

















IMPORTANT RULES, POLICIES, AND INFORMATION

-  You must have verbal control over your dog. To Canine Therapy Corps (CTCorps), this means your dog will respond to your voice commands (sit, down, stay, come, heel, etc.) within 4 commands, without the necessity of using the leash, training aids, body language (simple hand commands are okay), additional sounds or vocalizations, or intimidation to encourage the required behavior. Handler must always be standing and upright when commanding Test Dog.
-  To be eligible for CTCorps' therapy dog assessment, your dog must be at least one-year-old.
-  Your dog must have completed at least a six-week obedience class or equivalent private training. Puppy classes do not count towards this requirement.
-  Your fully completed paperwork, including reservation form, volunteer application, and payment, must be received prior to confirming your slot in an upcoming therapy dog assessment. Your certification of animal health is due by 12:00 p.m. the Monday prior to your assessment date. No exceptions.
-  Please watch the assessment video on our website (www.caninetherapycorps.org/certification-test/) prior to attending the assessment.
-  You are required to use a four or six-foot lead; flexi-leads are not permitted. You must use a flat, buckle collar at the assessment. Your dog may not wear any additional collars at the assessment, nor may there be anything attached to your leash or person. Noncompliant equipment will result in automatic failure.
-  No training aids of any kind may be used during the assessment, including, but not limited to food, clickers, harnesses and training collars (electronic, prong, slip, martingale/limited slip, etc.). Do not bring food into the room with you on assessment day. If you have a question regarding training aids or equipment, ask.
-  Walk your dog prior to bringing them into the assessment site. Elimination at assessments will result in automatic failure.
-  Only registered dogs may attend the therapy dog assessment. Other dogs and pets are not allowed on the premises.
-  Please bring a water bowl for your dog. You may also bring a mat (though not a dog bed) for your dog to use during down time or for the sit-stay (only if CTCorps does not have a mat available).
-  Use your best judgment - if your dog has an open wound, is in heat, or just isn't feeling well, don't come! We host 4-5 assessments per year, and your registration fee and paperwork will carry over to the next session. Please notify CTCorps staff as soon as possible if you are unable to attend your confirmed assessment date.
-  Open house sessions are the perfect time to ask questions, request clarification, address concerns, and be sure that you fully understand what is expected of both you and your dog. Do not hesitate to call the office or your trainer before or after the open house of assessment.
-  The therapy dog assessment is pass/fail. You and your dog must successfully complete all of the required exercises on the assessment in order to become a Canine Therapy Corps certified therapy dog. There is one exception to this policy: The Handler of a Testing Dog who has failed three assessments by a narrow margin (one exercise) may appeal to Canine Therapy Corps in writing and plead their case for exemption from the pass/fail standard. Appeals will be considered by the Executive Director on an individual basis, and determinations made within seven days of appeal receipt.
-  CTCorps reserves the right to dismiss any dog from a therapy dog assessment if, at any time while at the assessment site or in the assessment site vicinity, it demonstrates behavior unbecoming a therapy dog. Dismissed dogs cannot pass during that assessment, but may retest in the future if Handler and Test Dog have rectified the problematic behavior. Examples of behavior unbecoming a therapy dog include, but are not limited to, mouthing of any kind (leash, a person, etc.), barking or vocalization at people and/or dogs, and reactivity or aggression toward people or other dogs. If two dogs are involved in an altercation, and both react, both dogs will be dismissed. For this reason, we highly discourage fraternization between therapy dog candidates. Further, once certified, CTCorps disallows fraternization in programs, so help your dog get in the habit early.