

Delta Society and R.E.A.D.

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Bernier University 2006



Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati

"Caring for People One Pet at a Time"

Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati is a non-profit organization founded in 2004. An affiliate of the Delta Society, we train volunteers and screen pets to visit local healthcare facilities and schools (AAA) and work with professionals in specific therapies (AAT). Our current membership of quality teams include over 130 volunteers. Our pets currently include dogs, cats and birds. Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati values our animal's safety and welfare as our highest priority while honoring client needs and confidentiality.



The Value of Animals in Health and Educational Settings

- Pets of all types are recognized for the love they share and the hope and assistance they bring to children and adults in rehabilitation centers, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, retirement facilities, correctional institutions, and schools.



Define Some Terms

- **Animal-assisted activities (AAA)** are basically the casual "meet and greet" activities that involve pets visiting people. The same activity can be repeated with many people, unlike a therapy program that is tailored to a particular person or medical condition.
- **Animal-assisted therapy (AAT)** is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal that meets specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process. AAT is directed and/or delivered by a health/human service professional with specialized expertise, and within the scope of practice of his/her profession.



More Terms....

- **Service animals** are legally defined (Americans With Disabilities Act, 1990) and are trained to meet the disability-related needs of their handlers who have disabilities. Federal laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals in public places. Service animals are not considered "pets."
- **Therapy animals** are not legally defined by federal law, but some states have laws defining therapy animals. They provide people with contact to animals, but are not limited to working with people who have disabilities. They are usually the personal pets of their handlers, and work with their handlers to provide services to others. Federal laws have no provisions for people to be accompanied by therapy animals in places of public accommodation. Some stores welcome therapy animals in training. Therapy animals usually **are not service animals**.



Delta Society

- **Pet Partners:** Trains volunteers and screens pets for participation in animal visiting and therapy programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and schools.
- **Animal Assisted Therapy:** Helps healthcare facilities and trains professionals to establish effective therapeutic programs— more than just visitations.
- **National Service Dog Center:** Assist people with disabilities in achieving greater independence and surmounting barriers in their environment through service dogs.
- The Delta Society currently has over 6,400 Pet Partner teams in the U.S. and 4 countries, who help over 900,000 people each year. *There are hundreds of healthcare facilities on a waiting list that need more Pet Partners!*

www.deltasociety.org



Delta Pet Partners

- Through our trained pet partners, members are able to provide unconditional love, emotional support, comfort, joy, and a pleasant distraction by allowing our pets to interact and bond with the people they meet.



The Need Is Great

- We strive to make a positive difference in the lives we touch while we educate the community about the significant value of the human-animal bond. Typically, there are many more institutions wanting Pet Partners than volunteers available to serve.



How Do I Get Involved?

- 1. find a Pet Partner training/testing group near you to take a class or contact Delta for the self-paced training materials.



Prerequisites for People

- The person handling the animal (handlers) must be at least 10 years old. Handlers younger than 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have written permission to participate from a parent or guardian.
- People who do not have an animal may also register as Pet Partners



Prerequisites for Your Pet

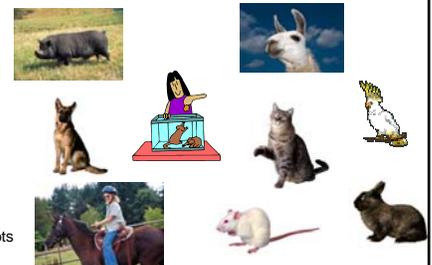
- All animals except birds must have lived in the owner's home for at least 6 months. Birds must have lived in the owner's home for at least 1 year.
- All animals except "pocket pets" must be at least 1 year at the time the animal is evaluated. Pocket pets (e.g., guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, etc.) must be at least 6 months at the time the animal is evaluated.
- Dogs trained to aggressively protect and/or encouraged to actively bite, even as a component of a dog sport (e.g., bite work that is part of Schutzhund) *may not* be Pet Partners



What Animals Can be a Pet Partner?

Only domesticated animals listed below may currently become Pet Partners:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Guinea pigs
- Rabbits
- Domesticated rats
- Horses
- Goats
- Llamas
- Donkeys
- Potbellied pigs
- Miniature pigs
- Cockatoos
- African Gray Parrots
- Chickens



Wild or exotic animals (e.g., snakes, ferrets, lizards) may not be Pet Partners.

2. Complete Pet Partners Team Training

- Take a class or workshop- find one on the web or locally by contacting an institution near you with a program.

<http://www.deltasociety.org/VolunteerAboutCalendar.htm>

- **OR...** Complete a home study course through Delta: \$37.50

Pet Partner Team Training Course (Home Study Guide) SKU: PPN300

The Pet Partners Team Training course can be taken in a home-study format. This course prepares you through lessons and activities on selecting and preparing animals for visits, identifying and decreasing stress in animals, animal health and safety, special needs of client groups, interacting with special people, facility health and safety codes, patient confidentiality and more. The Pet Partners Team Training manual includes the necessary registration materials. Successful completion of this course satisfies the handler training requirement for the Pet Partners Program.

<http://www.deltasociety.org/VolunteerAboutStep1.htm>



3. Ask Your Vet to Complete a Health Screening of Your Pet

- Pass a general physical exam.
- Received rabies immunization, as prescribed by state law.
- In compliance with other immunization requirements, as prescribed by your veterinarian.
- Free from internal and external parasites.



4. Find a Delta Evaluator

- <http://www.deltasociety.org/search/search.asp>

- Use the online Delta Society Contact Search. Here you will be able to search for contact information for Pet Partners, Team Evaluators, Team Evaluator Instructors, Pet Partner Instructors, and Animal-Assisted Therapy Instructors.



5. Pass the Pet Partners Skills Test



6. Pass the Pet Partners Aptitude Test



7. Submit Your Paperwork to Delta

- Photo ID Form
- Application Form
- Volunteer Policies and Procedures Agreement Form (If you are under 18 a parent or legal guardian must also sign this form).
- Volunteer Review – the questions review the important material covered in the Pet Partners Team Training Course (open book!).
- Handler's Questionnaire – Bring this to the evaluation. This form helps the evaluator understand your pet's responses.
- Animal Health Screening Forms – Make sure your veterinarian completes all sections of the health screening form. **You must have a current rabies vaccination and a fecal exam done within the last 6 months with a negative result or your packet will be returned.**
- Volunteer Contact Form – this form lets Delta know more about you and your animal.
- The team evaluation forms signed by your evaluator
- The appropriate fee (\$40-75...covers ID's, liability insurance, etc.)



2006 Fee Structure-- Covers 2 Years:
 Pet ID Badge, Handler ID Badge, *Interactions Magazine*, and
 \$1,000,000 Liability Coverage While Visiting

- Independent Pet Partner with one Animal – \$75
- Pet Partner Affiliated with a member Group- \$50
 Find groups at www.deltasociety.org, or call Delta Society at 425.226.7357
- Senior Handler or Handler with a Disability - \$40
 for volunteers 55+ or who have a disability.
- Pet Partner Additional Handler(s) - \$30 each
 This fee applies when an additional handler is registering with a previously registered animal
- Pet Partner Additional Animal(s) - \$20 each
 This fee applies when registering an additional animal either at the same time, or after your initial registration.
- Pet Partner without an Animal - \$40
 Help and interact with staff and clients on visits. Individuals with no animal must complete the training requirements and pass the volunteer review.

Retest your Pet and Renew Every Two Years



Please
 "Get Informed and Get Involved!"

R.E.A.D.

Reading Education Assistance Dogs

- ✓ Improve the literacy skills of children through the assistance of registered Pet Partner® therapy teams as literacy mentors.



R.E.A.D.

- Literacy specialists acknowledge that children who are below their peers in reading skills are often intimidated by reading aloud in a group, often have lower self-esteem, and view reading as a chore. The intent of the R.E.A.D. program is to have children read to the therapy animals.



R.E.A.D.

- The Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.) program improves children's reading and communication skills by employing a powerful method: reading to a dog!



Able to increase self confidence and reading skills in a single tail wag!

<http://www.therapyanimals.org/read/index.php>

READ in Schools



- In the school setting, teachers or reading specialists select those children who would most benefit from the program.
- A particular dog/handler team reads with the same child each week
- This is AAT, or animal-assisted therapy, because specific goals are set for each child, documentation is kept, and progress is recorded.
- Sometimes this is done right after school; sometimes during the school day.
- Each child typically spends about a half-hour with his dog—a few minutes getting acquainted and comfortable; time reading; then a few minutes at the end for tricks and treats and less formal play. They sit together on the floor with big pillows, the dog sits or lies nearby, usually with some physical connection between dog and child, and we see what unfolds.

READ in Libraries



- Typically one or more R.E.A.D.® teams spend two hours at a library on a publicized schedule—maybe once a month. Kids can decide spontaneously to read with the dog. It's a fun and popular activity, and would be classified as AAA or an animal-assisted activity.
- We often use animal related books and also teach pet care!

What Does the Handler Do?

- The handler can speak for and about the dog to make points about pronunciation and comprehension.
 - “Rover has never heard that word before, Jimmy—can you tell him what it means?”
 - “He’s not asleep...he is just closing his eyes so he can concentrate better on the story” 😊
- The possibilities are endless, and the child feels less threatened. Meanwhile there are little games to play—the dog can help turn pages with his paw or nose, the child can give the dog a treat after completing a certain number of pages, etc. The personality of both dog and handler can be involved in many such ways.



What Are the Benefits of R.E.A.D.?

- Some of the generalized documented benefits of therapy with animals include lowering of blood pressure, increased relaxation, and a tendency to forget about pain and limitations.
- When they read with a dog, children start to relax, and can forget about feeling self-conscious or nervous. Their reading just starts to flow a little better. Before they know it, they are enjoying the experience of reading instead of dreading it, and they look forward to the next time.
- It's simple, and it works beautifully!



Summary: Overall Benefits of Working With Animals

- Draws attention outward
- Turns off anxiety, anger and depression
- Creates safety
- Creates intimacy
- Increases positive expectations of both self and others.



Some Useful Links

- www.therapyanimals.org/read/about.html
- www.deltasociety.org
- www.animalhealthfoundation.net/
- www.adionline.org/ Assistance Dogs Intl.
- <http://www.tdi-dog.org/>
- <http://www.deltasociety.org/AnimalsResourcesBiography.htm>
- <http://www.deltasociety.org/ServiceTrainersTrainers.htm>