



Ottawa Therapy Dogs

Good dogs doing great work!

Ottawa Therapy Dogs (OTD) is a registered charity which has been active in the Ottawa area since 2000. Currently 100 members regularly visit over 1,000 clients.

OTD serves clients in the community who are particularly vulnerable. Each volunteer handler and his/her registered therapy dog visits clients in hospitals, schools, seniors' facilities or other community institutions. For example, the **Reading Education Assistance Dogs' (R.E.A.D.®)** program in schools and libraries aims to improve students' literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

Research confirms the physical, emotional and social benefits of animal assistance and therapy with people. The contribution made by OTD to the local community, although difficult to measure, is highly valued by clients and their families as well as health and educational professionals.

To find out how to become an Ottawa Therapy Dog Team please consult our web site at www.ottawatherapydogs.ca under the Members menu tab.



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Recent Comments from Facilities

- “People come out of their rooms who normally wouldn't - just to see the dog. There are people who are responsive with the dog who normally sit there doing nothing.” **Bonnie Bouliane, Activities Director, Alta Vista Manor**
- “Residents very much look forward to the weekly OTD visits, most notably, those living with Alzheimer's or Dementia who may not get much pleasure out of daily interactions...they really light up when a friendly and furry animal comes near!”
Ann Monzon, Director of Programming and Community Relations, Colonel By Retirement Residence
- “The greatest benefit to our clients is that they are able to give and receive affection – it makes them feel good.”
Ewen Hunt, Recreation Therapist, Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre
- “The handlers have been wonderful with the children on the in-patient psychiatry unit: they are professional, caring, warm, understanding, flexible and empathetic.” **Nicole Raftis, Occupational Therapist, CHEO Mental Health**
- “All students who interacted with the therapy dog benefited from the experience. Most were having difficulty learning to read or experiencing some difficulties emotionally. One student in particular stands out: her mother told us that her daughter didn't want to read at all until she saw the therapy dog. Now she reads all the time!”
Lynn Champagne, Learning Resource Teacher, Lady Evelyn Alternative School

