

POSITION STATEMENT

On Public Access for Therapy Animals



Pet Partners®
Touching Lives, Improving Health

About This Document

Pet Partners holds a variety of positions that are not only important to our message and organization, but are also important to researchers, professionals, facilities, and the general public. The following position statement has been approved by Pet Partners' Human Animal Bond Advisory Board and Board of Directors.

Pet Partners' Position on Public Access for Therapy Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act allows those with disabilities to be accompanied by a working assistance animal (guide, hearing and service dogs and sometimes mini-horses) in public places such as grocery stores, restaurants, and airplanes. While several institutions such as hospitals, schools, or clinical practices allow and encourage the presence of therapy animals, the handlers or owners of the therapy animals are not granted the same rights to public access as assistance dogs.

Therapy animals are both fundamentally and legally different from emotional support or assistance animals. While therapy animals are evaluated and registered for working with the public through a therapy animal organization, it is important to note that this does not give them any public access rights. Pet Partners takes seriously a reported infraction of a registered therapy animal being "passed off" as an assistance animal, or the use of Pet Partners identification, like a vest or badge, to suggest the animal is anything other than a therapy animal. Therapy animal handlers, by always acting with integrity, can be public educators regarding the difference between an assistance animal and a therapy animal.

Pet Partners' Position on Therapy Animal Health and Welfare

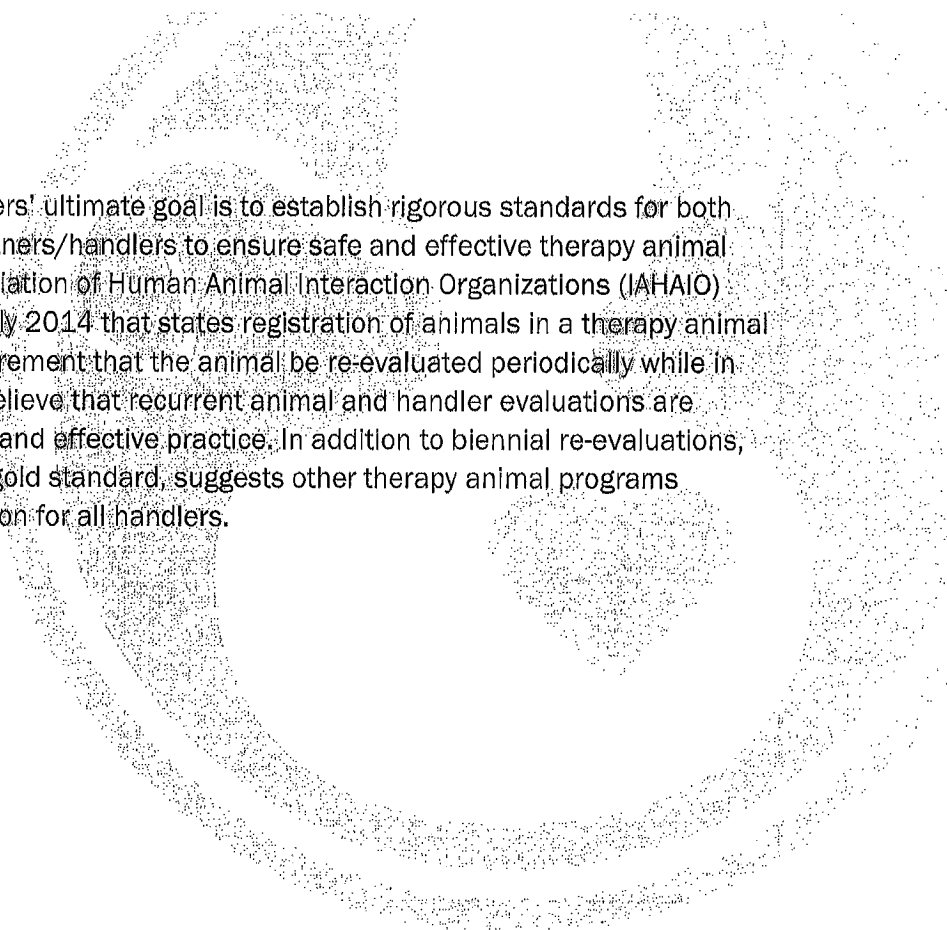
Pet Partners is the nation's leading nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interventions, which includes animal-assisted therapy (AAT), animal-assisted activities (AAA) and animal-assisted education (AAE). Our position on therapy animal health and welfare during animal-assisted interventions is centered on the concept of the handler being an animal's best advocate. Being an animal's advocate requires making decisions based on the preference of the animal, rather than the best interests of a client, researcher, professional, or healthcare team member. This means being attuned to not only the animal's needs for bathroom breaks, food, and water, but also to the animal's unique body language cues. The ability to successfully interpret what an animal is communicating is an uncompromising safety feature in responsible therapy animal visiting practice.

The following are a set of welfare guidelines to keep in mind for any animal engaged in an AAI session:

- ▶ **Pre-visit preparation:** Allow the animal to relieve him/herself before the visit, in an area away from the entrance of the facility. Be sure to pick up waste and dispose of it properly.
- ▶ **Water:** Beware of not letting the animal overheat. Provide water periodically.
- ▶ **Safety first:** Never assume that an individual knows how to touch the animal appropriately. For the welfare and comfort of the animal during the visit, the handler will need to instruct or show adults or children how to pet the animal appropriately.
- ▶ **Visit lengths:** Begin with very short visits, and gradually increase the length. However, for safety and liability reasons, a team should visit a maximum of 2 hours per day.
- ▶ **Timeouts:** Remember that it is preferable to leave after a short time, even 5 minutes, if the animal is becoming stressed. A short, enjoyable visit is better than a prolonged visit that makes the animal uncomfortable.
- ▶ **Stress breaks:** During all parts of a visit, watch for the animal's unique body language cues, and pay attention to its level of comfort. The demands of visiting might lead the animal to need more frequent breaks. Therapy animals should be given the opportunity to relieve themselves a minimum of once per hour.
- ▶ **Other animals:** If other animals will be present, keep at a safe distance. If the animals are allowed to greet one another, the initial meeting is best done outside the facility. This includes resident animals.

Considerations for Therapy Animal Programs

The growth of animal-assisted interventions (AAI), including animal-assisted therapy (AAT), animal-assisted activities (AAA) and animal-assisted education (AAE), relies on the credibility, professionalism, and ethical standards of all those involved. By engaging animals to participate in therapy activities, it is our obligation to ensure an animal is both safe and content during interactions. For this reason, we believe that other therapy animal programs should adopt similar policies of animal advocacy for their organization.



As an organization, Pet Partners' ultimate goal is to establish rigorous standards for both animals and their human partners/handlers to ensure safe and effective therapy animal visits. The International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) published a White Paper in July 2014 that states registration of animals in a therapy animal program must include a requirement that the animal be re-evaluated periodically while in service. At Pet Partners, we believe that recurrent animal and handler evaluations are critical for maintaining a safe and effective practice. In addition to biennial re-evaluations, Pet Partners, as the industry gold standard, suggests other therapy animal programs encourage continuing education for all handlers.

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Considerations for Facilities

Private or publicly owned facilities ranging from hospitals, nursing homes, veterans' centers, hospice, Alzheimer's facilities, courtrooms, and schools have begun to utilize a resident therapy animal in place of visiting therapy animal handler teams.

Facilities interested in incorporating a resident animal into their organization need to determine their specific program goals, target audience or client group, and visitation schedules and settings before pursuing the recruitment of therapy animals to ensure that the right type of animal is chosen. The animal should be screened for suitability as a therapy animal prior to placement. Most importantly, the animal must have a designated handler/owner who is not only intimately familiar with the animal's unique behavioral signals, but also acts as the animal's primary advocate during both the workday as well as after-hours.

It is strongly recommended that a facility interested in acquiring a resident therapy animal should form a multidisciplinary committee to discuss safety, infection control, and any other policies that are relevant to the therapy animal's presence. Within this committee, representative(s) knowledgeable in animal welfare (e.g., a veterinarian) need to create and maintain policies and procedures to ensure safe practice and proper treatment of the animal.

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Grimaldi - Pet Partners New Therapy Animal Team Acceptance Letter

Cindy Crowder <showpap@gmail.com>

Pet Partners New Therapy Animal Team Acceptance Letter

1 message

Operations <operations@peppartners.org>
To: "showpap@gmail.com" <showpap@gmail.com>

Tue, May 29, 2018 at 4:46 PM



Pet Partners®
Touching Lives, Improving Health

Registration start date: May 29, 2018

Cindy Martin
13825 Quarry Oaks Dr
Florence KY 41042-5707
United States

Dear Cindy Martin and Leo,

Collegiate students are welcome to Pet-Partners Therapy Animal Program! We are pleased to welcome you as a registered therapy animal team and a member of Pet-Partners. Your registration has been completed and you are now permitted to begin visiting in your community.

Your ID #: 775894

Qualification Rating: Complex
Expiration Date: June 30, 2020
Special Qualifications: If any:

Your Team ID Beings With Active Separately In 5-6 weeks

If you have not received your badge about 3 weeks, please contact us at expeditioners@expeditioners.org. Please use a copy of this letter as your temporary ID until your badge arrives.

Carry This Letter With You

Facilities may request to see this information. Please keep a copy of the electronic version so you can access it if needed.

You Are Covered through Pot Partners Insurance

are fully covered by Pea Partners' general liability insurance policy. You can print or download a copy of the certificate at <https://peapartners.org>. Insurance certificates This certificate can be used as proof of insurance coverage.

We are here to support you! Please contact us with questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program Staff

T 425-679-5530 | pelpartners.org/about-us/contact-us
www.pelpartners.org | facebook.com/pelsthailand | [@pelpartners](https://twitter.com/pelpartners)

- * *Special Character Key*—applies only if number is on *Special Configuration* line above
 - 1—On-screen work only
 - 2—Readily prefetched characters
 - 3—Clients that are not modically fragile
- 5—Low utility, few discontents
- 7—Special Equipment
- 8—Very low standards while vending

Please see below for further information on benefits available to you as part of your registration!

Benefits and Resources for Registered Pet Partners Therapy Animal Trainers

https://nabulugoo.com/api/v1/vuln?uid=6946&email=dxvnlcdy12g.ah.8cdyngmail_19_18051&id_p83v8awp183&start=1&box11=153&idag644b6d5d2e

The Volunteer Center is your destination for all things related to your team registration! It provides access to helpful resources and continuing education, as well as the ability to log your team visits, search for new volunteer opportunities, manage your contact information and even renew your registration or start a new one. To explore what's available, log in to your Not Partners website account and click a heading in the Volunteer Center menu on the right side of the page.

The Resource Library within the Volunteer Center has a wealth of materials to help you be a safe and effective therapy animal team and to support you in your volunteer activities. Click the Resource Library link and search for a keyword relating to the subject you're interested in.

Visit the Training Center for Continuing Education. Your registration gives you access to free and reduced-price continuing education courses within the Training Center. To browse the available courses, visit Training Center in the Volunteer Center menu.

Log Your Visits. We encourage you to take advantage of the Log a Visit feature. Keep track of the number of visits you make, the facilities you visit and your memorable moments, all in one place. To log your visits, click My Registrations, click on your current lease registration and click Log a Visit.

The volunteer opportunities directory provides listings of visiting opportunities that have been submitted by facilities. Click Find a Volunteer Opportunity in the Volunteer Center menu. You can use a variety of search criteria to view posted opportunities. (Please allow one hour after you receive this letter for your access to the directory to be activated.)

Find licensed Pet Partners Merchandise in the Pet Partners Store.
Interested in purchasing a vest or bandanna for your animal to wear while visiting, Pet Partners apparel for yourself or reference publications?
Visit our online store at www.shop.petpartners.org/catalog.asp

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<https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.201701248>

Pal Partners Therapy Animal Program is a national program that trains, evaluates and registers volunteers and their pets for visiting people in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and other institutions. To be eligible to participate in this program, the animal must be examined by a licensed veterinarian and pass the health screening. It is important to consider that visiting animals may come in contact with infectious diseases because they visit people in healthcare facilities and be a potential source of infections agents for the people they visit. As the animal's veterinarian, you are the best person to render the overall opinion of the animal's health. If this animal has received an annual exam within the last 12 months, this form may be completed without another full examination.

Animal Owner's Name	Cindy Martin	Animal's Name	Leo
Animal's Species/Breed	Parrot	Animal's Age	3 1/2

✓ This animal is current on rabies vaccinations. Animals exempted from this requirement include rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and birds.
 ✓ This animal is free of febrile and/or external parasites at the time of examination.
 ✓ This animal does not eat a raw protein diet or treats to my knowledge.
 ✓ This animal does not display any signs consistent with an infectious disease at the time of examination.
 ✓ If this animal has a condition, it is under control using a prescribed medication. Please note: Animals on oral antibiotics, corticosteroids, or immunosuppressive medications are not able to participate.
 ✓ If this animal has a disability, it will participate fully with accommodations. Please include suggested accommodations below.

I certify that this animal meets all the health criteria outlined by Pet Partners. Provide this completed form to the handler to submit to Pet Partners.

DVM Name:	David M. Hale, DVM		Hobson Animal Hospital-PC
Office	Hobson Animal Hospital		3808 North Bend Road
Narrow:			Hobson, Kentucky 41048
Office			
Website:			
Office			
Address:	3505 N. Bend, Hobson KY 41048		
Phone:	859-689-4700	Email Address:	
Signature of DVM:	[Signature]		Examination Date: 20 April 2018

Please don't hesitate to contact our Program Operations staff at 425.879.6630 or operations@ontariofarm.org if you have any questions.

CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION

Date of Rabies Vaccination: 04-20-18
Next Rabies Vaccination Due: 04-20-21

Certificate No: 0
Previous Rabies Vaccination: <oldtag>

VETERINARY CLINIC
Hebron Animal Hospital, P.S.C.
3505 North Bend Road
Hebron, KY 41048
855-689-4700

OWNER OF ANIMAL
Cindy Martin
1805 Quarry Oaks Drive
Florence, KY 41042
County:

This is to certify...

THAT I HAVE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES THE ANIMAL DESCRIBED BELOW.

Patient Information...

PATIENT: Leo
SPECIES: Canine
SEX: Male
AGE: 3Y

TAG NO: 1101
WEIGHT: 9.80
BREED: Papillon
Color and markings: Tri Color

MICROCHIP:

Signed: *David Hale, DVM*

David Hale, DVM

License: 145318

Vaccinations done...

04-20-18 DH Rabies, 3 yr., #1101

Vaccine Due Date

04-20-21
04-20-21

Rabies Vaccine Information...

MFG BY: ZOETIS
LOT EXP: 11/13/18

SER NO: 230334
ADN:

