



# STEPS TO BECOMING AN OTD TEAM



## **ATTEND INFORMATION SESSION**

This is your opportunity to learn more details about this unique kind of volunteer service, to further examine if your dog would enjoy what this role requires from them, and whether it is something that will fit into your life. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions

## **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION & INTERVIEW**

After attending the Information Session, you will receive a link to our online Application Form. This may also include a short interview via Zoom to ensure you meet minimum requirements and are a good fit for the role of therapy dog handler.

## **TEAM EVALUATION (\$40 admin 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.

## **NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION (VIRTUAL)**

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.

## **VETERINARY HEALTH CHECK AND POLICE RECORD CHECK (LEVEL 3)**

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)**

You must submit all documents and sign the Rules for OTD Members document within 30 days of your Evaluation. This is also when you will need to pay your Membership fee of \$45. This includes voting rights at our AGM, liability insurance, orientation, mentoring, periodic member newsletters, ongoing support and training, and the opportunity to participate in AAA/AAT/AE programs at facilities served by OTD.

## **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.