



TRAIN YOUR DOG AS A THERAPY DOG

TRAINING YOUR DOG AS A THERAPY DOG

Therapy Dog Training is the most rewarding work you can do with your dog, as it affords both of you an opportunity to share your love with the people in the community who need it most.

A therapy dog requires different training than a service dog for the disabled. A therapy dog's goal is to offer comfort and companionship to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, mental centers; or visit libraries and schools to "listen" to young children read. In addition to basic obedience training, therapy dogs need special training.



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Four-footed therapists give something special to enhance the health and well-being of others. It has been clinically proven that through petting, touching, and talking with animals, blood pressure is lowered, stress is relieved and depression is eased.

Requirements:

Your dog must have an even temperament and be eager and willing to meet new people. Therapy work cannot be forced on a dog. He or she must look forward to providing companionship to other people.

Your dog must be at least 1 year old and up to date on all vaccinations.

Your dog must have basic manners.



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What is a Therapy Dog?

A Therapy dog is considered a pet or companion and part of the family. Each dog is temperament tested and put through a rigorous training regiment. These special dogs are trained to maintain focus and respond to direction despite distractions. These dogs can promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning.

What are the Qualities of an Ideal Therapy Dog?

The breed is far less important than your dog's personality. Your dog must be friendly, calm, affectionate, gentle, well behaved, and loving. He must have an outgoing manner and be able to "read" people- not pushing himself on those who are reserved yet acting like a clown for those who need a lift. He must get along with other dogs and animals (there may be some visiting at the same time), and he must handle large groups with ease and not be afraid of the special equipment required by some patients.





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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2019

Seminole State Offers Therapy Dog Training

Seminole State College will be offering a therapy dog training program on Monday evenings beginning February 11th, and continuing through March 11th. The program will meet on the SSC campus, in the Bay area (outside) at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

The five-week program will be taught by Brenda Spink, through A New Leash on Life. Therapy Dog Training is some of the most rewarding work that can be done with a dog. It affords both the dog and the handler the opportunity to share love and comfort with the people in your community who need it most.

Therapy Dogs are very different than service dogs. A therapy dog's goal is to offer comfort and companionship to patients in hospitals, and assisted living facilities. They also visit schools and libraries to "listen" to young children read; and to be a calming influence in stressful situations. In order to participate in the training, dogs MUST meet the following minimum requirements: possess an even temperament, be eager and willing to meet new people, be at least one year old, be up to date on all vaccinations, and have basic manners. The first program meeting, Monday February 11th at 5:30 pm, will be an "Introduction to Training" session. Each

session will begin at 5:30 pm and last approximately 60-75 minutes. The final session will be a supervised visit to an approved facility with your graduating Therapy Dog.

The cost of the program is only \$59.00 per student. Due to limits on class size, pre-registration is required.

For more information about this course and future Business and Industry offerings at SSC, contact Stephen Brooks, Business and Training Coordinator at: s.brooks@sscok.edu, or go to the Seminole State website and go to B&I course offerings.