

# THE THERAPY DOG TRAINING INFORMATION BOOKLET

3 DAY COURSE

## TRAINING & VENUE DETAILS

Day 1&2 – Therapy Dog  
Practical Training and  
Theory. Coimadai Park  
Training Arena, Coimadai  
3340

Toilet and Kitchenette  
Available

Day 3 – Testing and  
Certificate Presentation.  
Ballan 3342

Public Toilets Accessible



## WHAT IS A THERAPY 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! Therapy Dogs are trained to provide non-life saving affection, comfort, and support to all people. An Assistant Dog is a specially trained “aid” that is required to pass a Public Access Test and is legally allowed to enter all premises. A Therapy Dog is not automatically allowed public access into facilities, rather they must receive prior permission from the facility owner for entrance.

They are pet dogs with a difference! Therapy Dogs have been taught high levels of 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 have impeccable manners, they **MUST** enjoy human attention and be non-reactive to the environment or people around them. Therapy Dogs must be well trained and responsive to their owners in all settings. Don’t worry if your dog isn’t very obedient yet! During the 3 day course we will teach your dog impeccable manners. No special pre training is required.

## 3 DAY THERAPY DOG TRAINING COURSE

This course certifies you as a Therapy Dog Handler, and your dog as a Therapy 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.

This training does **NOT** qualify you as teacher/counsellor/psychologist/aged care worker etc. If you are already a qualified teacher, counsellor, psychologist, aged care worker etc. This certificate will enable you to take your dog with you to work (given your employer has granted you permission to do so). If you do not have a prior qualification, this certificate enables you to seek permission from public access facilities to bring your Therapy Dog into their facility to provide generalised wellbeing through dog-human contact. This means you can enter facilities – with permission from the facility owner– as a therapy dog handler with your Therapy Dog.

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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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## **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 Dog training in Australia is certified through the dog training company's own business. Many organisations (hospitals, schools, courts of law, prisons) require dogs entering the facility to be certified as "Therapy Dogs" before gaining access permission. This is also the label used for the provision of funding to schools for "emotional support dogs" on site. As a result, having a Therapy Dog certificate helps to identify that your dog is not "only a pet", rather has completed training and testing and has been found to meet the standards which ensure they are safe to the public, are temperamentally sound, and have been taught how to be calm and bring joy to people.

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 my business COMPANION DOG TRAINING.

My Therapy Dog Course is ideal for those who are already working as teachers, nurses, support aids, psychologists etc. And who wish to bring their dog with them to work as a Therapy Dog at their place of employment. Also, for people that want their dog to provide emotional support through mental health or similar illness. It is also for those who may be retired and wish for their dog to provide joy in a volunteer or semi-paid capacity.

Accordingly, your dog does not need to be already trained, this course provides you and your dog the required training to achieve the Therapy Dog standards. Day 3 will include testing to ensure the standards have been met, following this with a certificate presentation upon completion, which enables you to find work or volunteer in any setting you wish. This certificate is valid for use across Australia.

## **PREREQUISITS FOR THE COURSE**

1. Dogs must enjoy pats and have a high social attraction to humans.
2. Not be dog or people aggressive.
3. Accept attention and love from strangers.
4. Up to date with vaccinations, flea, and worming.
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. Therapy Dog obedience can be trained to any dog but a stable and people loving temperament cannot! These traits must be born into your dog.



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.

## COMPANION DOG TRAINING **CAN MY DOG FAIL?**

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 of the role or not meeting therapy dog standards. There is no guarantee that joining the course will ensure certification. If you do receive a fail grade, advice will be made available to you specific to why your dog failed. It is up to you whether you would like to continue to pursue your therapy dog status at a later course date. The cost to reattempt Day 3 testing is \$100.

## 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/>



**VON GORON**  
GERMAN SHEPHERDS

## HOW TO BOOK!

Please contact me to request an enrolment form. Once I have received your form, payment details will be provided, you can then send through your deposit \$500 which will secure your place. Please note: No places are secure until your deposit has been received. Any cancellations must be made 2 weeks prior to course commencement. Due to venue hiring costs and capped training places we have a NO refund policy after this timeframe. Full payment is due 14 days before commencement.