

# What We Do

### What Does a Therapy Dog do?

Therapy dogs are trained to provide comfort and affection to people other than their handlers or owners. That could mean visiting a variety of places where people need love and affection, such as hospitals, schools, hospices, nursing homes, disaster areas, and more. They are encouraged to interact with a variety of people and should have a friendly and warm disposition.



Providing Affection Well-being Support

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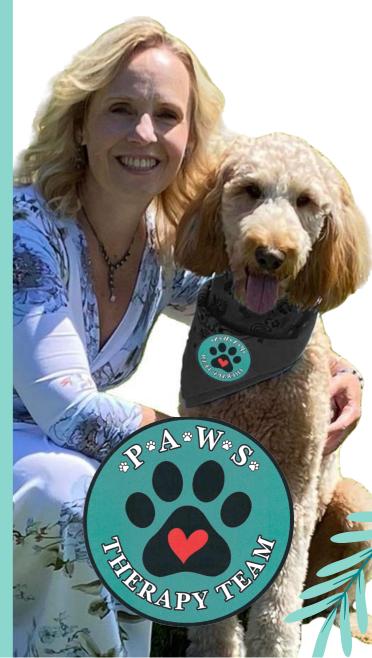
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PAWS Therapy Team is a Non-Profit Organization. EIN 85-1701103

## P.A.W.S Therapy Team

## $Providing \ Affection \ Well-being \ Support$



# About Us

### Why P.A.W.S Therapy Team is Your Best Choice

#### **Extensive Testing**

Our certified therapy dogs undergo extensive testing to make sure that they have good manners and react positively to being touched by strangers. After passing the test, PAWS requires that the dog and the handler complete successful supervised visits in a facility, school, or other public venue where they must successfully interact with strangers in therapy-like settings.

#### **Clean, Groomed & Healthy**

Our therapy dogs are cleaned and groomed before visits, up-to-date on rabies vaccines and other inoculations recommended by their personal veterinarians.

#### **Covered by Our Insurance**

PAWS provides insurance for its volunteer teams in the unlikely event someone is injured as a result of interacting with the therapy dog.



# **Our Community**

Our members visit special needs centers, schools, nursing homes, and other venues. Teams have volunteered with the local county courts, children services, Red Cross, VA, and attend crisis calls. The exact nature of their role differs from dog to dog and from institution to institution. Some include:

- Improving patients' mental health through socialization and engagement
- Giving children with learning disabilites the confidence to read out loud
- Help employees feel more resilient at dealing with stress and lessen their reactions to stressful situations

# **Therapeutic Visits**

### Sharing Our 4-Legged Friends to Spread Smiles & Joy

Researchers and experts agree that pets excel as therapeutic agents and that dogs are an antidote to depression. Studies have shown a decrease in both blood pressure and stress levels during therapy dog visits. A visit from one of our therapy dog teams can break the daily routine, increase overall emotional well-being, and stimulate the mind in dramatic ways.

Our certified therapy dogs offer so many wonderful benefits to people of all ages such as:

- Bringing joy and laughter, even if for a short time
- Taking a person's mind off of personal problems, aches, pains and worries
- Getting people to share their stories, emotions, and rekindling warm memories of their pets
- Giving a chance for people to communicate with others
- Lowering stress levels and blood pressure