

Pet Partners of Arizona  
is the local Chapter of the  
national nonprofit Pet Partners®.

Our members include:

- ◆ Registered Pet Partners Therapy Animal Teams
- ◆ Nationally licensed Therapy Animal Evaluators
- ◆ Nationally licensed Therapy Animal Team Instructors
- ◆ Those who support them

After completing handler training and passing the 22-part evaluation, members take their pets to visit people at:

- ◆ Assisted-living residences
- ◆ Children services facilities
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Hospices
- ◆ Libraries (read-to-a-dog)
- ◆ Rehabilitation facilities
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Shelters
- ◆ and many other places



[www.PetPartners.org](http://www.PetPartners.org)

Pet Partners® was established in 1977. It is the nation's largest and most prestigious non-profit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interactions.

Arizona Office  
602-603-5470

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To learn more, email  
[petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com)

## NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF SNUGGLES!

Therapy animals:

- ◆ Bring smiles and lift spirits
- ◆ Lessen depression
- ◆ Evoke happy memories of one's own pets
- ◆ Provide warmth to chemo patients
- ◆ Alleviate a person's pain
- ◆ Assist with learning
- ◆ Provide happy distractions
- ◆ Reduce loneliness or boredom
- ◆ Encourage communication
- ◆ Provide motivation to do therapy
- ◆ Reduce blood pressure
- ◆ Lower anxiety and stress



Follow us on Facebook  
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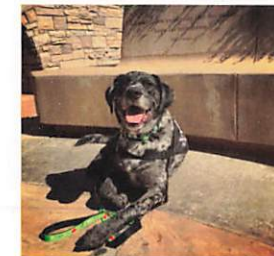
## SERVICE vs. THERAPY ANIMALS

A service animal is a dog trained to perform specific tasks to help a person with their disability (such as a guide dog, hearing dog, diabetic alert dog, etc.). By federal law a trained service dog is not considered a pet. They are allowed access to 'no pets allowed' public places as an accommodation for the person with the disability.

A therapy animal is typically someone's pet, who with their handler, visit many people. Therapy animals are pets and are NOT allowed public access privileges like service animals. We are a THERAPY animal program.



**Pet Partners**  
of Phoenix  
*Touching Lives, Improving Health*



[www.PetPartners.org](http://www.PetPartners.org)

[Info@PetPartners.org](mailto:Info@PetPartners.org)



# WHAT MAKES A GOOD PET PARTNERS THERAPY ANIMAL TEAM?

A Pet Partners Therapy Animal Team is one handler and one animal. It is important that BOTH ends of the leash want to do this work. Most domesticated species (dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, etc.) can qualify to become a Pet Partners Therapy Animal with their handler.

## Animal Skills:

Skills required vary by species. While not a complete list, dogs need to:

- ◆ Sit on cue
- ◆ Lay down on cue
- ◆ Stay in place
- ◆ Come when called
- ◆ Walk by their handler's side on a loose leash
- ◆ Be calm - not jumpy, barky or 'licky'
- ◆ Be non-reactive to other animals



## Animal Traits - animals must:

- ◆ Like to meet new people and be petted
- ◆ Be reliable, predictable and controllable
- ◆ Enjoy going to new places
- ◆ Be confident around different visual distractions and loud noises
- ◆ Have no aggressive tendencies
- ◆ Be at least 1 year old and lived with their human partner for at least 6 months

Additionally animals may not eat raw proteins. And cannot be on immunosuppressive or antibiotic medications. Dogs with Valley Fever in remission are okay to visit. Contact the national Pet Partners office directly with questions.

## Handlers have the ability to:

- ◆ Make conversation with strangers
- ◆ Be okay being '2nd' to their animal partner
- ◆ Anticipate their animal's responses, behavior, and positions
- ◆ Advocate for the safety and well-being of their animal partner
- ◆ Read their animal's body language and stress signals, and
- ◆ Re-direct their animal's behavior in a positive way that does NOT include yanking on the leash, striking, or raising their voice



## BECOMING A THERAPY ANIMAL TEAM

1. Learn more about our program by visiting the website: [www.PetPartners.org](http://www.PetPartners.org).  
**On the home page click on 'Volunteer / Register Your Pet'.**  
**TIP:** Read the FAQs accessible from the 'Volunteer with your Pet' page.
2. Take the Pet Partners Handler's Course. Details on how to register for a course are on the PetPartners.org website (courses page).  
**TIP:** Those taking the in-person course tend to pass their evaluation on their first attempt more than those taking the online course.
3. AFTER completing the Handler's Course, you need to pass the 22-part Evaluation with your animal partner.  
**TIP:** Contact an evaluator to help out at evaluations BEFORE you test. You will be much better prepared for your evaluation, having first observed others.
4. Have your veterinarian complete the Pet Partners health screening form.
5. Complete the Pet Partners Registration Packet and submit the appropriate registration fee as instructed on the national site: [www.PetPartners.org](http://www.PetPartners.org).

**Need help? Call 602-603-5470 or Email [petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com)**



## STARTING A PROGRAM

Think visits from therapy animals teams will be beneficial where you work?

1. Learn more about the services on the website. [www.PetPartner.org](http://www.PetPartner.org). 'Click on 'About' then select 'Pet Partners at your Facility'.
2. Email [petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:petpartnersofphoenix@gmail.com) to request a meeting with one of our Facility Co-ordinators.

