THERAPY DOGS

WHAT IS A THERAPY DOG?

RILEY'S ANGELS

The Short Answer

A Therapy Dog team consists of a handler and dog that have done extensive training together and have been rigorously tested by an independent certifying agency.

For Riley's Angels Therapy Dog teams, this means that the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, one of the oldest and largest Therapy Dog organizations, has observed and tested each team on a minimum of three occasions and has certified them as a working Therapy Dog team. This distinction comes with $5 million dollar liability insurance coverage, an important benefit in this litigious society in which we live.

Therapy Dogs MUST BE CERTIFIED by an accrediting agency.

Note that it is ILLEGAL to claim that a dog is a Therapy Dog without this certification.

Want to learn more? Visit our website at rileysangels.org

What Kind of Dogs Can Be Therapy Dogs?

Any friendly breed of dog could become a Therapy Dog with the right training. The dog's good demeanor may partially be a function of its breed, but it is mostly dependent on how the dog is raised and trained and how evenly its temperament develops. Prior to being accepted as therapy animals, dogs are tested and observed for their response to stimuli, such as loud or confusing noises, suddenly being grabbed, and working around equipment, such as canes or wheelchairs.

Where Do Therapy Dogs Work?

Therapy Dogs go with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

From working with a child who is learning to read to visiting a senior in assisted living, Therapy Dogs and their owners work together as a team to improve the lives of other people.

Other Therapy Dogs go to work with their handlers in schools and other workplaces.

Therapy Dogs do not have public access rights and are only permitted inside facilities with permission from the facility (school, hospital, etc.) owners or administrators.





