

## **K9 Connection Therapy Dogs**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **Could my dog be a Therapy Dog?**

Yes, if your dog is controllable, reliable, and predictable. Your dog should also have good manners in public places, and have the social skills to seek out and visit with strangers. They should not demonstrate avoidance, aggression, or fear. All dogs should be housebroken. Dogs that 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.

#### **Is any particular breed of dog better than another?**

No, both mixed breeds and purebreds can excel at this work. What matters most is the individual animal's personality - that s/he likes people, shows no aggressive tendencies and has confidence in visiting strange places.

#### **Can puppies become Therapy Animals?**

Animals must be at least one year old and have lived in the owner's home for at least six months before being evaluated and tested with K9 Connection.

#### **What training courses does K9 Connection provide for the dog?**

K9 Connection does not provide any training courses for dogs. Your dog should have basic obedience and social skills and the temperament to succeed when visiting in therapeutic environments. We train the human handler and evaluate the handler and animal together.

#### **How does K9 Connection prepare the Therapy Teams?**

K9 Connection trains human volunteers and screens and evaluates person-dog teams for participation in visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and schools. Training for volunteers is provided through hands-on classes taught by K9 Connection. Volunteers and their pets are then evaluated for skills and aptitude by Pet Partners® licensed team evaluators.

#### **What are the steps to become a K9 Connection Volunteer Therapy Dog Team?**

- Step 1:** "Contact Us" to make an appointment for a pre-evaluation screening.
- Step 2:** Submit the requisite K9 Connection documentation found on the "About Us" tab.
- Step 3:** Complete the Pet Partners® Online Handler's Course.
- Step 4:** Complete K9 Connection preparatory Training Classes.
- Step 5:** Pass the Pet Partners® Team Evaluation.
- Step 6:** Submit Your Paperwork to Pet Partners®.

### **When are the Pre-Evaluations, Classes and Tests held?**

<b>Event</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
K9C Pre- Evaluations	February & August	Each Year
K9C Spring Training Classes	March thru May	Early Spring
K9C Fall Training Classes	September thru November	Fall
Pet Partners Evaluation	May & November	Each Year

***Watch the website for specific dates.***

### **Who is Pet Partners®?**

Pet Partners® is the nation's largest and most prestigious non-profit, registering volunteer teams providing animal assisted interactions. K9 Connection follows the rules and guidelines that Pet Partners® provides starting with their online Therapy Animal Handler Course that all K9 Connection applicants must successfully complete.

### **Where do I find the Pet Partners® Handler Course?**

The Pet Partners® Handler Course can be found on their website at [www.petpartners.org/Online\\_Courses\\_Home](http://www.petpartners.org/Online_Courses_Home).

### **How much does it cost to register and become a Therapy Dog Team with K9 Connection and Pet Partners?**

There are fees for the handler course, evaluation and registration. Additionally you will need your vet to complete a health screening, which may have an associated charge.

<b>Registration Type</b>	<b>Fees</b>
K9 Connection Pre-Evaluations and Classes	\$25-One-time fee
Pet Partners New Therapy Dog team w/ 1 dog	\$95-One-time fee
Pet Partners Licensed Evaluation	\$10-Every 2 Years
K9 Connection Membership Fee	\$10-Annually
Pet Partners Team Renewal w/ 1 dog	\$70-Every 2 Years

### **Why am I paying a fee every 2 years?**

Pet Partners® requires that all volunteer groups adhering to their guidelines re-test every 2 years in order to ensure the teams retain the highest levels of standards and efficiency.