

# THERAPY DOG CERTIFICATION INFORMATION BOOKLET

## 3 DAY COURSE

### 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! Therapy Dogs 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 or equivalent and is legally allowed to enter all premises. A Therapy Dog is not automatically granted 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 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 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. 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.

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 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.



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 “in training” option! Attend Day 1

COMPANION DOG TRAINING  
DAB: 2023-004

&2 and leave with an individual training plan, highlighting the areas that need addressing. Return at a later course date to attend the Day 3 assessment, visitation placement and certification when your dog is ready.

---

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

---

## **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 training company's own business. 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 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.

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, registered dog training establishment!

This Therapy Dog Course is ideal for those who wish for their dog to provide joy in a volunteer or semi-paid capacity. Also for those who are already working as teachers, nurses, support aids, psychologists etc. Who wish to bring their dog with them to work as a Therapy Dog at their place of employment.

Accordingly, your dog does not need to be already obedience trained, this course provides you and your dog the required training to achieve the Therapy Dog standards. Day 3 will include grading and assessment to ensure the standards have been met, followed by a certificate presentation upon completion, which enables you to find work or volunteer in any setting you wish.

## **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. 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.



## COMPANION DOG TRAINING

DAB: 2023-004

### 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, advice will be given, specific to why your dog failed. Reassessment can be pursued at a later course date. The cost to reattempt Day 3 certification 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.

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.

---

### 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 I have received your form, an invoice will be issued, you can then pay your deposit. A non-refundable \$200 deposit will secure your place. Receipt for TAX purpose is issued. Please note: No places are secure until your deposit has been received. Any cancellations must be made 21 days 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. In the circumstance of an unforeseen event, fees can be transferred to a later course date.