

THE THERAPY DOG PROGRAM NATIONAL OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

The Program was developed in 1992 in cooperation with the American Kennel Club, to provide a unique program designed for St. John Ambulance.

The Program is unique in that the same dog and handler visit the same place, at the same time each week.

The Program is acceptable because it addresses a need and is safe. Dogs are checked for temperament, health and cleanliness.

STRUCTURE

- o The Therapy Dog Program is an element of the existing Brigade organization, with Coordinators appointed to each unit level of the Brigade.
- o Therapy Dog Units will function as a separate unit from existing Divisions.
- o Units will be aligned with Branches which are responsible for providing support to the local unit.
- o Where needed support can come from the community, with direction from the Provincial Council.
- o Officers of the Program are:
 - a. Provincial Therapy Dog Coordinator
 - b. Unit Therapy Dog Coordinator
 - c. Evaluators
 - d. Dog and Member

ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM

Initial requests should be directed to the Provincial Headquarters or the Provincial Coordinator.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Member and Dog are covered by St. John Ambulance's liability insurance program.

NOTE, since the dogs are not owned by St. John Ambulance, the owner of the dog may also be sued in the event of damage or injury caused by the dog. In these cases, the owner's personal homeowner's policy may also be involved.

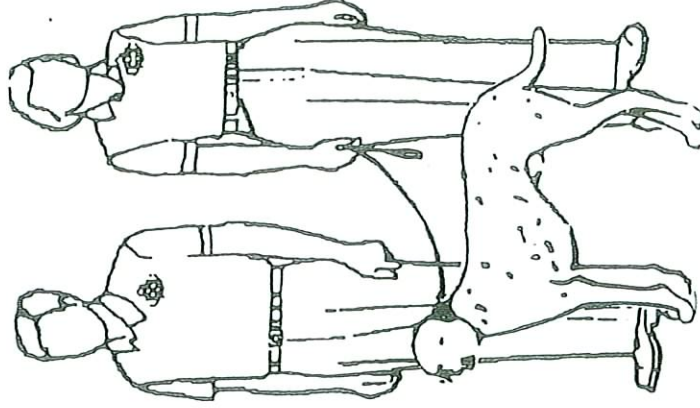
THERAPY DOG TEST

Evaluation of the dog and member are a prerequisite to visiting under this program. Dog and Handler are evaluated on:

1. Meeting the Evaluator (guest)
 2. Walking the Dog.
 3. Walking through a milling crowd.
 4. Sit and Down.
 5. Praise and Excited interaction.
 6. Dog meeting Dog.
 7. Stationary Crowd Scene. Using 5 members with walkers, canes, crutches, wearing a hat, all people are encouraged to touch the dog.
 8. Changes to the above scene.
 9. Upon command a crowd will approach the dog.
 10. Wheelchair and Distractions,
 11. Taking a Treat.
 12. Assistant crossing the room, quickly.
 13. From 6' behind dog, cause a metallic distraction.
- The dog is always on a 4 to 6' leash. Any shyness, growling, cowering, aggression, mouthing, straining or pulling may disqualify the dog.

**YOUR DOG SHOULD
ALWAYS BE IN CONTROL**

St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs



St. John Ambulance
Saskatchewan Council
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Regina, Saskatchewan, S4T 0C8
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St. John Ambulance Saskatchewan Council

Therapy Dog Program

What is it?

This is a unique free community service of dog and volunteer visitation to the shut-ins of our community.

Where is it?

Anywhere a volunteer wishes to qualify his/her dog to visit nursing homes, hospitals, home visitation in the province.

When?

NOW! We are inviting any owner - handler to join the Therapy Dog Program.

Who are eligible?

Any dog owner who is willing to qualify their dog. All dogs are assessed for temperament, health and cleanliness. They are evaluated with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Test.

Why?

Most professional care givers agree that animal visitations can help break down the barriers of loneliness, despair, and rejection experienced by shut-ins.

Benefits

- A structured certification program for dog and volunteer.
- Free to the community.
- High level of commitment. The same dog and handler visit the same place, at the same time each week.

Therapy Dogs Visitation Rules

1. All dogs must pass the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Test.
2. All volunteers must be members in good standing with St. John Ambulance.
3. The Therapy Dog Uniform must be worn on all visits. Dogs will wear a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog I. D. Tag.
4. All dogs must have a current rabies certificate and up to date vaccinations for distemper, hepatitis, para-influenza, and parvovirus. Verification will be required and kept on file. The necessary forms are available from Saskatchewan Council.
5. Visiting dogs must be well groomed, clean, and always on leash. No more than two dogs should be in the same visiting area at the same time. One dog per handler.
6. No dog will be allowed to be tested or visit if it is in season.
7. No dog will be tested or allowed to visit while wearing a haltie, promise, prong type or chain collar. A flat leather or nylon collar or a harness is preferred. The leash shall be flat leather or nylon 4 to 6 feet in length.
8. Keep a record of all visits and number of hours volunteered and report them to your coordinator. If unable to fulfill your obligation, please inform your coordinator.

More Benefits!

- Both handler and dog are insured.
- Volunteers are recognized by the badge of St. John Ambulance.
- All volunteers are screened.

What is the Difference Between the St. John

Therapy Dog Program and a Regular Visitation Program?

St. John Ambulance volunteers visit the same people with the same dog on a regular weekly basis, ideally at the same time and day each week.

No more than two dogs are ever present in the same area at the same time, thus avoiding any problems. This allows for quiet time required for the person / animal bonding to take place.

How Does One Become a Volunteer Under This Program

Anyone who has a well mannered, clean dog with a wonderful temperament can join the Program once the dog has passed the St. John Therapy Dog Tests. Volunteers must be able to make the commitment to regular visitation. All volunteers must be willing to participate in a Screening process, including providing a Criminal Records Check.

Who Do I Contact for Information?

For more information about the St. John Therapy Dog Program contact :

- **Provincial Headquarters**
St. John Ambulance at Regina, Sask.
1-888-273-0003 or 306-522-7226