



National Capital Therapy Dogs

P.O. Box 234

Highland, Maryland 20777-0234

301-585-NCTD (6283)

info@nctdinc.org www.nctdinc.org

BECOME A PET THERAPY TEAM CHECKLIST

Prerequisites

Your Dog Must:

- Have passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.
- Be reliably housebroken.
- Have lived with you for at least six months.
- Be at least 10 months old for the Therapy Dog Training Class.
- Be at least 1 year old for the Therapy Dog Evaluation.
- Be in good health, be current with their rabies vaccine, and have a health form filled out by a veterinarian. Copy of the current rabies vaccine must be provided the first day of class.

You Must:

- Be at least 12 years old to volunteer with adult supervision, or at least 16 to volunteer without an adult.
- Preregister for our three educational events: Handler's Class, Therapy Dog Training Class & Therapy Team Evaluation. (Dates & Times can be found on NCTDInc.org)
- Have all non-refundable fees paid prior to attending any of the classes.

Handler's Class

- Bring a copy of your dog's current rabies certificate and AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate.
- Do **not** bring your pet.
- Dress comfortably.

Therapy Dog Training Class

- Teams must attend 5 out of the 6 classes to be eligible for evaluation.
- The sixth class (mall visit) is required to practice skills in a public setting and may be on a different time, day, or location from the other classes.

Therapy Team Evaluation

What to Bring:

- A copy of the animal's current rabies certificate – a rabies tag will not be accepted.
- Animal's brush
- Animal treats – especially if animal has special dietary needs
- Towel – for small animal tests
- If you are not the owner of the animal, we require a note from the owner granting permission for you to work with the animal.



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Therapy Team Evaluation cont.

Requirements:

- The therapy team must present themselves as if they are on a therapy visit.
- The person who will work with the animal must accompany it during evaluation.
- Animal must be on acceptable collar/lead at all times.
 - o *The use of prong, pinch, choke, or electronic/shock collars are prohibited.*
 - o *Flexi Leashes or chain leads are not allowed.*
- Pets must be restrained by a leash, harness, carrier, or other appropriate manner at all times, including birds.
- You are required to sign an indemnity form at the evaluation site.

Additional Notes:

- The evaluation begins when you arrive on the premises and ends when you leave.
- No refunds will be given for teams that do not pass the evaluation.
- A team will not be evaluated more than once a day.
- Rescheduled evaluations will be given if the volunteer is ill, or if the pet is on antibiotics, in season or otherwise doesn't feel its best, please reschedule to have your pet evaluated on a different day. (Please notify NCTD if unable to attend at last minute due to the above reasons)
- NO inhumane treatment of pets will be tolerated.