



Loving Animals Providing Smiles

Bringing acceptance, laughter and love into the lives of others.

What Makes a Good Therapy TEAM ?

- ♥ The team should instill confidence in others. This can only be accomplished if you and your pet can demonstrate you are trustworthy, safe and reliable.
- ♥ The team should have good communication with each other. You should be able to read and understand your pet well, including when the animal is stressed or tired. Your pet must be able to count on you for protection and guidance.
- ♥ The team should be willing to learn and practice new skills throughout their career.

What Makes a Good Therapy Team HANDLER ?

- You must be in control, confident and secure with your pet and your own handling skills.
- You must be responsible for and to your pet at all times.
- You should be dependable and committed.
- You should be open, friendly, sensitive, and interested in others.
- You should be comfortable meeting and talking with challenging populations.
- You should act professionally when visiting people and working with facility staff.
- You should be willing to educate yourself about the populations you visit.

What Makes a Good Therapy PET ?

- The pet must be friendly, social, outgoing, and interested in people for extended periods of time.
- The pet must be compatible and polite with other animals.
- The pet should demonstrate controlled behavior in a variety of public settings with distractions present.
- The pet should have a sound temperament; be able to remain calm in unfamiliar surroundings; and tolerate strange sounds, smells and unusual behaviors.
- Dogs and cats must be at least one year of age; rabbits and other pocket pets must be at least six months of age. All pets must have lived in the handler's home for a minimum of six months prior to team's evaluation.

What Makes a Good Therapy DOG ?

- Rover must have reliable obedience skills (aka "good manners"). These skills include 'sit', 'down', 'come', 'off', 'leave it', 'watch me', 'walk easily on a leash', and 'stay in place'.
- Rover will always be on a leash with a collar or harness whenever performing animal-assisted therapy.
- Rover must be polite and well behaved. This includes waiting until asked to be touched or otherwise physically interacting with a client.

What Makes a Good Therapy CAT and/or RABBIT ?

- Kitty and Bunny will always be on leash and harness while performing animal-assisted therapy.
- Kitty and Bunny should tolerate riding in a carrier while in the car.
- Kitty and Bunny should be used to neutral dogs. In other words, he / she should not climb up your back at the sight of a dog. This should also be true when he / she sees a resident pet, like a cat, during visits.
- Because of shedding, Kitty and Bunny will use a soft-sided cat bed or large towel during therapy sessions.