

# THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

BY THERAPY DOGS IOWA



The Frederick Family Dog Training LLC's (FFDT) Therapy Dog Program evaluates, trains, and helps facilitate therapy dog visits within our local communities. Whether the therapy dog is visiting assisted living homes, working full time at an elementary school, becoming a reading dog, an animal assisted therapist, working at a counseling office, or visiting many locations, the benefits of a therapy visits from our canine friends is needed, important, and life changing for everyone involved.

FFDT's Therapy Dog Program offers both general and specific therapy dog training as part of a through process to help owners and their evaluated dogs bless the lives of our community by bringing joy, love, and comfort to individuals and organizations through well mannered, well tempered, and well trained therapy dogs.

FFDT welcomes currently training therapy dogs, owner trained dogs, or program transfers. We also welcome all kinds of personalities and breeds of therapy dogs.

Frederick Family Dog Training LLC operates Therapy Dogs Iowa.

<b>Basic Obedience</b>	FFDT's Basic 12 Commands, general obedience and listening skills, solid foundational skills set.
<b>Canine Good Citizen (All Levels)</b>	AKC's Canine Good Citizen program has test items that showcase a dog's ability to be a "good citizen" while in public. There are three levels of CGC - CGC, Community Canine, and Urban Canine. The Therapy Dog Program tests the Canine Good Citizen and the Community Canine FFDT is an approved evaluator for the AKC. After passing each test, clients have the option to pursue official titling with the AKC. They will also receive an official AKC Ribbon. Lapel pins and Rosettes are available, but at an additional cost.
<b>Therapy Dog Specific Commands &amp; Skills</b>	Commands and Cues such as "Settle", "Back-up", "Head down", etc. are common working dog skills that all FFDT Working Dogs learn. Commands such as ""say hello" or ""meet a friend" can also be utilized. It is vital that Therapy Dogs and their handlers are comfortable in various situations with a variety of environmental factors, different people, and or situations.

# REQUIREMENTS

FFDFT THERAPY DOG PROGRAM



At Frederick Family Dog Training LLC (known as FFDFT from this point forward), we are a private trainer specializing in working dogs such as service, therapy, and emotional support. Because we are a private trainer, we issue our own Certificates and hold our standards to or above the American Kennel Club, Therapy Dogs International, APDT, and other training organizations. FFDFT is an approved AKC evaluator, and we utilize the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program as well as specialized skills/tasks in our working dog requirements and foundational skills. We also hold accreditation through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants as an accredited dog trainer, and the Animal Behavior as a certified service dog trainer, and are professional members of the APDT. FFDFT is Therapy Dogs Iowa.

- Basic Obedience and Foundational Skills
- FFDFT Basic12 List Mastered
- AKC Home Manners or equivalent
- AKC Canine Good Citizen Test
- AKC Community Canine Test
- Evaluation and Acceptance into FFDFT Therapy Dog Program
- \$225 Enrollment Fee
- Therapy work defined, if applicable
- Therapy Dog Agreement Signed
- FFDFT Working Dog Important Skills List
- Up-to-date on all vaccinations required by state law
- Dog registration if required by city/county/state
- AKC Registration if titling CGC through AKC (see "Additional Testing Page" for more information on AKC Titling)
- Minimum Age at Graduation: 12-18 months (can begin training and providing therapeutic services sooner)
- Spayed/Neutered
- Therapy dog skills, general and/or specific to environment
- Minimum six lessons with FFDFT trainer (please note, some clients/dogs desire or need additional lessons)
- Minimum three working lessons (FFDFT specialist present; may use as part of twenty-five documented visits, done in a therapeutic environment)
- Two observations completed at end of program (included in enrollment fee)
- Minimum twenty-five successful *documented* therapy dog visits while in training, uploaded to visit verification link
- Minimum six group trains (two are included in enrollment)
- Highly Recommended: Intensives, Additional Group Trains
- Demonstrated impulse control and ability to function with distractions
- Free from inappropriate reactivity, aggression, and behavior problems
- Must document at last one therapy dog visit every six months to remain active as an FFDFT Therapy Dog.
- One annual Therapy Dog observation for duration of active therapy dog work life \$40

**You are able to begin training at any age and skill level. These are final requirements.**

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Below is a list of anticipated costs associated with the Therapy Dog Program.

<p><b>THERAPY DOG ENROLLMENT FEE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes the FFDT testing fees for all levels of Canine Good Citizen and other skills testing fees from FFDT</li> <li>• One Gentle leader or Easy Walk harness</li> <li>• Bandana and FFDT ID Card</li> <li>• Two observations at end of program</li> <li>• 2 group trains</li> <li>• \$225</li> </ul>
<p><b>FFDT FOUR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Obedience/Basic 12, CGC oriented, Therapy Skills, Working Lesson, Lifestyle, etc.</li> <li>• \$460/four 60-minute lessons</li> </ul>
<p><b>INTENSIVE, OPTIONAL</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini Intensive (5 hrs. worth) \$700</li> <li>• Intensives (full 10 hrs.): \$1400</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP TRAINS &amp; WORKSHOPS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two group trains are required. These come with the enrollment. More group trains are highly recommended.</li> <li>• Additional group trains are \$50/group</li> <li>• Group Train Punch Passes (6 groups): \$250</li> <li>• Workshops: \$15/workshop or Workshop Punch Pass (6 workshops) for \$75</li> </ul>
<p><b>ANNUAL OBSERVATIONS: ACTIVE THERAPY DOG STATUS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One observation annually is required to remain in active FFDT therapy dog status.</li> <li>• \$40/year, billed annually; can request to stop active status at any time in writing and you will no longer be billed annually or listed as active.</li> <li>• 30-45 minute observation</li> </ul>
<p><b>PRIVATE LIABILITY INSURANCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that each therapy dog team acquires their own private liability insurance. You are only covered if in the presence of FFDT owner, or at an official FFDT sanctioned event.</li> </ul>

# THE FFDT BASIC 12

## BASIC OBEDIENCE SKILLS



<b>SIT</b>	The dog sits on bum and back legs.
<b>COME</b>	The dog will come to whomever called him or her.
<b>LAY DOWN</b>	The dog lays all the way down with legs and belly on the ground. This can be at a square lay down or a settle.
<b>STAY</b>	The dog stays in the exact location the owner places it in. The dog does not release until told.
<b>WAIT</b>	The dog can have it, do it, or go there – just not yet. The dog utilizes self regulation skills and waits for further instructions.
<b>LOOK</b>	The dog focuses and looks at owner, waiting for further instructions.
<b>GO TO BED/SPOT/PLACE</b>	The dog goes to the designated location willingly and waits there until further instructions.
<b>LEAVE IT</b>	The dog does not have access to it – ever.
<b>DROP IT</b>	The dog releases/drops whatever is in it's mouth.
<b>OFF</b>	4 Paw Rule: All four paws come to the ground. The dog gets off of whatever it was on.
<b>LOOSE LEASH WALKING</b>	The dog walks at a relative heel/side position with a nice "J" shape in the leash. The dog does not try to pull.
<b>SOCIALIZATION</b>	Socialization is the environment as a whole: dogs, people, sounds, critters, smells, sights, experiences, etc.

# FREDERICK FAMILY DOG TRAINING LLC LESSON DESCRIPTIONS AND COSTS

UPDATED JANUARY 2026



Below is a list of all service and lesson descriptions and costs of Frederick Family Dog Training LLC. All lessons, Intensives, and group train options are valid for one calendar year from Month of purchase to the following year, same month.

<b>Consultation - \$50</b>	For non-working dog potentials (general clients), a consultation is required to obtain baselines, goals, etc.
<b>FFDT Four - \$460</b>	A set of four lessons of any kind.
<b>Evaluation - \$80</b>	All dogs must undergo an evaluation to be accepted into our Service Dog or Therapy Dog Program.
<b>Dog Finder Service - \$150+</b>	FFDT can help find you a dog to fit your needs. Fee required prior to search. Family dog - \$150+; Service or Therapy dog - \$200+
<b>Service Dog Enrollment - \$450</b>	Enrollment into our Service Dog Program, covering cost of basic gear/equipment, testing fees, and two required group trains.
<b>Therapy Dog Enrollment - \$225</b>	Enrollment into our Therapy Dog Program, covering cost of basic gear/equipment, testing fees, and two required group trains.  Service dogs do have the option to dual enroll. Talk to FFDT directly about this option.
<b>Group Punch Pass - \$250</b>	A punch pass of six group trains.
<b>Workshop Punch Pass - \$100</b>	A punch pass of six workshops.
<b>Intensives - \$1400</b>	The Intensive Program is a lot of training, packed into a shorter amount of time. A trainer from FFDT will take your dog for the selected hours, and return them to you after that block of time.  Intensives Program: 2 hrs/5 days in a row: \$1400  Other Intensives available: Mini Intensives: 1-1.5 hrs Intensive, 2-3 days in a row or 5 days in a row - Contact FFDT directly for pricing for Mini's <i>Please note: The Service Dog Program requires the full Intensives; the Mini does not count towards the program, though they are beneficial.</i>
<b>Single Lesson - \$165</b> <b>Single Group Train - \$50</b> <b>Single Workshop - \$20</b>	A single lesson of any kind. A single group train. A single workshop.

# FREDERICK FAMILY DOG TRAINING LLC

## LESSON TYPES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026



<b>BASIC/FOUNDATIONAL</b>	One-on-one lesson focused on basics and foundational skills
<b>WORKING DOG LESSON</b>	One-on-one lesson focused on therapy dog skills or service dog skills
<b>LIFESTYLE</b>	One-on-one lesson with FFDT trainer training alongside your daily life living
<b>TAKE &amp; TRAIN</b>	A lesson in which a trainer from FFDT picks up, trains, and drops off your dog
<b>DAY TRAIN</b>	An extended lesson (3+ hours) in which a trainer from FFDT picks up, trains, and drops off your dog
<b>GROUP TRAIN</b>	Training with other dogs and owners in a group setting
<b>WORKSHOP</b>	Handler only workshops for service dog and/or therapy dog handlers
<b>INTENSIVES</b>	Training in which FFDT will pick up, train, and drop of your dog. Training is done in an intensive manner, putting a lot of training into a shorter amount of time. Scheduled 2-5 days in a row.
<b>EVALUATION</b>	To evaluate a dog for potential service work or therapy work
<b>CONULT LESSON</b>	To allow FFDT trainer(s) to get to know you, your dog, your dog's learning style, current baselines, behaviors, and set goals
<b>VIRTUAL</b>	A one-on-one recorded zoom skills training session, 60 minutes

# AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB



<b>SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING</b>	The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
<b>ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER</b>	The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.
<b>APPEARANCE AND GROOMING</b>	The dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.
<b>OUT FOR A WALK/WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD</b>	The handler/dog team will take a short "walk" to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.
<b>WALKING THROUGH A CROWD</b>	The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.
<b>SIT &amp; DOWN ON COMMAND WITH STAYING IN PLACE</b>	The dog will respond to the handler's commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). (20 foot lead)
<b>COMING WHEN CALLED</b>	The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. (minimum 10 feet)
<b>REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG</b>	To demonstrate that the dog can behave politely around other dogs, two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.
<b>REACTION TO DISTRACTION</b>	To demonstrate the dog is confident when faced with common distracting situations, the evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane.
<b>SUPERVISED SEPARATION</b>	This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes.

# ADDITIONAL TESTING INFO

## WORKING DOG PROGRAMS



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As described above, Therapy Dogs within the Frederick Family Dog Training LLC's Therapy Dog Program undergo many tests on their journey to becoming a therapy dog.

More details on the AKC's Community Canine and Urban test can be found on our website, on the official AKC website, but will be given to you upon enrollment in the program

If there are any specific therapy dog skills or therapy tasks needed for an individual therapy dog team, these will be defined after enrollment into the program. Most therapy dogs start as general therapy dogs, and then, if needed, add in a specialty, such as autism support therapy dog, or hospital therapy dog.

The reason we do not provide you with the details of the all above tests right away is only to help with information overwhelm. We are an open book about all testing items, techniques and methods of training, and everything related to our therapy dog program; however, we know that the information can be overwhelming. Rest assured, we are with you every step of the way, and it is our goal to make the process as seamless and simple as possible. You are able to view AKC's testing items on their website, as listed above.

Other titles and testing options available as a fun and enriching activity for dog and owner are AKC Trick Dog Novice-Performer, AKC Virtual Home Manners, AKC Fit Dog, and AKC Fetch. These are all optional, yet a fun and engaging bonding opportunity with dog and owner.

\*AKC Registration is required if you want your dog to be on record with the American Kennel Club with their CGC titles. FFDT does not require the dog to have official CGC titles, but it is highly recommended. The AKC has their own fees for official titling.