Dear Prospective Furry Friends Volunteer,

On behalf of the over 500 volunteers that make up Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services, I want to thank you for your interest in joining our organization and am looking forward to seeing you share the love of your pet with others. I can personally tell you that you are about to join an organization that will allow you to make a real difference in someone’s life. I know it will make a difference in yours, too.

Furry Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization that is largely funded by dues that its volunteers pay. Another source of revenue is through donations that organizations pay for special visits and new site applications. Currently, we service over 150 facilities in Santa Clara, San Mateo & Santa Cruz Counties. These include convalescent hospitals, nursing homes, hospitals, senior day care centers, and Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall. Please check our website for a current list of sites that Furry Friends visits.

All the documents needed for you to complete your application package and become a Furry Friends volunteer are enclosed with this letter. If you will be joining with someone else (spouse, friend, child, etc.), please duplicate the documents (except Vaccination/Fecal Record and Veterinary Pet Evaluation Form) and complete them separately. Our application materials are designed for one human volunteer only. The same goes with our pet related forms (Vaccination/Fecal Record and Veterinary Pet Evaluation Form) when applying with multiple animals.

The following are enclosed:

1. Frequently Asked Questions About Furry Friends
2. Liability Release Form *
3. Volunteer Registration Application *
4. Vaccination/Fecal Record *
5. Veterinary Pet Evaluation Form *
6. Pet Behavior Etiquette Class Aggression Screen *
7. New Volunteer Application Checklist

Once we have received your entire application package (items with * above), we will process it within 14-20 calendar days. You will receive a confirmation of your enrollment in the Pet Behavior Etiquette Class that you requested or you will be informed about alternative class dates. Unfortunately, you cannot begin your visits with any Furry Friends team until you have completed the Etiquette class and the Team Captain(s) of the team(s) you have chosen have accepted your request to join their team.

Furry Friends is hoping you choose to become one of our volunteers. Once you have completed the process of becoming a volunteer, you & your pet will be able to enhance the lives of people with special needs.

Sincerely,

Joan Peterson
President

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services
A California non-profit organization
P.O. Box 5099 San Jose, CA 95150-5099
(877) 4FF-PATS
www.FurryFriends.org email: info@FurryFriends.org

1_Intro letter.doc Rev 8/2018
Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services’ mission is to consistently facilitate the delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and reopen the closed emotional doors of people with special needs.

We’re Licking Loneliness!

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

How effective is pet assisted therapy?

Anyone who has ever owned a pet knows of the tremendous love and acceptance pets bring. Pets don’t care how we look or even how we act; they love us unconditionally. For people who are in difficult life situations, pets can be of special benefit. Petting a dog, for instance, has been shown to lower blood pressure. Animals can often reach people when human relationships may be difficult. Scientific research has shown that interaction with animals can significantly improve humans’ physical and emotional health. Put as simply as possible, pets make people feel good and they help healing happen. The people we and our pets visit have minimal positive experiences in their lives and our pet visits brighten their days.

How do we operate as an organization?

Pet Assisted Therapy Services, a registered Nonprofit California Corporation, is governed by its Board of Directors. All board meetings are open to the public. We are a 100% volunteer organization that basically facilitates the delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and reopen the closed emotional doors of people with special needs. We provide umbrella insurance coverage, access to a trained Animal Behaviorist, and vitally needed support and encouragement to our volunteers.

How did Furry Friends get started?

Furry Friends was begun in 1983 by Judy Kell whose nine year-old daughter came down with a rare and usually fatal form of cancer. Judy noticed that one of the very few things that lifted her daughter’s spirits was the interaction with her pets. When her daughter became well, Judy decided to bring pet visits to other people in need. Pet Assisted Therapy Services is an independent Non-Profit Organization that is based on the principles of pet facilitated therapy, a recognized and researched therapeutic technique.

Who supports Furry Friends?

We have received contributions from over 400 local donors and have received grants from a few major foundations and corporations, including Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Network General, the Community Foundation, the Valley Foundation, and others. In order for any nonprofit organization to survive, its primary source of support must be its individual donors. We do not receive any city, county, state or federal funding.

What can you do to support Furry Friends?

We need new volunteers as we have more sites waiting for pet visits than volunteers to fill the requests. We also are looking for qualified professionals that are interested in becoming Directors on the Board of Directors. Please fill out our volunteer registration form if you would like to help. We look to you, your friends, and your company for support.

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What types of pets can become Furry Friends?

The answer to this question depends on the site team that you wish to be on. All of our therapy sites accept dogs, cats, and bunny rabbits. However, some sites will allow or not allow animals like pigs, goats, llamas, and various reptiles. Please ask our office for detailed answers to this question. Unfortunately, California law will not allow us to allow ferrets on any of our therapy teams.

Do I perform the visits on my own?

No. At the beginning of each visit, you will meet together as a team. You must check in with your Team Captain who is responsible and in charge of your visit. Depending on the therapy team that you are on, you will either stay together as a team or visit with patients one-on-one.

How much of a time commitment must I make?

Each of the more than 50 Furry Friends teams visits each site once a month for approximately 1 hour. The time you commit to depends on the number of sites you volunteer for. PATS is an all volunteer organization, so from time to time we have special events that we may ask you to volunteer for. For example we participate in special events like San Jose’s Bark In The Park Festival, new volunteer tables at local pet stores, and many types of fundraisers. However, these events are totally optional to our volunteers.

What exactly is the volunteer screening process?

First, you must complete the attached paperwork and send it to our office. You will have to have your pet evaluated by a licensed Veterinarian to determine the health (must be current on all Furry Friends required vaccinations) and temperament of your pet to be confident that your pet is suitable for this type of activity. Secondly, you and your pet will have to attend a 90-minute Pet Behavior Etiquette class with a Furry Friends approved Class Administrator. Our Etiquette Class is designed and managed by Furry Friends’ contracted Animal Behaviorist. In this class, you will learn what is appropriate and not appropriate animal behavior and how to control it. Additionally, you will learn tips in teaching your pet to be more loving to you as well as to the patients that you will be helping.

What are the benefits of joining Furry Friends?

You will become closer to your pet in ways that may be difficult to see before joining our organization. Your furry friend will become socialized with people as well as other furry friends. He/She will become more comfortable in public places and you will feel great about the good work that you will be doing. Additionally, Furry Friends will provide access to a trained Animal Behaviorist that can assist you in reaching out to your pet to make your living together better for both of you.

Does my pet have to have a CGC (Canine Good Citizenship) certification?

No. Furry Friends relies on both a veterinary and Animal Behaviorist evaluation of your pet. CGC certification is great to have but is not needed for Furry Friends.
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Liability Release Form

(Each human volunteer must complete and sign this form)

I acknowledge that even though Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services (PATS) may carefully screen its animal therapists prior to accepting them into PATS, animal behavior is inherently unpredictable. Therefore, I do hereby release PATS from any and all liability or responsibility due to any injury or loss that either I or my pet(s) may incur as the result of, or arising in any way from, my participation in any PATS sanctioned visit to a visitation site or other function in promotion of PATS.

Furthermore, I understand that from time to time, photos will be taken of PATS volunteers and animal therapists while PATS visits are taking place. I do hereby give permission to PATS to publish and use for public relations purposes any photo taken of me and/or my pet(s), provided that any such photos are used for PATS promotional purposes only.

Signed:_________________________________________ Date:_______/_______/_______
Name:______________________________________________

(Each adult human volunteer must complete and sign a separate form as shown above)

I am a parent or guardian of _____________________________________________, who is currently under the age of 18. I acknowledge that even though Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services (PATS) may carefully screen its animal therapists prior to accepting them into PATS, animal behavior is inherently unpredictable. Therefore, I do hereby release PATS from any and all liability or responsibility due to any injury or loss that either I, my child or my pet(s) may incur as the result of, or arising in any way from, our participation in any PATS sanctioned visit to a visitation site or other function in promotion of PATS.

Furthermore, I understand that from time to time, photos will be taken of PATS volunteers and animal therapists while PATS visits are taking place. I do hereby give permission to PATS to publish and use for public relations purposes any photo taken of me, my child or my pet(s), provided that any such photos are used for PATS promotional purposes only.

Signed:_________________________________________ Date:_______/_______/_______
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Volunteer Registration Application

Name of human volunteer __________________________________________ Date of this application: _____/_____/_____

(Complete a separate form for each volunteer)

Home address: ___________________________________________________, CA ____________

Home phone: (____) ______-______ Work phone: (____) ______-______ Fax: (____) ______-______

Date of birth: _____/_____/_______ Name of your employer __________________________________

E-mail address: _______________________________________________ (email addresses will not be shared with anyone outside Furry Friends)

Do you prefer that we correspond to you by: □ Email or □ US Mail

What type and breed (if applicable) pet is your furry friend? ________________________________

How did you hear about Furry Friends? ________________________________

Have you signed up for an Etiquette Class on-line? __________________

Have completed a Canine Aggression Screen Form on-line (if applicable)? ______________

Site Selection(s) – Choose as many as you would like (must have at least one choice)

(Please click this link to see a list of sites currently open for new members: http://www.furryfriends.org/patsSiteNeed.html
NOTE some also have age restrictions and some are Full)

1-_________________________________________ 2-_________________________________________

3-_________________________________________ 4-_________________________________________

Alternate site selections are encouraged – Please write “alternate” next to the team name for alternate choices

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5_VolunteerRegistrationApplication.doc Rev 10/2001
Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services
Volunteer Registration Application

T-Shirt Selection

You will receive a Furry Friends T-Shirt (100% pre-shrunk cotton) after the processing of your Furry Friends application. Please tell us what size T-Shirt you would like.

- □ Small
- □ Medium
- □ Large
- □ X-Large
- □ XX-Large

Furry Friends would like to know if you could assist us in additional ways. Please indicate what areas below that you would be willing to help us with in addition to your participation in our coordinated therapy visits.

Please indicate all of your interests:

- □ Volunteer clerical work
- □ Fund raising activities
- □ Phone calling (calling existing volunteers)
- □ New Volunteer Recruitment Activities
- □ Computer work (email, data entry, web page work)
- □ Publications work (Furry Friends Newsletter and brochure)
- □ Evaluating new visitation sites
- □ Being a Team Captain
- □ Helping with mailings to current volunteers
- □ Membership on the Board of Directors

If you are unable to pay the $50 membership fee, please include a note in the return envelope stating the reason. For information, call our office (408) 280-6171 or email the treasurer at: randee@furryfriends.org

There is a $50.00 fee per person for the Pet Behavior Etiquette Class
(Etiquette class fees cannot be waived and are mandatory)

----------------------------- For Office Use Only -----------------------------

Application Received: ___/____/______ Registration Fee Received: $________ Class Fee Received: $________

- □ Veterinary Paperwork Complete
- □ Release Form Complete
- Etiquette Class Completed: ___/___/______

Captain(s) Sent Notification: ___/___/______ Site(s) Assigned: ________________________________

______________________________

______________________________

Volunteer Number _________ Data Entry Completed: ___/___/______ Welcome Packet Sent: ___/___/______
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**VACCINATION/FECAL RECORD**

**DIRECTIONS TO VETERINARIAN:**

Please complete all items below that pertain to the animal you are treating.

Owner’s Name: ______________________ Email:____________________ Phone (____) _____-__________

Pet’s Name _______________ Species: ______________ Breed: __________________ Age: __________

1. **Fecal Check:** (see reverse side of this form for exceptions)
   
   Date of last fecal or de-worming: ____/____/_______ Results: Negative / Positive
   
   Fecal test not needed, pet is on the following medication that is LABELED to prevent roundworms and hookworms:

2. **Canine Vaccination Record:** Please give the dates of last exam/vaccinations.

   **DATE OF LAST ANNUAL EXAMINATION:** ____/____/_____ (valid for 1 year only)
   
   **Rabies:** ____/____/_____ (1 or 3 year?)

   **DA2PL / Parvo:** ____/____/_____ (1 or 3 yr?) or **DA2P / Parvo:** ____/____/_____ (1 or 3 yr?)

3. **Feline Vaccination Record:** Please give dates of last exam/vaccinations.

   **DATE OF LAST ANNUAL EXAMINATION:** ____/____/_____ (valid for 1 year only)
   
   **Rabies:** ____/____/_____ (1 or 3 year?) **FVRCP:** ____/____/_____ (1 or 3 year?)

4. **Other Animal Vaccination Record:**

   Please give dates of last vaccinations appropriate to the species. Also, please state the duration of the vaccine.

**FOR ALL PETS:**

This pet is a Pet Therapist who regularly visits patients. Many of the patients that this pet is in direct contact with have compromised immune systems. Based on your annual examination and the pet’s past health record, are there any reasonable health risks to the humans who come in contact with this pet? ________ __________ Initial

__________________________  ______________
Veterinarian's signature       Veterinary Hospital Name

____/____/____   ____/____/____   (____) _____-______
Phone Number                        Date

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Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services
a California non-profit organization

P.O. Box 5099
San Jose, CA 95150-5099
1-877-433-7287
FAX: 408-540-7443

www.FurryFriends.org     email: Admin@FurryFriends.org
6_vaccine.doc Rev 01/2014
FURRY FRIENDS
PET ASSISTED THERAPY SERVICES
VACCINATION POLICIES

Fecal Exams and Prevention Programs

The only worm prevention programs accepted by Furry Friends PATS in lieu of annual fecal tests or de-worming are medications that are LABELED to prevent roundworms and hookworms. Some examples are Heartgard Plus, Iverhart Plus, Sentinel, Trifexis, Advantage Multi, and Revolution (cats only).

However, annual fecal tests are still encouraged by Furry Friends (even if your pet is on one of these programs) because there are other health problems that can be detected with these tests. A positive result for non-contagious parasites may not disqualify the animal.

Flea prevention programs such as REVOLUTION, ADVANTAGE, PROGRAM, FRONT LINE, BIOSPOT, etc. do not prevent or kill roundworms, and hookworms. These types of worms can lie dormant in fecal for weeks or even months. Note that regular Heartgard kills only heartworm larvae and will not be accepted.

Distemper/Parvo or FVRCP

Every dog or cat must be either vaccinated for this, or, if deemed appropriate by the animal’s veterinarian, protective titers will be accepted.

Rabies

State law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies, regardless of whether they are an indoor or outdoor pet. Titers will not be accepted for rabies.

Hookbills

Hookbills (parrots, parakeets, and cockatiels) can be used for PATS visits. These birds should be checked for Tuberculosis (TB) and have an elisa test for psittacosis. Although a fecal exam is not necessary, they are a valuable aid in maintaining healthy birds. Birds are not suggested for immuno-compromised clients unless there has been a bacterial culture on the choana and cloaca – found to be normal.
Veterinary Pet Evaluation Form
(To be completed and signed only by a Veterinarian)

Owner’s Name: ________________________________ Date: _____/_____/_____

Pet’s Name: _______________________ Pet’s Age: ______ years old Weight of Pet: _____ lbs.

Breed of pet: _______________________ Species: _______ Sex: _______ Spayed or neutered ? _______

Note to the Veterinary Professional: You are being asked to perform a suitability evaluation of the pet above for work as a Pet Therapist. Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services acknowledges that animal behavior cannot be accurately predicted and thus holds you harmless from any legal liability from your observations and recommendations below. However, your professional opinion of the suitability of this animal for pet therapy work is vitally needed for Furry Friends and its animal behavior consultant(s) to have so we can better evaluate the suitability of this pet for therapy work. You must feel free to state your observations accurately below, as answers that look negative in nature may not (in themselves) disqualify this pet from service as additional behavior tests will be administered to this pet prior to admission to Furry Friends.

I. Approaching the pet:

When you first approached the pet above, did he/she growl, raise his/her fur, bare teeth, or show any other exhibitions of aggression or defensive behavior ? (yes or no with further observations if needed)

II. Handling the pet:

When handling (picking up in arms or laying fully or partially on lap) the pet, did he/she growl, raise his/her fur, bare teeth, or show any other exhibitions of aggression or defensive behavior ? Did he/she try to escape from you in a frantic manner ? (yes or no with further observations if needed)

III. Pain Threshold:

Briefly and gently pinch the webbing between toes and pull the hair from his/her side and back. Did the pet growl, snap, bite, hiss, scratch, act fearful, or frantically try to escape from you after administering the above test ? (yes or no with further observations if needed)

(OVER)
IV. Overall Evaluation:

Please provide us with any general observations about this pet.

V. Final Thoughts

In general, do you feel that this pet will be suitable for volunteer service as a Pet Therapist in nursing homes, developmentally disabled treatment facilities, schools, juvenile probation sites, and/or hospitals?

Veterinarian’s Signature: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Phone Number: (____) ______-_________

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services thanks you for your cooperation.
# Pet Behavior Etiquette Class

## Canine Aggression Screen

Name of volunteer: ________________________  Name of dog: ________________________  (one pet for each form)

**Directions:** **DOG OWNERS** should please complete the following rating system to rate your dog’s reaction to each of the given scenarios. Your answers on this form are confidential and are not meant to eliminate you or your dog from further visits. This form will be forwarded to and retained by Furry Friends’ Behaviorist. The purpose of administering this screen is to gauge your dog’s overall reactivity and help Furry Friends’ Animal Behaviorist to access what might be a future problem area that can be worked on together. **ONLY DOG OWNERS NEED TO COMPLETE THIS SCREEN.** There are no screens for other animal types.

**Possible Answers:**
- **N/R** = No Negative Reaction
- **SL** = Snarl/lift lip
- **BG** = Bark, Growl (not alerting bark)
- **SB** = Snap or Bite
- **N/A** = Not Applicable

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCENARIO</th>
<th>RATING</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Take dog’s food dish with food</td>
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<td>2) Take dog’s empty food dish</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Take dog’s water dish</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Take human food that falls on the floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Take rawhide away from dog</td>
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<td>6) Take real bone away from dog</td>
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<td>7) Take biscuit away from dog</td>
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<td>8) Take toy away from dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) Human approaches dog while eating</td>
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<td>10) Dog approaches dog while eating</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Cat approaches dog while eating</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Human approaches dog while playing with toys</td>
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<tr>
<td>13) Dog approaches dog while playing with toys</td>
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<tr>
<td>14) Human approaches/disturbs dog while sleeping</td>
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<tr>
<td>15) Dog approaches/disturbs dog while sleeping</td>
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<td>16) Step over dog</td>
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<td>17) Push dog off bed/couch</td>
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<td>18) Reach toward dog</td>
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<td>19) Reach over head of dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>20) Put on leash</td>
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<tr>
<td>21) Human pushes on shoulders</td>
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OVER
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<tr>
<th>SCENARIO</th>
<th>N/R</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>BG</th>
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<th>N/A</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22) Dog mounts or shoves</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>23) Human pushes on rump</td>
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<td>24) Towel feet when wet</td>
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<td>25) Bathe dog</td>
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<td>26) Groom dog’s head</td>
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<td>27) Groom dog’s body</td>
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<tr>
<td>28) Human stares at dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>29) Dog stares at dog</td>
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<td>30) Take muzzle in hands and shake</td>
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<td>31) Push dog over onto back</td>
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<tr>
<td>32) Stranger knocks on door</td>
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<td>33) Stranger enters room</td>
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<td>34) Dog in car at toll booth</td>
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<td>35) Dog in car at gas station</td>
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<td>36) Dog on leash approached by dog on street</td>
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<td>37) Dog on leash approached by person on street</td>
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<td>38) Dog in yard – person passes</td>
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<td>39) Dog in yard – dog passes</td>
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<tr>
<td>40) Dog in vet’ office</td>
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<td>41) Dog in boarding kennel</td>
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<tr>
<td>42) Dog at gromer</td>
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<td>43) Dog yelled at</td>
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<td>44) Dog corrected with leash</td>
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<td>45) Dog physically punished</td>
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<td>46) Someone raises voice to client in presence of dog</td>
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<td>47) Someone hugs/touches client in presence of dog</td>
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<td>48) Squirrels, cats, small animals approach dog</td>
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<td>49) Bicycles and/or skateboards nearby</td>
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<td>50) Crying infant</td>
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<td>51) Playing with 2 year old children</td>
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<td>52) Playing with 5-7 year old children</td>
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<td>53) Playing with 8-11 year old children</td>
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54) Playing with 12-16 year old children
Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services’ mission is to consistently facilitate the delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and reopen the closed emotional doors of people with special needs.

We’re Licking Loneliness!

Application Checklist

Please be sure that ALL of the following items/forms are sent to the Furry Friends office. All forms must be received two weeks prior to your requested etiquette class date in order not to delay your application process.

Thank You!

- Volunteer Registration Application, one for each human applicant.
  - Please note your preference(s) for sites on this form. Please check the site selection list online for a current list of sites currently accepting new volunteers and choose a main site as well as two alternates. If we have any problem with your site selection, we will notify you.

- Liability Release Form, one for each human applicant

- Vaccination/Fecal Record (completed and signed by a licensed Veterinarian, one per animal).

- Veterinary Pet Evaluation Form (completed and signed by a licensed Veterinarian, one per animal)

- Pet Behavior Etiquette Class sign-up request for each human applicant
  - Please note your requested class may be full. The Furry Friends admin will notify you of your class date.

- Pet Behavior Etiquette Class Aggression Screen Form . Required for dogs only (one form per dog)

- Check made out to Furry Friends to cover the following:
  - $50 for each human applicant, to cover first year membership dues
  - $50 one-time class fee for each human applicant