

Dog B.O.N.E.S.



Therapy Dogs
of Massachusetts

A Non Profit Corporation

Dogs Building
Opportunities for
Nurturing &
Emotional
Support

Frequently Asked Questions (and answers)

What is the mission of Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts?

Our mission is to provide trained therapy dog teams to make socially supportive volunteer visits to people and facilities that request visits. Our goal is to provide volunteer teams to make visits anywhere in Mass.

Where does Dog B.O.N.E.S. make visits? Anywhere we are requested to visit in Mass.

I want my dog to be a therapy dog -How do I get started?

If your dog is at least 4 months of age, demonstrates a like for people, has good basic obedience skills, does not jump up and is not aggressive in any way, you can sign up for one of our Introduction to Becoming a Therapy Dog Team workshop.

How do I get my dog certified as a therapy dog?

Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts does not certify dogs....we certify a therapy dog team. We believe that the team concept is essential. Dogs and handlers must demonstrate that they can work together. The first step is to take our Introduction to Becoming a Therapy Dog Team workshop. Once you take the 3 session workshop and pass you then join Dog B.O.N.E.S. and begin making visits.

What skills are required of my dog?

Dogs must demonstrate basic obedience skills: sit, down, stay, and heel on a leash. They must also demonstrate that they enjoy attention from people, do not jump up and are not aggressive in any manner.

Do you test dogs for therapy dog certification? No. We require potential teams to take Our Introduction to Becoming a Therapy Dog Team workshop.

How old do you have to be to become a member?

Anyone can become a member. If you are under 18 you must be accompanied by a parent at our Introduction To Becoming a Therapy Dog Team workshop and on all visits.

Where and when are workshops held?

Workshops can be held just about anywhere in Mass. that has a space that allows dogs. We often use donated space wherever it is offered and when we can work out the logistics. All workshops are posted on our website. www.therapydog.info

Is the workshop fee refundable if I don't pass?

No. Space is limited in each workshop. We usually have a waitlist for spots. If you want to return to another workshop, when you and your dog are more ready, you can apply the fee to the second workshop.

Do you provide insurance for visits? Yes for visits. Insurance is provided as part of membership.

Do you charge for visits?

We do not charge for visits. Donations are always paws'itively received and are tax deductible as we are a 501 C 3 organization.

How do I request a visit?

Please request a visit via email. Use the request a visit form found on our website, www.therapydog.info as a guide as to what information need be provided.

Do you have volunteer opportunities?

Our only opportunities to volunteer is as a therapy dog team.

How do I renew my membership?

Dog B.O.N.E.S. sends an email with the membership renewal form.

What s the difference between a service dog, therapy dog and companion dogs?

A Service dog is an extension of the person for whom they work. They require very specialized training usually from puppyhood. They are often the dogs that lead the blind, help a person who is hearing impaired, or mobility impaired. Service dogs are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and are allowed to go anywhere their human needs to go.

Therapy dogs are family owned pets that have great temperaments, love people, have good obedience skills and have an owner that wants to share their dog with others on social-based visits. Therapy dogs are NOT covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and therefore can only go where they are invited.

Companion dogs are generally those that provide comfort to an individual. One example is for someone who is anxious and feels comforted by having their dog with them in new settings etc.

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