



PETSMART Training
**For Your
 Consideration**

Therapy Dog

A Therapy Dog is trained to provide affection, comfort, and/or education to people in many environments, including: hospitals, retirement homes, mental institutions, schools, and other stressful situations, such as disaster areas. Therapy Dogs seek to enrich lives through visitation and must have great temperaments, outgoing personalities, and friendly demeanors for all types of people-men, women, and children. They should also be tolerant of other dogs of both genders.

Considering Therapy Work

Therapy work may not be for all dogs or all handlers. When considering if this is best for you and your dog, it is important to:

- Research organizations
- Determine the type of therapy that is best for you and your pet
- Consider the effects of doing therapy on you as the handler and your pet
- Continue socialization to new people, places, and situations throughout your therapy career
- Have the proper equipment, such as a specific collar, leash, vest, or bandana, etc., which will help develop the sense of “work” when used consistently

Suitability

The following are important considerations for both the handler and the dog:

Handler	Dog
Completed advanced or equal training	Completed advanced or equal training
Completed Certified Good Citizen (CGC)*	Completed Certified Good Citizen (CGC)*
Demonstrates empathy, not sympathy	Confident and friendly
Good communication skills with people and dogs	Knows how to respect personal boundaries
Is an advocate for their dog	Completely non-aggressive
Reliable and committed	Controllable, predictable, and reliable
Confident and friendly	Seeks and enjoys contact
Will uphold the belief that the purpose of the team is to meet the needs of the person being visited	Responds to redirection from handler
Good listener	Well socialized outside of home (people, other dogs, various environments)
*Not required, but preferable	

Relax and have fun! If you do not enjoy it, how can you expect your dog to?

If you have questions, ask your Accredited Pet Trainer!

Dogs with Jobs: What's the Difference?

Understanding the difference between the many roles dogs play in the community can be challenging. The tables below provide information on the differences in each role as well as characteristics and considerations.



Therapy Dog	Service Dog	Working Dogs	Emotional Support Dog	AKC Certified Good Citizen Dog (CGC)
These dogs visit hospitals, schools, hospices, and other institutions to aid in psychological or physical therapy and for educational purposes. Therapy Dogs may be trained by anyone, but must meet the standards set by a particular organization, complete an evaluation, and actively participate within the respective organization.	These dogs are individually trained to perform tasks or work to mitigate their handlers' disabilities. Working as a team with their disabled partners, service dogs help them attain the safety and independence from which their handlers' disabilities would otherwise limit them.	These dogs can be utilized for hearing, seeing, and signal. They are often trained to assist the hearing or seeing impaired. Working dogs also include search and rescue dogs.	These dogs provide comfort and support in forms of affection and companionship for individuals suffering from one or more mental or emotional conditions. Emotional support dogs are not required to undergo specialized training.	This certification program is designed to reward dogs who exhibit good manners, health, and basic obedience at home and in the community. It stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic manners for dogs. This certification may also be required by HOAs, insurance companies, or places of visitation.

Considerations	Therapy Dog	Service Dog	Working Dogs	Emotional Support Dog	AKC Certified Good Citizen Dog (CGC)
The Americans with Disabilities Act protects the rights to have the dog accompany the individual in public places.		X	X		
The dogs' temperament must allow for a positive reaction to a variety of situations and environments (new people, places, and things).	X	X	X		
Dogs are allowed to live with their disabled owners in places that do not allow pets normally.		X	X	X	
Dogs must adhere to state and federal licensing laws.	X	X	X	X	X
Handlers encourage socialization and petting while the dog is on duty.	X				N/A
Specialized training is required.	X	X	X		
Training offered by PetSmart.	PetSmart offers training to enhance the relationship and skill of the therapy team.	None	None	There is no specific training for emotional support dogs. PetSmart can assist with general training.	PetSmart's Advanced class is designed to assist in developing the skills needed for AKC CGC certification.