

# 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. 1<sup>ST</sup> 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, and non-medical support to humans. They are often found in hospitals, nursing homes, court houses, schools, childcare centers, libraries, counselling and psychological centers, and exam halls, 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  
BR:131531

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. Dogs undergoing recertification will receive a Therapy Dog Certificate of Proficiency.

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:

Currently in Australia, there is no regulating organisation that govern Therapy Dog status. There is however a set of standards that Therapy Dog trainers hold to - such as temperament testing, obedience training and socialisation standards etc. Therefore, Therapy Dogs in Australia are certified through the companies registered dog training establishment. Many 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.

When your dog receives a certificate as a Therapy Dog, and you receive a certificate as a Therapy Dog Handler, you obtain this and are endorsed through COMPANION DOG TRAINING, registered dog training establishment Ballan 3342 BR131531.

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

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## PREREQUISITS FOR THE COURSE

1. Dogs must enjoy pats and have a high social attraction to humans.
2. Not be dog or people aggressive. Dogs must not guard food or toys from people.
3. Accept attention and love from strangers.
4. Up to date with vaccinations, flea, and worming. Dogs must be house/toilet trained.
5. Be 6 months or older.
6. Not be environmentally nervous, anxious, shy, or skittish.
7. 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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## 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.

All dogs are required to wear a Black Dog Training Halter unless prior approval has been given. The Training Halter will signify to the dog when they are working as a Therapy Dog and are an important training tool.

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

## 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.

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## Contact Us

### COMPANION DOG TRAINING

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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