



8 STEPS TO BECOMING AN OTD TEAM



**PRE-QUALIFYING
INTERVIEW**



**HANDLER TRAINING
CLASS & PRACTICE
SESSION WITH YOUR
DOG**



TEAM EVALUATION
(\$30 fee)



**VETERINARY HEALTH
CHECK & POLICE
RECORD CHECK
(LEVEL 3)**



REGISTRATION
(\$45 membership fee due)



**NEW VOLUNTEER
ORIENTATION**



**MENTORSHIP
PHASE 1 & 2**



**BEGIN VISITING WITH
YOUR DOG!**

PRE-QUALIFYING INTERVIEW

This interview for you and your potential therapy dog partner is your opportunity to ask questions about this kind of volunteer service and whether it is something that will fit into your life. We will get to know a bit about you and your dog and you can also get suggestions about what you and your dog may need to work on before proceeding.

HANDLER TRAINING CLASS & PRACTICE SESSION WITH YOUR DOG

We may then offer you a spot in a Handler Training class after the pre-qualifying interview. It will provide the basic foundation of knowledge you will need to visit successfully and to pass the evaluation. The Practice Session with your dog is an opportunity to experience and practice the components of the evaluation. Note: if you have already taken the Therapy Dog Class at Best Friends Dog Training or Carolark, you may opt out of the Practice Session with your dog if you choose to do so. Proof of completion of the Therapy Dog class will be required.

TEAM EVALUATION (\$30 fee)

The Team Evaluation will be completed in detail with a total of 4 teams present at once. You and your dog will be assessed for appropriate skills and temperament, including the strength of your relationship, your social interactions with “clients” and your ability to advocate for your dog.

VETERINARY HEALTH CHECK AND POLICE RECORD CHECK (LEVEL 3) (Cost will vary)

After a successful Evaluation, your dog must be screened by your veterinarian. We provide a form for this purpose as part of the Registration Package. We will also provide you with a letter of volunteerism so there will be no charge for the Police Record Check (Level 3 - Vulnerable Sector)

REGISTRATION (\$45 membership fee due)

You must submit all the above documents, along with your signed Registration Form and Rules for OTD Members documents within 30 days of your Evaluation. This is also when you will need to pay your Membership fee of \$45. This includes liability insurance, orientation, mentoring, periodic member newsletters, ongoing support and training, and the opportunity to participate in AAA/AAT/AAE programs at facilities served by OTD.

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

This Orientation will prepare you more directly for visiting your facility with your dog. We will also teach you how to navigate your profile in our volunteer management software and we will review Boundaries and Confidentiality and our Social Media Policy.

MENTORSHIP - PHASE 1 & 2

You must successfully complete Phase 1 & 2 stages of Mentoring in order for your registration to be completed.

Phase 1: You will shadow an experienced team in their placement

Phase 2: An experienced handler will mentor you in at least your first 2 visits and they will accompany you until you feel confident enough on your own.

You may also be required to attend additional orientations at your facility. Some facilities will require vaccinations status and TB tests.

BEGIN VISITING WITH YOUR DOG!

You are now a registered therapy dog team with OTD! Your registration will remain valid provided you: 1)Renew your membership each year; 2) Keep your dog's Annual Health Form up-to-date; 3)Remain in good standing by adhering to our Rules for OTD Members.