

Applications and additional information regarding our program are available online at www.FurryFriends.org

If you do not have access to the internet, please mail us your request and we will mail you the application materials.

1-877-4FF-PATS



Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services

A California non-profit corporation
P.O. Box 5099
San Jose, CA 95150-5099

www.FurryFriends.org



Partial List of Facilities

Sites focusing on Senior Citizens

- Camden Convalescent Hospital
- Cedar Creek Alzheimer & Dementia Care Center
- Channing House
- Courtyard Care Center
- Sunshine Villa
- Driftwood Health Care Center
- San Tomas Convalescent Hospital
- Valley Medical Spinal Cord & Head Trauma Center

Sites focusing on children and families

- Gilroy Children's Home
- San Jose Family Shelter
- Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall
- Valley Medical Pediatrics Center
- Ronald McDonald House
- Eastfield Ming Quong

Reading Buddies Sites

- Libraries and schools within Santa Clara County & Santa Cruz County

Special Visit Sites

- Leland High School
- San Jose State University
- Branham High School
- De Anza College
- Independence High School
- Mt Hermon Redwood Camp
- Monta Vista High School



Join Furry Friends and spend an hour a month sharing the love of your animals with those in need



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Does Pet Assisted Therapy really work?

If you've ever had a pet, you know!

- Pets have a way of reaching people who need them the most—the ill, the lonely, the disabled, the forgotten, and the unhappy.
- Animals are non-judgmental, accepting, and attentive. They don't talk back, criticize, or make demands. They don't care how we look or how much money we make.
- A pet's love is unconditional. They seem to know what we need and when we need it.
- Our "furry friends" can often reach people when human relationships may be difficult.
- Animals are therapeutic—their presence assists with emotional and physical healing. It's a fact!

What is Furry Friends?

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services (PATS) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization with over 500 active human volunteers and our "furry friends." We are located in Santa Clara County and extend into Santa Cruz and Alameda counties. PATS was founded in 1983 by a woman whose child was undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. She noticed how much better her daughter felt when their cat lay beside her. When her daughter's health improved, she founded PATS to share the benefits of pet assisted therapy with the less fortunate in our community.

What's the Screening Process?

- We don't require any special training or certifications. We're looking for animals that naturally seek out and enjoy human companionship and get along well with other animals.
- We do require a temperament assessment by your veterinarian and a certification that your animal(s) are current on their vaccines and free of parasites.
- The last step involves you and your pet attending our etiquette class held once a month and taught by our staff behaviorist. She'll explain our program in detail, answer any questions you have, and most importantly, evaluate your pet's temperament for our program.

Who can join?

You and your pets can! It's very simple. You have a choice of dozens of teams. The team for each facility meets once a month for approximately one hour per visit. You choose which team fits your schedule, your location, your preferences, and the temperament of your pet.

How does Furry Friends get its Financial Support?

Furry Friends depends on membership dues along with donations from individuals, grants and "Amazon Smile". Many of our members pursue corporate matching funds by their employers to help support the good work we do. Since Furry Friends is a California non-profit corporation, all donations are tax deductible!

Reading Buddies

An important program is Reading Buddies, where children read one-on-one with a variety of pets in local schools and libraries. This program has been successful in increasing children's confidence in their reading, their comprehension, and their love of books.

Special Visits

In addition to recurring visits, Furry Friends also engages in Special Visits which are generally stress-relief visits. The most common example is going to high school and college campuses during finals but Furry Friends is also available to provide teams to organizations and companies after catastrophic events.

What do the people we visit think?

A Director of Nursing at one of the convalescent homes said, "Having Furry Friends visit brings out the best, a connection to other people as well as the animals. People relate to animals almost universally, and the pets remind them of their own pets from the past. Some of our seniors don't relate to a lot of things, but when the pets come around, some patient who are usually less responsive really come alive."

Our Mission Statement:

Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services' mission is to consistently facilitate delivery of the love and affection of our volunteers and their pets. We enhance the lives and touch the hearts of people with special needs.



Thank you for your interest in helping us to "lick loneliness" in our communities!