



CAP Team Candidates

Prospective pet candidates need to be in good health, sociable, well controlled, and able to demonstrate basic obedience commands. They need to be at least one year old and have been with the owner/handler for one year.

Caring Animal Partners certifies Therapy Pets. They need to have stable temperaments and friendly, easy-going personalities. We do not certify Service Pets or Emotional Support Pets. Service Pets are trained to perform tasks and to do work that eases their handlers' disabilities. Unlike service dogs, therapy dogs are encouraged to interact with a variety of people while they are on-duty including petting the therapy pet.

CAP only insures volunteer Therapy Teams and cannot insure people who have a Therapy Pet as a part of their work assignment. Please contact your employer to make sure they have insurance coverage for you.

At the evaluation we will administer the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and our own Pet Aptitude Test. If you and your dog successfully complete these tests you will be asked to do some supervised visits. Then you will receive your official CAP ID and tag for your dog. We visit in area nursing homes, adult day care facilities, and schools. If you wish to work with children more training and evaluations will be required. You need to have the time to commit to visit at least once a month or more.

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST:

This is a certification program designed by The American Kennel Club to test a dog's behavior in a social situation. All dogs in our program are required to pass this test as set up by the AKC. It is to ensure that all our CAP animal partners are trained to act mannerly in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. CAP evaluators only test for the Canine Good Citizen certification; there are many local dog trainers that offer classes for the CGC test.

1. Each of the test elements (1-10) are conducted in accordance with the criteria set forth by the AKC and shall be judged in accordance with the AKC rules and regulations.
2. The CGC tests the dog's skills in accepting and carrying out basic commands.
3. A Canine Good Citizen certificate is awarded if the candidate passes all ten (10) elements.
4. Purebred or mixed-breed dogs that are over six (6) months of age are eligible.
5. Handlers may talk to the dog throughout testing but NO FOOD may be offered.
6. Exercising dogs prior to testing is strongly recommended. Eliminating during testing is a failure.
7. Test exercises are not required to be performed with precision.
8. Dogs should be wearing a buckle collar or harness and should be on lead at all times in the testing area. Pinch collars and roll-out leads are not acceptable.
9. Animals that have had recent surgery, are on antibiotics or antifungal medication, or are in season should be tested at another time.

CAP APTITUDE TEST:

Tests the pet's reactions to situations it may encounter on a visit.

1. In general, be aware that your overall performance is judged on team behavior displayed throughout your attendance.
2. Your animal will be touched on many places over his body. If you know that your animal "hates" to be touched in a certain area and will growl or snap if touched there, the animal is probably not a good candidate. Residents in medical facilities are unpredictable and may touch an animal anywhere.
3. Your animal will be subjected to sudden noises, people who yell, rough petting, and will meet up with unfamiliar items such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs.
4. Prospective pet candidates need to be in good health, sociable, well controlled and of steady temperament.
5. Cats and other animals will do a modified version of the CGC and should wear a harness and leash combination. Carriers may also be helpful and are optional.