

THERAPY DOG CERTIFICATION INFORMATION BOOKLET

3 DAY COURSE + ONLINE SUPPORT

TRAINING & VENUE DETAILS

Day 1&2, 10-4pm – Therapy
Dog Practical Skills Training
and Theory. 1ST Ballan Scouts
Hall, 60 Inglis St Ballan 3342

Toilet and Kitchenette
Available

Day 3, 10-4pm – Assessment,
Visitation experience and
Certificate Presentation.
Ballan 3342

Toilet Available
Lunch Provided

WHAT IS A THERAPY / VISITATION DOG?

Therapy Dogs are dogs that bring joy, affection, comfort and non-medical support to humans. They are often found in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, counselling and psychological centers, among other community centers.

A Therapy Dog is **not** an Assistant Dog! An Assistant Dog is a specially trained “aid” that is legally allowed to enter all premises to support its handler with a medical issue. A Therapy Dog is not automatically granted public access into facilities, rather they must receive prior permission from the facility owner for entrance.

Therapy / Visitation Dogs are pet dogs with a difference! They have reliable obedience and have been assessed as having a suitable and stable Therapy Dog temperament which is non-reactive, and which naturally loves people. To perform their role, Therapy Dogs must demonstrate good behaviour and be well mannered, they **MUST** enjoy human attention and be non-reactive to the environment or people around them. Therapy Dogs must be stable and responsive to basic obedience exercises in all settings. No special pre-training is required. During our 3-day intensive, we will teach your dog the skills and mannerisms required.

3 DAY THERAPY DOG TRAINING COURSE

This course certifies you as a Therapy Dog Handler, and your dog as a Therapy / Visitation Dog. The course is conducted over 3 full days. It teaches your dog appropriate manners, Therapy Dog obedience and refines the necessary dog-human skills. Accordingly, your dog does not need to be already perfectly trained, this course provides you and your dog the required training and skills necessary to achieve the Therapy Dog standards.

The Handler Certificate will enable you to take your dog with you to work (given your employer has granted you permission to do so), where he/she can accompany you as a Therapy Dog for Animal Assisted Activities **AAA**. If you do not have a prior qualification, this certificate enables you to seek permission from public facilities to bring your Therapy Dog into their facility to provide generalised wellbeing through dog-human contact. This means



COMPANION DOG TRAINING
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you can enter facilities – with permission from the facility owner– as a Therapy Dog Handler with your Therapy Dog.

If you have a young or excitable pup, who is a Therapy Dog prospect but may need some more time to mature and practice their skills training, consider attending our “dog in training” option. *Don't waste time focusing on the wrong exercises!* Attend Day 1 & 2 and leave with an individual training plan, highlighting the areas that need practice. Return to a later course date, when your dog is ready to attend the Day 3 assessment and visitation placement to receive certification. Please see the SERVICES guide on our website for all costs.

Dogs 6-12m old graduate with full Therapy Dog access under a Probationer Certificate

Dogs 12m old + graduate with full access as a New Graduate Therapy Dog Certificate

Dogs may undergo temperament changes throughout their life due to reasons such as age, illness or life experience. Therefore, it is best practice to complete annual recertification. This requires the Handler and Dog team to re attend the Day 3 session only.

Our course provides you with online access to many documents and example templates required for AAA. Such as;

- Therapy Dog on site policies
- Risk Assessment example templates
- Client Screening
- Consent Forms
- Signage

THErapy DOg REGULATIONS:

organisations (hospitals, schools, courts of law, prisons) require dogs entering the facility, to obtain certification as a "Therapy Dog" before gaining access permission. This is also the label used for the provision of funding to schools for "Wellness Dogs" on site. As a result, having a Therapy Dog Certificate identifies that your dog is not "only a pet", rather has completed testing and assessment and has been found to meet the standards which ensure they are safe to the public, and are temperamentally sound.

Certified Therapy Dog!

A “certificate” demonstrates that the individual has undergone some type of education / training or assessment by a qualified professional or organisation.

A certificate is not a qualification. Qualifications sit with national regulators such as ASQA and Dogs cannot hold a qualification in Australia.

Highly recommended. Very professional, punctual and experienced trainer. She made the training look so easy. -RONNY SHAW-

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Currently Therapy & Visitation Dog standards are set and held by industry, not by State.

Each organisation has their own policies, views and opinions, however for us - Companion Dog Training: we develop our assessment and standards in line with peak industry bodies best practices. Such as Animal Therapies Ltd (Australian) and the AAAIP. (International)

Assessor- Madeline is a qualified and nationally accredited Level 4 trainer - IV in Dog Training and Behaviour. As well as a IV Trainer and Assessor. With hands-on industry experience delivering Therapy Dog programs in Correction Centers, Aged care and Animal Assisted Education, personally handling Therapy Dogs and creating contextualised programs. Upon assessment and certification with Companion Dog Training, the handler and dog team are endorsed by Registered Dog Training Establishment- Companion Dog Training. BR131531.

This means the dog has been found to be no risk - safe to engage with the community and has demonstrated the skills and standards required of TD.

Currently it is not illegal to offer to volunteer and bring your pet dog into a place like aged care to promote happiness however, most places and especially when engaging in fee for service, large or government organisations like Correctional Centers, Schools etc will have policy that Therapy Dogs on site must be certified. Certified meaning - the dog has been assessed by a qualified professional and is actively endorsed.

These policies set a benchmark and reduce risk when facilitating Animal Assisted Services. Ensuring the dog engaging with the community is a good canine citizen and suitable for the role. This is something that cannot be ascertained by the owner due to emotional bias. Following best practice recommendations outlined by peak industry bodies bring together a framework for standardisation of the Therapy Dog role, its expectations and standards!

This Therapy Dog Course enables you to find work or volunteer in any setting you wish. It is ideal for those who wish for their dog to be delivering **AAA** in either a volunteer or paid capacity in public facilities or at your place of employment.

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PREREQUISITS FOR THE COURSE

1. Dogs must enjoy pats be confident and have high trust and social attraction to humans.
2. Zero history of bite or aggression directed at humans.
3. Not be dog or people aggressive. Dogs must not guard food or toys from people.
4. Enjoy attention and affection from strangers.
5. Up to date with vaccinations, flea, and worming. Dogs must be house/toilet trained.
6. Be 6 months or older.
7. Not be environmentally nervous, anxious, shy, or skittish.
8. Dogs must be positively crate trained or tether quietly (supervised)
9. All owners need to be physically able to control their dog.

Dogs enrolled should have a strong relationship with their owner where they are allowed inside, and where they spend considerable time each day with their owner.

Not every dog has a suitable temperament to become a Therapy Dog. Regardless of Breed! Obedience and skills can be trained to any dog, however a stable, calm and people loving temperament cannot! These traits must be innate in your dog.



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Walking halters can assist in meeting leash walking standards. We recommend the Black Dog Training Halter.

If your dog is already leash trained and has reliable leash walking manners a halter is not mandatory.

CAN MY DOG FAIL?

There is NO guarantee that joining the course will ensure certification. A **Fail** grade is possible (though unlikely) if your dog meets the prerequisites. A fail grade may be due to your dog's obedience, temperament, lack of enjoyment for the role or not meeting therapy dog standards. Some dogs show fantastic promise but may just need a little more practice time. If you do receive a fail grade, specific advice will be given to why your dog failed. Reassessment can be pursued at a later course date. We provide a non-refundable service.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

- Black Dog Training Halter (available for purchase)
- Long lead (available for purchase)
- Favourite toys, food or treats.
- Dog bed or crate
- Water bowl, water, poo bags, etc.
- Lunch/snacks for yourself.
- Device phone/ipad etc.
- Dog chew / filled kong or lick mat.

Contact Us

COMPANION DOG TRAINING

BALLAN, VIC 3342

ABN 96391501180

0418 633 330

<https://vongorongsdandtraining.com/>



HOW TO BOOK! Please contact us to request an enrolment form. Once received, a Tax Invoice will be issued, you can then pay your deposit. A non-refundable \$200 deposit will secure your place. Please note: No places are secure until your deposit has been received. Full payment is due 14 days before course commencement. Due to venue hiring costs and capped training places we have a NO refund policy after this timeframe. In the circumstance of an unforeseen event, fees can be transferred to a later course date.

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