

## **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.

### **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.

