



How to become a Pet Partners® Volunteer Therapy Animal Team

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in becoming registered with Pet Partners to volunteer with your pet! Your involvement will allow you and your pet to provide comfort, healing and joy to people in need. This document outlines the prerequisites and steps necessary to become registered with Pet Partners. **For more information, visit the Pet Partners website at www.petpartners.org/therapyanimalprogram.**

Prerequisites

1. Handlers must be at least 10 years old. Handlers younger than 16 must have written permission to participate and be accompanied on visits by a parent or guardian.
2. Animals may not be fed a raw protein diet. Animals previously fed a raw protein diet must be off that diet for at least four weeks before registering with Pet Partners. For more information on the raw protein diet policy, visit www.petpartners.org/rawdiet.
3. Animals should be healthy and already have a basic level of training. Cats/dogs must be at least 1 year old and must have lived with the handler for a minimum of 6 months. For other species, refer to www.petpartners.org/species. Both handler and animal should have an interest in people and be comfortable in health care settings or other visiting environments. Handlers must also have good control of and proactive communication with the animal.
4. Animals with a history of biting or aggression or that are trained for protection or bite work, even if part of a dog sport (e.g., Schutzhund or hunting activities), are not eligible. Animals that have killed another animal are not eligible.

Four major steps to becoming a Pet Partners® Volunteer Therapy Animal Team

Step 1:

Course work

1. Go to www.petpartners.org/courses. NOTE: the Pet Partners® Handler Workshop is for you, not your pet.
2. Click on the name of your state. If the name of your state is not a hyperlink, click on the name of a surrounding state that is linked to a calendar. Courses are updated regularly, so a course may come available in your area at any time. NOTE: When displaying the calendar, it is best to select 4 months in advance.
3. If you are unable to find a workshop on the calendar, visit www.petpartners.org/instructor to locate an instructor in your area.
4. If no workshops are being held in your area, you can take the online course. Visit www.petpartners.org/onlinecourses for more information.

Step 2:

Animal Health Screening

Different species have different health needs. Animals need to be healthy, friendly, sociable, and up-to-date (as required by your veterinarian and state laws) on vaccinations. Animals must be free of external and internal parasites. Proof of rabies vaccination and fecal exam results within the last 6 months must be included in your animal's health screening. For more information, visit www.petpartners.org/healthscreening.

Step 3:

Team Evaluation

1. Go to www.petpartners.org/evaluations
2. Click on the name of your state. If the name of your state is not a hyperlink, click on the name of a surrounding state that is linked to a calendar. Evaluations are updated regularly, so an evaluation may come available in your area at any time. NOTE: When displaying the calendar it is best to select 4 months in advance.
3. If you are unable to find an evaluation on the calendar, visit www.petpartners.org/evaluator to locate an evaluator in your area.
4. For further assistance, please contact Pet Partners at 425-679-5524 or via email at volunteering@petpartners.org.

Step 4:

Paperwork

Once you complete the evaluation, send all completed paperwork along with your registration fee to Pet Partners. After your paperwork is processed, you will receive an acceptance letter with your ID, which will allow you to begin making visits. You must receive the acceptance letter prior to scheduling or making visits. Your permanent ID badge and animal tag will arrive in 3–4 weeks. Time commitment for visits is dependent on your schedule, the population that you are visiting, and the needs of the facility.

Category	2 Year Registration Fee <i>(subject to change)</i>
Patron*	\$190
Handler with 1 animal	\$95
Registered Affiliate Group Member**	\$70
Volunteer without an Animal	\$50
Senior Handler (65+) or Handler w/disability	\$50
Additional Handler	\$30
Additional Animal	\$30
*\$70 of the Patron registration is tax-deductible, plus you receive a free vest!	
**Not sure whether your group is registered affiliate? Visit www.petpartners.org/affiliates or ask your local group leader.	

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of animals can qualify?

A. *Most companion animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, horses and miniature horses.*

Q. How do I know if my animal might be a candidate for this work?

A. *Animals must be at least 1 year old and have lived in the owner's home for at least 6 months. (Pocket pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, etc., only need to be 6 months old.) Animals should show no shyness, aggression or fear; demonstrate non-threatening or neutral body position; show a tail that is wagging in a friendly manner, or relaxed; have a soft body and relaxed face; not eliminate during the evaluation (cats and dogs only); vocalize minimally (a single aggressive bark is unacceptable).*

Q. My animal is intact (not spayed or neutered) — can they become registered with Pet Partners?

A. *Yes, however some places may not allow intact animals to participate in their programs.*

Q. I heard that my animal cannot be fed a raw protein diet and participate in this program. Is this true?

A. *Yes. Your animal must be off of a raw protein diet for at least 4 weeks before registering. For more information on Pet Partners' raw protein diet policy, please visit www.petpartners.org/rawdiet.*

Q. What training courses do you provide for the animal?

A. *Pet Partners does not provide any training courses for animals. We train the human handler and evaluate and register the team of the animal and the handler.*

Q. Can my children volunteer with me or do this on their own?

A. *Children as young as 10 years old can become registered. They will need to complete the same steps as noted on the reverse side of this page. Children 10–15 years of age must have written permission to participate and must be accompanied on visits by a parent or guardian.*

Q. What is the required volunteer commitment?

A. *We do not require volunteers to commit to any number of hours or visits per year. We recognize that every person's availability and interest is different. Volunteers should maintain a visiting schedule that works for both them and the place(s) they visit. For volunteers interested in becoming an Instructor, 100 hours of documented visits are required; for volunteers interested in becoming a Team Evaluator 50 hours of documented visits are required.*

Q. How do I find a place to visit once I'm registered?

A. *You can network with other local volunteers, Instructors and Evaluators or contact places of interest to you and inquire directly with them. You may also log in to our website (using your User ID/Password) and find facilities looking for teams at www.petpartners.org/facilities. You may also contact our Facility Coordinator at: facilitycoordinator@petpartners.org*

Q. I have two animals, can I register with both?

A. *Yes, but you need to have a separate evaluation with each animal and complete a separate registration for each animal. A registered team includes one human and one animal combination. Please also note that you must visit with only one animal at a time.*

Q. How much does it cost to do this?

A. *The fee to complete an online course is \$70, fees for in-person workshops range from \$75-\$250, and evaluations range from \$15-\$40. Registration fees paid to Pet Partners can be found on the reverse side of this page.*

Q. I have more questions, whom can I contact at Pet Partners?

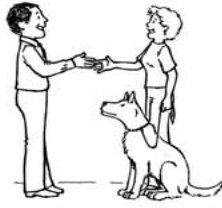
A. *Most questions can be answered by reviewing our website: www.petpartners.org/therapyanimalprogram or www.petpartners.org/faq. If you still have questions, please email volunteering@petpartners.org or call 425-679-5524.*

Pet Partners[™] Program Team Evaluation Part 1 - Skills Exercises (PPST)

◆ Indicates exercises used in evaluating complex area placement



Exercise 1
Review Handler
Questionnaire



Exercise 2 ◆
Accepting a Friendly Stranger
Animal may change position



Exercise 3
Accepting Petting
Animal may change position



Exercise 4 ◆
Appearance and Grooming
Animal may change position



Exercise 5 ◆
Out for a Walk
All dogs must walk on floor



Exercise 6 ◆
Walk Through a Crowd



Exercise 7
Reaction to Distractions
One visual and one auditory



Exercise 8
(med./large dogs)
Sit on Command



Exercise 9
(med./large dogs)
Down on Command



Exercise 8 and 9
(small dogs/cats)
Animal Passed to 3 Strangers



Exercise 10 ◆
(med./large dogs)
Stay in Place
10 ft line with a 2-3 second pause



Exercise 10 ◆
(small dogs/cats)
Placed on Lap or Table
Stay for 30 seconds



Exercise 11
Come When Called
All dogs must do



Exercise 12
Reaction to Neutral Dog



Pet Partners[™]
Touching Lives, Improving Health
Chart by Shari Sternberger
Illustrations courtesy of Terry Ryan,
Legacy Canine Behavior
and Training, Inc.

Pet Partners® Program Team Evaluation

Part 2 - Aptitude Exercises (PPAT)

Volunteer Teams are permitted to have 2 "Not Ready(s)" (NR) marks in PPAT exercises D through J

◆ Indicates exercises used in evaluating complex area placement

Scenario 1



Exercise A ◆
Overall Examination



Exercise B ◆
Clumsy Petting



Exercise C ◆
Restraining Hug

Scenario 2



Exercise D
Staggering, Gesturing
Assistant staggers, then moves normally to pet animal



Exercise E
Angry Yelling
Assistant yells, then calms down and calls animal



Exercise F
Bumped from Behind

Scenario 3



Exercise G ◆
Crowded and Petted by Several People



Exercise H
Leave It



Exercise I
Offer Treat



Exercise J ◆
Overall Assessment

The team should:
› Be reliable
› Be predictable
› Be controllable



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