

# Healing Heart Therapy



To become certified as a Healing Heart Dogs therapy team, you and your dog must pass the Healing Heart Therapy Dogs Certification Test which tests situations you may encounter during a therapy dog visit. It is recommended you and your dog take two or more obedience classes before taking the HHTD Therapy Dog class.

Dogs must be at least one year old, have been owned by you for at least 6 months prior to testing, and meet specific health qualifications.

The ideal therapy dog candidate loves people and other animals, and never shows signs of aggression. A therapy dog can remain calm around large groups of people in many different settings.

The mission of Healing Heart Therapy Dogs is to strengthen the human-companion animal bond by allowing our dogs to heal peoples' hearts.



Healing Heart Therapy Dogs, Inc.®

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We're on Facebook!  
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*Healing  
Hearts One at a  
Time*



Healing Heart Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit organization supported through annual membership dues and donations.

Hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers are sometimes frightening and lonely places for patients and residents. Healing Heart Therapy Dogs recognizes that interactions with specially trained animals help to transform a life of discouragement, fear, and sadness into one of happiness, independence, and hope

Healing Heart Therapy Dogs volunteers visit people in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living centers, hospice programs, inpatient and outpatient mental health programs, community centers, schools, libraries, children's museums and many other settings.

Healing Heart Therapy Dogs Teams serve as a bridge to help develop a caring relationship with children and adults in many settings.



Healing Heart Therapy Dogs® and R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs)

Sometimes, kids who are learning to read get stressed, not because they aren't capable of reading but because they get nervous and self-conscious. They worry about making mistakes, they worry about looking dumb and all those worries make it hard to focus. They dread reading in front of their friends, so they often "freeze up" and things just get worse.

When they read with a dog, right away they start to relax, and then they forget about feeling self-conscious or nervous, and pretty soon things start to flow a little better. Before they know it, they are enjoying the experience of reading instead of dreading it, they're even looking forward to the next time. It is simple, and it works beautifully!

Some of the documented benefits of therapy with animals include lowering of blood pressure, increased relaxation, and a tendency to forget about pain and limitations.



The American Kennel Club (AKC) now offers a Therapy Dog Title. The purpose of this program is to recognize therapy dogs and handlers who have selflessly given their time to improve the quality of life for others. The AKC Therapy Dog Title (THD) can be earned by therapy dog teams who are certified with a recognized therapy dog organization and have performed 50 hours of community visits. Healing Heart Therapy Dogs® is proudly recognized as a participant in the AKC therapy dog title program.

