizations, see American Kennel Club's list on their website

www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm

**CERTIFY YOUR PET TODAY
AND SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW
REWARDING IT IS!**

PET THERAPY

DO YOU HAVE A LOVING PET?



SPREAD SOME SMILES

What better way to enjoy time with your pet while caring for others than to become a certified pet therapy team?



The most rewarding way to spend time is by brightening others' days.

The Path to Follow

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Did you say yes to all the signs? If so, you're ready to skip step one and begin with step two.

If not, don't worry. If most of the signs could be there, but some training is needed; this is very common.

**NOTE: Each organization will have different specifics in their evaluation and may even request you take their own pet therapy handler course.*

STEP ONE: Train

Choose an organization → Now that you believe you and your pet are both willing and ready to become a pet therapy team, it's time to find an organization near you that you'd like to join. For a list of some suggestions, see the back cover.

Basic obedience classes → Spanning a couple months, these classes are often the easiest way to ensure your dog has the simple commands and manners necessary for the pet therapy evaluation.

Check → Checking organizations' websites will help you understand what you and your dog need to be capable of to pass your organization's specific evaluation.

STEP TWO: Evaluate

Find an evaluation → On the organization's website there should be a list of upcoming dates when an evaluator (often someone with a high position in the organization or with experience) will be at a pet-friendly place to meet a group of aspiring teams. Have a rabies and shots record and health certificate for your pet ready.

Pass the evaluation → After watching you and your animal perform each requested "test," they will tell you if you passed or failed. Generally in

a few weeks, with some extra training, it's easy to retake--and pass!--the evaluation.

STEP THREE: Visit

You passed! → Now onto the best part--spreading some smiles to patients, employees, and families in your area! The organization will help you set up visits at local schools and health care facilities by way of email, Google Calendar, or other methods.

What now? → Request a time slot at your preferred location, make sure your dog is clean and healthy, and go brighten people's days!

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Each organization has details about what they specifically require such as: fees, minimum handler and dog age, the minimum amount of time owning the animal before applying, the animal species permitted, etc.

Be sure to contact them for specific information.

Common species: dogs, cats, rabbits,

Occasionally permitted: birds, guinea pigs, rats, miniature pigs

Rarely, but possibly: llamas, alpacas, horses donkeys and mini-horses



DOES YOUR PET WANT THIS?

The very first step in becoming a pet therapy team is to ensure that your pet wants this, not just you.

SIGNS YOUR PET WOULD MAKE A GOOD THERAPY ANIMAL:

- ✓ Knows basic commands (sit, down, stay, come, leave it)
- ✓ Loves meeting strangers
- ✓ Has good public manners (calm leash-walking, no barking or jumping, is potty-trained, etc.)
- ✓ Is controllable and predictable
- ✓ Has a handler who is willing to always watch the pet's actions

