

Do you have a well-mannered dog with a lot of love to give? Your dog brings so much joy to you, so why not share that joy with hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, and schools? Becoming a pet therapy team is a great way to give back to the community and share the love of dogs with others!

Therapy Dog Prep Class
Tuesdays June 4th-July 31st 9:30-10:30
9-week curriculum and cost per class is 20 dollars.

Description:

This class is for handlers who are interested in becoming a therapy dog team with their dog. The curriculum combines a mix of lecture and training exercises. We will focus on the skills needed to successfully participate in animal-assisted activities and what behaviors to work on in preparation for a therapy dog evaluation. Many of these skills build on the intermediate obedience skills, while others may be brand new to you and your dog. Exercises will include polite greetings, approaching people using medical devices (wheelchair, cane, walker), challenging “leave its”, and exposure to scenarios typically encountered during therapy work. This class will help in proofing obedience behaviors, introducing real-life distractions, and teaching new skills necessary for reading your dogs’ body language on visits. Therapy Dog Prep class is designed to specifically prepare for work as a therapy dog team and teach the handler to be their dog’s best advocate. In class, we will touch upon therapy dog certification programs and requirements while working methodically towards developing the advanced relationship that you and your canine companion must have to engage in animal-assisted activities. You will learn how to have a positive therapy experience that benefits you, your dog, and the eventual recipients of your visits.

Prerequisite:

Dogs can either have a Canine Good Citizen certificate or MUST have completed a basic obedience class and be reliable on the essential behaviors: sit, down, stay, come, walk calmly on a loose leash, non-reactive to humans and other dogs, and accept touching. If neither of these applies, then you will need instructor permission. Dogs must be 6 months or older.

Contact Information:

If you are interested in learning more and have questions or ready to enroll then please contact me at storytimedogtraining@gmail.com or (724) 244-8743.

