

## **4 Paws of Love Therapy Guidelines**

### **Introduction:**

Therapy pets are personal pets which meet the following criteria and pass all required testing and evaluations: Therapy pets must:

- Be at least one (1) year of age
- Be good around other pets
- Listen to their handlers
- Not jump on people when interacting
- Walk on a maximum of a four (4) foot leash without pulling
- Not mind strange noises and smells
- Be calm for petting
- Not be afraid of people or loud sounds
- Be current on all required vaccinations
- Be clean and well groomed

Any pet with the above qualifications are good candidates for pet therapy work.

### **Membership Procedures:**

Membership is a privilege, not a right, granted by 4 Paws of Love Therapy Organization.

Membership consists of completing:

- An initial evaluation (see under 'forms')
- Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test for dog teams
- Recommended to take a pet therapy class for dog teams
- An observation visit
- An orientation
- A minimum of 10 supervised visits (one hour each)
- A final evaluation
- Submit required documents and membership fees

If more than one handler wishes to become certified with a pet, each handler must complete the above requirements. Handlers cannot share the supervised visits or hours.


If a handler wishes to become certified with more than one pet, the handler must complete the above requirements per pet. The pets cannot share the supervised visits or hours.


A handler can only bring one certified pet during a visit.


If your pet is already certified with another organization, some procedures may be bypassed. This will be considered on a case by case basis.


No one under 18 years of age can be a member of 4 Paws of Love Therapy Organization.


### **Procedures for Dog Teams:**


 Recommended (but not required) to complete a pet therapy class. There are a number of training classes in your area. You can contact 4 Paws of Love for a listing.


 Complete the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test. This can be done from any certified dog trainer in your area.


 Complete the Initial Evaluation form. This form must be completed by a certified behaviorist, certified dog trainer, or AKC approved Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluator. A potential member may not evaluate their own pets.

 Once the above have been completed, contact 4 Paws of Love for an orientation and to schedule your first supervised visit.

 Bring completed documents to the orientation.


 Teams in training must carry the completed evaluation form during all supervised visits as well as the visit form.


 A team in training will only be covered by our insurance while on a supervised visit.

 Facility Leaders will complete the visit form at the conclusion of a visit.

 Once certified, a team must be able to commit to a minimum of ten (10) visits per year.

### **Facility Leaders/Teams in Training Supervisors**

 A Facility Leader is a member in good standing, for at least one (1) year who oversees a facility.

 A Facility Leader will supervise a team in training at their facility or may designate another 4 Paws of Love member to supervise a team in training. A supervisor must be a member of 4 Paws of Love for at least one (1) year.