

Getting started in Animal-Assisted Therapy with your dog is easy as **A-B-C** !!



FALL, 2024



Attend our 6-week class

Be successful on test day

Connect with clients

Loving Animals Providing Smiles (LAPS) is a highly-respected animal-assisted therapy organization with teams working in Napa , Solano and Sonoma Counties. Each team completes comprehensive training to develop advanced skills allowing them to work safely and effectively with clients of all ages and in a variety of settings. LAPS teams provide quality animal-assisted interventions to challenging, fragile and often underserved client populations. For more information about LAPS, please visit our website: www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org



Complete and submit a Canine Team Application “Registration for Handling Skills Class,” along with a copy of pet’s current vaccination records and class fee payment by August 23, 2024. Download “Canine Team Application” PDF from our website (click on the “Join” tab) and mail to our PO Box 6596, Napa, CA 94581.

This training class is specially designed for dogs. Your dog must be at least one year of age, have lived in the home for six-months and be dog-friendly to participate in LAPS. Your pet must also reliably demonstrate Sit, Down, Stay, Walking Politely On-Leash, Accepting Petting from a Stranger and ‘Leave It’ without food or toy reward.

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





Loving Animals Providing Smiles

Animal-Assisted Therapy Team Handling Skills Class → Sept 6 – Oct 5, 2024

The session starts September 6 (evening, handlers only) and continues each Saturday September 7 through October 5 with pet.

- Saturday classes are held at Napa Valley Dog Training Club in Napa from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon, with an additional afternoon review session for handlers on September 28.
- Our goal is to give you the tools to help your pet be a successful therapy partner. During the class you will learn the best way to communicate with your pet and honestly assess your pet's behavior and comfort level.
- Class includes extensive written materials, practicing required skills, building teamwork, role play scenarios, plus working around healthcare equipment and distractions.
- Because lessons build on skills learned in earlier weeks, we ask that participants plan to attend **ALL** sessions. If you have a scheduling conflict, please let us know at the time of registration.
- Teams who attend all class sessions will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate does not indicate team registration or membership in LAPS; nor does completion of the class imply certification / registration as a Therapy Dog or Therapy Team.

LAPS Team Evaluations on October 12

Teams interested in joining LAPS will be offered evaluations on this date. Following a successful evaluation, the team will join LAPS as a Trainee Team and begin working alongside experienced LAPS teams during a short 3-month period. With successful completion of this trainee period, and determination that the team has demonstrated satisfactory skills, the team will become a Certified LAPS Therapy Team.

New Team Orientation on October 26 ❖ CAPERS Team Training TBD

Upon passing the team evaluation, new LAPS volunteers will attend an Orientation (afternoon session - handlers only) to help them get ready for visits. CAPERS (Children and Pets Enjoy Reading Success) daytime training may be offered to those teams assessed appropriate to work with children in reading programs following the successful completion of their training period.



CLASS FEE: \$120

LAPS firmly believes all teams need these foundation skills to be safe and effective in their volunteer service. To that end, we invite people and their dogs to take our class even if they do not intend to pursue LAPS membership. If you do not intend to join LAPS, please indicate on the Class Registration that you are a "non-LAPS team."

Call our office at **707-265-6642** or
email us at info@lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org if you have any questions.