CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

Therapy animals can be a vital part of the treatment team; I hope that you are comfortable with Honey’s presence in your sessions. However, because she is an animal, and not a human, we are responsible for her welfare. In addition, because she is an animal, her behavior cannot always be predictable. Therefore, it is important to discuss in advance the risks and rules needed to insure Honey’s and your safety and health, and try to create as safe a working situation as possible. In addition, it is important to provide you with diligent warning about the potential harm that could be present when working with animals.

While I have listed some of these risks below, we cannot foresee all potential problems that may occur. Therefore by signing this form you are releasing Kimberly Nelson, LMFT and Family Counseling Services from any liability should any injury occur as part of your treatment here.

RISKS:

1. Honey is certified to do Animal Assisted Therapy. She is still young and energetic. You may opt to not have her as part of your session. Should you choose, we will make arrangements so she is not present during the session. Please do not feel obligated to have her participate.

2. Animals have their own natural defenses. While I will do everything possible to prevent any injury, it is possible that someone will get scratched or bitten.

3. Animals often use their mouths in play. Therefore, even when playing, it is possible for light biting to occur. When playing with a toy with Honey, she may miss the toy and get your finger. When she realizes this, she releases and does not bite down, but you may still feel her teeth.

4. While Honey has been screened by a veterinarian before commencing to work as a therapy animal, animals do sometimes carry disease. Because your contact is minimal, this risk is very small. Honey is up to date on all of her vaccinations.

5. Honey has fur and there may be risk for allergic reaction. Please let me know if you typically have allergies to animals.

RULES:

1. Animals have individual rights, just as each client has rights. Therefore, Honey is allowed to determine if and when she participates with others. While it may be planned to have her in session, she will never be forced to do so.

2. Honey has her own quiet space in the office where she can rest, sleep, or just take a quiet break. She should not be disturbed when she is in this area.

3. Honey should always be treated gently. She should never be hit, have her tail or any other parts pulled, be carried or treated in any other way that is uncomfortable to her.

4. Honey will always need me present in any therapeutic situation.

5. If Honey becomes irritated, scared, or in any way acts in a negative manner, I will put her in a safe place. No other person should touch her at these times.

6. Honey can only be carried by her therapist handler.

7. Because of the unpredictability of animals in unfamiliar situations, clients may not bring their own animal to be involved in their therapy session.

8. Parents or guardians of children under the age of 8 must remain on the premises during their child’s session.

By signing below you are stating your acceptance of these rules and risks and agree to accept full liability in the event that Honey harms you or your child in any way in the course of treatment or you or your child is harmed in any way as a result of being on the property of 325 Carlsbad Village Dr Carlsbad, CA 92008 or at any other place while in the presence of Kimberly Nelson MS LMFT and Honey.

Client Name (please print) Date

Client Signature Date

Parent or legal guardian Date

Parent or legal guardian Date

Kimberly Nelson, MS, LMFT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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