

Is your dog suitable?

Take this quick test to determine if your dog may be suitable:

- Is your dog at least 18 months old and under 10 years old, and fully vaccinated?
- Does your dog walk nicely beside you without pulling?
- Can your dog walk on a lead using a soft collar? (no head collars, anti-pull harnesses or flexi leads are allowed)
- When your dog is off-lead, does he/she come when called?
- Will your dog "sit" and "drop" when asked?
- Can your dog sit politely and accept a pat from a friendly stranger?
- Can your dog walk through a crowd with minimal reaction to distraction?
- Does your dog show little reaction to clumsy and heavy patting?
- Will your dog take food gently?
- Can your dog leave food when asked?
- Will your dog stay in a sit or drop position while you walk approximately 5 metres away?
- Can your dog walk past another dog and show no more than a passing interest?
- Can your dog be held by a stranger and come when called when it is released?
- Do you both work well as a team?

If you answered YES to all of these questions, then you and your dog are excellent candidates to become a volunteer Delta Therapy Dog team! If you answered no to any of these questions, we recommend that you spend time working on these areas. This may be achieved by undertaking some training before committing to our program.

If you would like information on Delta-accredited trainers in your area, visit www.deltainstitute.edu.au

Donate to Delta

We need your support to develop our wonderful community-strengthening program. All donations will help us recruit and train volunteers and their very special dogs.

Donate today at www.deltasociety.com.au



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Delta Therapy Dogs Program



Delta Therapy Dog Teams bring joy to the lives of those who need it most



Delta Society Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation with one core belief: that the human-animal bond remarkably improves our quality of life and leaves a lasting paw print on our hearts.

There is a special and indescribable kinship shared between dogs and people of all ages. Attention from a dog can brighten your day, make you feel loved and improve your overall health and wellbeing.



About Delta Therapy Dogs

The Delta Therapy Dogs program is the largest of its kind in Australia. Every week, Delta's amazing and devoted Volunteer Therapy Dog teams bring joy to the lives of those who need it most. Our teams brighten the lives of an estimated 20,000 Australians in hospitals and health care facilities.

We currently support over 1,000 volunteers and their special dogs who make regular visits to hospitals, aged care facilities, mental health units and disability services to offer the wonderful benefits of pet therapy. Our teams spend time with patients and offer a chat, a floppy ear to listen and a paw to shake.

Our volunteers and their amazing therapy dogs are our most valued resources and we are always looking for new volunteer teams to join the Delta Therapy Dogs program.

- Do you have a dog with a good temperament?
- Do you have an hour or two to spare every week?
- Are you interested in giving your time to volunteer in your local community?
- Do you love talking with people about your dog?

If you answered yes to all these questions, then volunteering with Delta Therapy Dogs could be an incredibly rewarding experience for you.



Scientifically proven benefits of pet therapy

- **Physical** – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses
- **Social** – a visit with a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion and promotes focused interaction with others
- **Cognitive** – canine companionship stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing
- **Emotional** – an adorable four-legged visitor improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, has a calming effect and lifts the mood often provoking laughter
- **Environmental** – a dog in a facility decreases the feeling of a sterile environment and lifts the entire mood.

- 🐾 Dogs must be at least 18 months old and under 10 years old with basic manners
- 🐾 Dogs are required to be fully vaccinated
- 🐾 Dogs are required to be on heartworm preventative medication and treated regularly for internal and external parasites
- 🐾 Dogs are required to undergo a health assessment by their vet which will determine their suitability to physically take on the demands of visiting in the program.
- 🐾 Your dog will be required to undergo temperament testing, and must pass the assessment in order to be accredited as a qualified Therapy Dog
- 🐾 Retesting of qualified therapy dogs is required every two years
- 🐾 Volunteers must complete a one-day training session and an orientation at their assigned facility before they can commence work
- 🐾 Delta Therapy Dog Teams will need to make a commitment for at least one year and generally visit their assigned facility once per week/fortnight for up to 90 minutes each time
- 🐾 The preferred time for visits is generally between 9-5 weekdays and weekends
- 🐾 You will need your own transportation to travel to your facility each week/fortnight
- 🐾 All volunteers who join the program are required to be police checked
- 🐾 Delta Society provides volunteer training, dog assessment, uniforms and insurances at no cost to our volunteers.

If you would like to express your interest in becoming a Delta Therapy Dog Team, please visit www.deltasociety.com.au to complete the online form.