



How to become a Pet Partner's Volunteer Therapy Animal Team

Step 1: Complete the Pet Partners Handler Course or attend a workshop

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with your pet as a registered Pet Partners therapy animal team. Your involvement will allow you and your pet to provide comfort and joy to people in need. This document outlines the steps necessary to become registered with Pet Partners. For more information visit www.petpartners.org

Once you've established that your animal is a good candidate for the Therapy Animal Program, it's time for you to start your training as the human end of the leash. Take an in-person workshop or the online *Pet Partner's Handler Course Online*.

For in-person workshops, go to <https://petpartners.org/volunteer/> for a menu of step by step instructions and resources, along with scheduled classes and events.

Step 2: Animal Health Screening

Find a workshop or take the Online Pet Partners Handler Course. Upon completion, you can begin your registration paperwork. This includes an Animal Health Screening Form to be completed by your veterinarian. Written proof of rabies vaccination is required.

Step 3: Team Evaluation

A critical step in the registration process is the team evaluation. During this approximately 45-minute event, you and your animal will meet with a Pet Partners Licensed Evaluator and complete a role play of a therapeutic visit in the community.

Visit Pet Partners for upcoming Team Evaluations in your area. Once you successfully pass the team evaluation, complete your paperwork, with the registration fee, within 90-days at Pet Partners online. You will receive an acceptance letter to begin visiting. A badge will follow and opportunities at Pet Partners to purchase vests / bandanas.

Registration Type	2 Year Registration Fee (subject to change)
New Therapy Animal team w/ one animal	\$95
Renewing Therapy Animal Team w/ one animal	\$70
Community Partner Member w/ one animal, new or renewing	\$50
Senior aged 55 and over; minor; military or military dependent; individual with a disability	\$50
Therapy Animal Program Volunteer only (without an animal)	\$50
Therapy Animal Team Additional Handler	\$30 per handler
Therapy Animal Team Additional Animal	\$30 per animal

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of animals can qualify?

A. Pet Partners registers a variety of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, rats, miniature pigs, llamas, alpacas, horses, donkeys and mini-horses or donkeys.

Q. I just got a new puppy! Can we register?

A. Animals must be at least one year old and have lived in the owner's home for at least six months before evaluating and registering with Pet Partners. Pocket pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs and rats only need to be six months old.

Q. How do I know if my animal is a good candidate for this work?

A. In addition to having good basic manners and socialization skills, animals should be calm and reliable in unfamiliar settings with unfamiliar people. They should not demonstrate avoidance, aggression or fear. All species should be house trained. Dogs which have been trained to aggressively protect and/or been encouraged to bite, even if it is a component of a dog sport (e.g., Schutzhund), are not eligible.

Q. My animal is intact (not spayed or neutered). Can they be registered as a Pet Partner?

A. Yes, however some facilities may not allow intact animals to participate in their programs.

Q. My animal has some health problems. Can we still register?

A. Pet Partners does register animals with conditions requiring prescription medication. However, animals receiving antibiotics, antifungals or immunosuppressive medications (such as steroids or chemotherapy) may not register with Pet Partners until that course of treatment has been completed.

Q. I heard that an animal being fed a raw diet cannot participate in this program. Is this true?

A. Yes. Your animal must be from a raw protein diet for at least four weeks before registering. For more information on Pet Partners' raw protein diet policy, please visit www.petpartners.org/rawdiet

Q. What training courses do you provide for the animal?

A. Pet Partners does not provide any training courses for animals. Your animal should have basic obedience skills and the temperament to succeed when visiting in therapeutic environments. We train the human handler and evaluate the handler and animal together.

Q. Can my children volunteer with me or do this on their own?

A. Children as young as 10 years old can become registered as a team handler. All handlers, regardless of age need to complete the same steps noted on the previous page. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian on all visits. Please be aware, some facilities may have age limits.

Q. What is the required volunteer commitment to Pet Partners?

A. We do not require volunteers to commit to any number of hours or visits per year. We recognize that every person's availability is different. As a volunteer team, you determine where you visit and with what frequency. It is your responsibility to maintain a schedule that works for you and the facility where you volunteer.

Q. How do I find a place to visit once I'm registered?

A. Once you are registered with Pet Partners, log in to our website and find facilities looking for teams in the team resources page. You can network with other local teams or contact places of interest to you and inquire directly with them.

Q. I have two animals, can I register with both?

A. Yes, but you need to have a separate evaluation and complete a separate Registration for each animal. A registered team consists of one human and one animal. Even if you are registered to handle multiple animals, you may only visit with one animal at a time

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