

PAWSIBILITIES UNLEASHED PET THERAPY OF KENTUCKY, INC

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM INFORMATION

To begin the process of having your dog tested for our therapy dog program, please schedule a date when you can bring your dog to one of our obedience classes to be evaluated by our trainer. Our obedience classes are held on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm or on Saturday mornings at 11:30 am at our training facility located at 1410 Versailles Road, Suite 5, Frankfort, KY 40601. We are located in the Jett Town Plaza next door to the Honda Dealership. The cost of the evaluation is \$35.

If your dog passes our temperament test for a therapy dog, you will be able to begin your 10 hours of supervised therapy dog work with one of our therapy dog program team leaders. You will fill out our Therapy Dog Application and you must enroll with our organization and you will be required to pay for insurance through our organization. The insurance fee schedule is as follows: First year - \$35 for one dog, \$10 additional for each additional dog or handler. Once you have completed your initial 10 hours of supervised visits, you will be able to begin attending therapy visits without having a PUPT team leader with you. You can also begin setting up your own visits with locations you choose. Please keep in mind that you must have the facilities permission to bring your therapy dog into their facility.

Each year you will have to turn in paperwork showing you have completed at least 10 hours of therapy work with your dog in the previous year and pay your renewal fee for the insurance of \$25 (\$10 for each additional dog). If you do not renew your insurance coverage with us, you will no longer be a certified therapy dog team through our organization.

If your dog does not pass our temperament testing for a therapy dog, you will be required to enroll him/her in our obedience class for 6 weeks at \$200 to ready him/her for therapy dog work. He/she will be retested during the classes by our trainer and you will be notified when he/she is ready to begin the supervised therapy dog visits.

***If at any time during your 10 hours of supervised visits or any other time during your therapy dog work your dog displays any unruly behavior, aggression, or any other behavior that is considered uncharacteristic of a therapy dog, you and your dog will be dismissed from our program.**

Call 888-759-4920 to make an appointment to have your dog evaluated or to sign up for our 6 week obedience course.

Guidelines for Therapy Dogs

- All Dogs must be spayed or neutered to be a therapy dog with our organization.
- Dogs must keep "Four on the Floor" and not on the people. (Means no Jumping except thru hoops or trick jumps).
- Dog must have reliable Sit-Wait, Sit-Stay and Down-Stay, Down-Wait.
- No charging doors, stairs, etc.
- No food bowl, treat, or toy aggression or "protectiveness".
- No head shyness or hand shyness is allowed.

- Ability to accept strangers touching them.
- Adaptation to strange odors of rooms and patients.
- Adaptation to unusual noises (like breathing ventilator) or loud noises.
- Adaptation to different textures of flooring.
- Adaptation to sudden jerky movements.
- Absolutely no choke chains or prong collars, shock collars, pinch collars, slip collars, spike/stud collars will be permitted. A therapy dog should be trained to the point of being lose leash on a flat buckle collar. No Flexi-leash, no chain leash.

Grooming skills Dogs need to have their toenails trimmed. Keep your dogs clean. Bathe and groom them regularly. You may also use some of the alternative-bathing methods, like the non-sudsing product (much like what hospitals use to shampoo hair) available for dogs or the cleaning/ grooming "wipes" available in the pet section at Wal Mart. The wipes are great for your dog's head, topline and paws before and after each visit.

The Greyhound Foundation recommends a "spritzer" of Listerine for Greyhounds instead of a bath. I know it sounds weird but it makes hair just shine as well as disinfecting any germs. This method would not work for heavy coated breeds of course but rather for the breeds with very thin, almost "to the skin" coats such as the greyhound has. You can also use apple cider vinegar which does the same thing.

REMEMBER--it's important to have your dog clean going IN, but don't forget that you may want to clean your dog when you EXIT, as well as WASH YOUR OWN HANDS. We have always been at greater risk for taking germs OUT than for taking germs IN. That is especially true for ourselves as volunteers, more so than for the dogs.