

WHAT ARE THERAPY ANIMALS?

- Therapy animals are not the same as service animals or emotional support animals.
- Along with their handler, they visit a wide variety of people including veterans in hospitals, children with learning disabilities, and women in domestic shelters to provide research-based interactions that result in demonstrated positive outcomes.
- In addition to strong obedience skills, these animals have a special aptitude for interacting with members of the public and enjoy doing so.
- Therapy animals are often dogs, but can be other species as well, such as cats, equines, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, llamas, miniature pigs, and even rats.
- Therapy animals have no special rights of access, except in facilities where they are welcomed. They do not ride in airplane cabins and must abide by - no pets - policies in housing.



Read more about the benefits
[www.petpartners.org/
benefits-human-animal-bond](http://www.petpartners.org/benefits-human-animal-bond)

About **Pet Partners**

Pet Partners, formerly known as the Delta Society, is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting the health and wellness benefits of animal-assisted therapy, activities, and education. Since the organization's inception in 1977, the science proving these benefits has become indisputable. With more than 13,000 registered teams making more than 3 million visits annually, Pet Partners serves as the nation's most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams.

Therapy Animal Standards

- Standards are necessary for both the safety of the people involved as well as the therapy animal's welfare.
- Training is just as necessary for the handler. Handlers need working knowledge of relevant best practices, from infection prevention and HIPAA to working with the needs of specific populations.
- Handler-animal teams should be re-evaluated regularly to ensure therapy animals remain suitable as they age.
- Recognizing that animals are asked to participate, their welfare is prioritized; they should enjoy, not simply tolerate, therapy work.
- Safety standards are critical, including requirements for vaccination, diet, and health conditions. Learn more at www.petpartners.org/standards

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