



Therapy Dog Seminar

Produced by Lone Star Pet Express

Benefits of Animal Assisted Therapy

For Mental Health

- Decreases isolation and depression
- Causes many to feel calm
- Bridges communication gaps
- Provides comfort
- Reduces boredom
- Lowers anxiety and decreases agitation
- Creates motivation for the client to recover faster
- Reduces loneliness
- Diminishes emotional pain in seniors

For Physical Health

- The act of petting produces an automatic relaxation response
- Stabilizes blood pressure
- Reduces the risk of heart disease, heart attacks, & stroke
- Improves cardiovascular health
- Breathing slows in those who are anxious
- Releases many hormones such as Phenyl ethylamine which has the same effect as chocolate
- Diminishes overall physical pain



What makes Canines for Christ Different?

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Our mission is to have the love of Christ shine through us and our canines as His disciples by providing a ministry of presence that actively engages with people who need the love, hope and compassion that only God's message can provide.

- C4C is a ministry of presence first and therapy dog organization second
- We use our certified household dogs to show the unconditional love of Jesus
- We believe the dogs are a vessel to lower stress and anxiety to then be given the opportunity to pray with people and share the Gospel with them
- We recognize many different areas of service outside the traditional therapy dog venues to include walks in local parks, shopping centers, dog friendly stores, beaches, campsites, etc



Therapy Dog 101

What Makes a Good Therapy Dog?

- Confident
- Social
- Enjoys Being Touched All Over By a Friendly Stranger

Tips for Success

- Canine Good Citizen Test – Great Starting Point
- Being Prepared is NOT Training to the Test
- Train the Skills – That’s Why We are Here Today
- You are a TEAM – Both You and Your Dog

Must Haves

- Neutral Dog – Must Be Able to Listen to YOU
- The “Leave It” Command/Cue
- NO Jumping – Even Little Dogs (Good Manners)



Planning for Your Visit

- Shirt, Lanyard and Dog Vest
- 4-6 Foot Leash with Flat Collar, Martingale Collar or Harness
- Water / Water Bowl
- Copy of C4C Insurance and Rabies Certificate in Car
- Poop Bags
- A Few Paper Towels
- Paper and Pen
- Hand Sanitizer
- Small Package of Baby Wipes
- Treat Bag and Treats
- Charged Cell Phone
- Small Flashlight
- Contact Information for Facility You are Visiting



** You may want to consider having two leashes in case of client wanting to hold leash.

Look for Signs of Stress

- Turning Away
- Crouching
- Yawning
- Lip-Licking
- Shaking-Off
- Panting
- Ears Back
- Hiding

Be An Advocate for Your Dog!

Every Dog has a Niche – Work to Your Dog’s Strengths!

What if Something Goes Wrong?

- Use Common Sense
- Apologize
- Report If Needed

