

Expected Behavior Checklist

Please utilize this checklist as a tool to assess your animal's readiness to become a therapy animal. The behaviors below are assessed as a part of the therapy animal evaluation. Please check 'yes' if your animal consistently and reliably performs/accepts the requirement. Check 'no' if your animal does not consistently and reliably perform/accept the requirement. This checklist will help you determine whether your animal has the skills and aptitude to enjoy therapy work and if so, which areas you may need to work on more with your animal.

Skill Requirements- Basic "good behavior" skills.			
Animal should ...	Yes	No	Handler
Be able to greet a friendly stranger without fear or uncontrollable enthusiasm			The handler must have good control of, and communication with their animal. The animal should be reliable and under control, well-behaved and confident.
Enjoy petting			
Be comfortable with light brushing			
Be able to walk on a loose leash, close by your side			
Be able to walk through a crowd, loose leash by your side			
Be comfortable with a loud noise			
Sit on command, preferably on 1st command			
Go down on command, preferably on 1st command			
Stay on command, preferably on 1st command			
Come when called, preferably on 1st command			
Show no reaction or only mild interest in another dog			
Aptitude Requirements- Temperament or ability/potential for therapy visits			
Animal should be ...	Yes	No	Handler
Comfortable with being lightly examined and touched all over			The handler must demonstrate social skills and aptitude for working with a variety of people in different settings. The handler and their animal must work together as a team showing a level of trust and understanding needed to work well together in unpredictable environments.
Comfortable with clumsy petting			
Comfortable with a restraining hug			
Comfortable around an individual acting in an unusual manner			
Confident when a group of people are talking loudly			
Comfortable with a light bump from behind			
Able to walk by and leave an object on the floor			
Comfortable being petted and crowded by several people			
Able to accept a treat appropriately			