



# TherapyPets

P.O. Box 32288  
Oakland CA 94604-3588  
510-287-9042  
www.therapypets.org

## Getting Started

VERSION: MAR 2018

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**The goal of TherapyPets** is to facilitate partnerships between volunteer/pet teams and facilities, for enriching the lives of children and adults. In order to determine if your pet is suited for this type of work, we have a simple intake procedure that will help to evaluate your pet's temperament and to ensure that he or she will have positive, safe reactions to new and unfamiliar situations.

**First, leave a voice message** on our phone number (510) 287-9042 so that a volunteer may call you back to find out more about you and your dog's readiness for this work. If it seems your pet would be a potential candidate as a TherapyPet, we will reserve a space at an upcoming Orientation. Please note that our volunteers typically pick up messages every one to two weeks.

**After a space has been reserved** for your dog at an **Orientation**, you will need to have your veterinarian complete the **TherapyPet VetForm**. You must have this completed in order to attend the Orientation. These are available on line at our website. Note that the Vet Form does require a fecal sample check, so do allow time for results to be obtained. (Option: Pay fees with Paypal online.)

**Things to bring to the Orientation:** a completed Vet Form, \$20 Orientation fee (cash or check), and your dog on a short (4-foot) leash. The Orientation will last two hours with break. Use a buckle collar - **no pinch or Gentle Leader collars**. See note below\* regarding early or late arrival.

**At the Orientation you will receive** information about what to expect at different types of facilities, and TherapyPets visiting guidelines. Additionally, you and your dog will have a short evaluation to determine how the two of you work together. (TherapyPets are evaluated as a team.) This will help to identify your dog's and your own strengths, as well as areas that need improvement.

### ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY	MONTH / DAY / YEAR	TIME	CITY
SATURDAY	MAR 31 2018	8:45 am - 11:00 am*	OAKLAND
SATURDAY*	APR 21 2018	8:45 am - 11:00 am*	OAKLAND
SATURDAY*	MAY 19 2018	8:45 am - 11:00 am*	OAKLAND
SATURDAY*	JUN 23 2018	8:45 am - 11:00 am*	OAKLAND

### THERAPYPETS MISSION STATEMENT

**THERAPYPETS** IS AN ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR PETS WHO VISIT VARIOUS FACILITIES IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS. THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE, WE ALL BECOME AWARE OF THE REWARDS OF THERAPYPETS AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE. GUIDELINES, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION FOR THE OWNERS AND THEIR PETS ARE PROVIDED TO ENSURE PROPER ETIQUETTE DURING VISITS. OUR VOLUNTEER TEAMS SHARE THE LOVE THAT COMES FROM THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND.



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**During the Orientation** you will be expected to be in control of your dog walking on leash, and they are expected to have positive, safe reactions in the following situations:

- walking around wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and noisy carts or walkers
- around other dogs of the same sex and of the opposite sex
- walking up to and being around calm, friendly strangers
- being around noisy, "wild" strangers; or while the dog is being stared at by a stranger
- while the dog is being gently tugged or pinched on the tail, feet, ears, and side
- while the dog is in a tight corner from which he or she must back out
- doing a "serpentine" walk between a group of wheelchairs or similar tight quarters
- ignoring or avoiding spilled food or enticing "goodie" on the floor while walking by
- while the dog is being bear-hugged by a stranger

**It is a good idea to test your dog** on all of these points well in advance, so that you can identify areas which need improvement and spend time working on them with your pet.

**After the Orientation** you will need to do an **Observation Visit** at a facility. This visit is done without your pet, in order for you to observe a current TherapyPets volunteer/pet team on a visit. Its purpose is to introduce you to Animal Assisted Therapy in a facility/care environment before you introduce your pet to this situation. Information will be provided to you at the Orientation on how to schedule this visit.

**After the Observation visit** two **Evaluation Visits** will need to be completed successfully, at two different facilities, with two different TherapyPets Evaluators. Details on how to schedule these evaluation visits are provided at the Orientation.

**After you have successfully completed** the two evaluation visits, you will need to send in your paper work along with registration fee of \$40. You will be issued a photo I.D. badge with your dog's picture on it for use on visits. Registration with Vet Forms must be renewed annually.

**We ask that you commit** to a minimum of three facility visits (lasting approximately one hour each for a total of three hours) per quarter.

***Thank you for your interest in TherapyPets***

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TherapyPets IS A CALIFORNIA NON-PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION WITH FEDERAL 501(C)(3) TAX EXEMPT STATUS. DONATIONS TO THERAPYPETS MAY BE TAX EXEMPT AS THE LAW ALLOWS. \*THE WINGED-DOG GRAPHIC AND PAW-PRINT LOGO ARE TRADEMARKS OF THERAPYPETS.