

Workshop information and registration:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a therapy dog team with Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Mass.

Due to the popularity of therapy dogs we are finding that many people are interested in obtaining this certification but are not quite ready when they sign up for our workshop. In order to help you better prepare we have included some information we hope will be helpful in making your decision to register for the workshop.

Therapy dog certification is not service dogs or emotional support/companion dog certification. Therapy Dogs are not covered by the American with Disabilities Act and therefore can be denied access to public and private places.

For more information on service dogs or emotional support/comfort dogs please consult the Americans with Disabilities Federal Act requirements.

Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy dog teams are all volunteer and make voluntary social visits to those who request a visit.

Our therapy dog team certification and insurance is not meant for people who want to include their dogs in their professional work nor is it intended for people who want to bring their dogs to work on a regular basis.

When making visits our therapy dogs must be on a 4ft or shorter leash held at all times by the Dog B.O.N.E.S. certified owner/handler.

Please read the information below to make sure you are ready to attend our therapy dog workshop.

This workshop is not an obedience class or training. Over the three sessions we are evaluating you and your dog for therapy dog work and providing an orientation to best practices for making visits to those who are ready for this work.

Your positive training, which uses rewards rather than punishment to teach, is the most compatible training method for you to use to prepare your dog to become a therapy dog. Positive methods encourage dogs to learn new skills, to be at ease in their environment and to engage with people, which are all important qualities for a therapy dog.

*We need to establish that you have a relationship with your dog, and that your dog responds to the commands that will enable you to keep those you visit, yourself, and your dog, safe. Generally, you should have had your dog for at least a year prior to taking this workshop. If you have rescued a dog please be sure to give your dog lots of time to adjust to their new life prior to taking our workshop. Not all dogs adjust in the same timeframe.

***Please be sure of your dog's overall health.** Senior dogs, dogs with arthritis, or other health issues may not be able to stand the stress of visits and should be afforded the opportunity to enjoy their life with humans providing for their comfort and wellbeing.

*Your dog must be on a leash at all times during the workshop- a standard, non-retractable leash of 6 feet or less for the workshop. For the safety of the people/children we visit **prong, shock and choke collars are not allowed.**

If you are currently using a prong, shock or choke collar and have not trained on a flat collar or harness you should train your dog on a collar or harness prior to attending the workshop.

*Dogs must display appropriate temperament for therapy dog work:

-Non aggressive towards people and other animals and enjoy attention from people.

*You and your dog will be asked to demonstrate sit, down, stay, and heel (walking on leash without pulling) and leave it. Those not able to perform obedience skills appropriately will be given feedback on areas they need to strengthen and will not be allowed to complete the workshop series.

*Dogs who jump up or are 'mouthy' (tend to put their mouths over people's hands, etc.) and those that show any signs of aggression toward other dogs or people are not ready for this class.

*Dogs who have bitten or nipped a person are not eligible for therapy dog work.

*Dogs with aggression history toward other dogs are not eligible for therapy dog work.

*Dogs that are shy, skittish, fearful of anything are not appropriate for therapy dog work.

*Dogs under 9 months of age are not ready for this workshop.

IF YOU ARE READY:

Introduction to Becoming a Therapy Dog Team is a workshop designed to educate the human companion (you) about best practices for making visits and expose your dog to medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers etc. Dogs will refine their skills for making visits.

Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts uses the three sessions as a method of evaluating teams for therapy dog work. Upon successful completion of the workshop, therapy dog teams are invited to join **Dog B.O.N.E.S.** Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts and begin making volunteer visits. An annual membership dues of \$25 is paid upon joining **Dog B.O.N.E.S.** (at the last session) and is renewable annually.

The workshop registration fee is \$50.00 per dog, is non-refundable and expected at time of registration by credit card or personal check.

At the workshop we will be learning about how to prepare for and what to expect on visits to various facilities as a therapy dog team, and exposing your dog to a wheelchair and walker. We will practice simulated 'visits' and discuss how Dog B.O.N.E.S. works, and what the expectations are for you and your dog.

The owner handler and dog (potential therapy dog team) MUST be able to attend all three sessions of this workshop.

If an additional family member wishes to become a therapy dog team with the dog they must register and be able to attend all three sessions as well. The cost of registration is per dog registered not per

person and is non-refundable. Human companions must be 18 years of age or older, or accompanied by a parent or guardian at the workshop and on all visits.

To Register for a Workshop:

Send the following information via email to: dogbonestherapydogs@gmail.com

Please reference workshop location and starting date on all correspondence

Handler Name(s)
Dog Name
Dog Breed
Dog Age
Dog Sex
Address (street, town & zip code)
Phone Number
Email Address (if different)
Workshop location and dates

The workshop registration fee is \$50.00 per dog and is **non-refundable**.

We accept: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card and personal checks. Call us at 781-378-1551 with the information listed below.

If we are not here, you can leave the information on our secured voicemail or send us a check. Please reference workshop location and date.

Name on card
Type of card
Card number
Expiration date
CVV number on back of card (3 digits)
Zip code

To Proof of vaccinations including the parvo virus vaccine may be sent by email.

Workshops fill quickly!

Upon receipt of 1. registration information, 2. fee and 3. vaccination record an email will be sent confirming your registration for the workshop.

Partial registration does not hold a spot...so please submit everything in a timely manner.

We look forward to meeting you and your dog.

If you have questions or concerns contact us via email at:

dogbonestherapydogs@gmail.com or phone at 781-378-1551.