



Everything New Orleans

## Visiting Pet Program orientation is Saturday

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**Quo Vadis Hollins, The Times-Picayune**

By

The **Visiting Pet Program**, New Orleans oldest and largest animal-assisted therapy program, will offer its summer volunteer orientation Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the **Harahan** Senior Center, 100 Elodie St. This is a people-only orientation; no pets, please.



Visiting Pet Program will hold its summer orientation Saturday in Harahan.

Advance registration is required, and there is a \$10 fee to attend. To register for the orientation, email the organization at **paws4visits@gmail.com**.

Winners of the Dorothy Dorsett Brown Humanitarian Award, the 100 pets and handlers of the Visiting Pet Program currently visit 20 nursing homes and hospitals in Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. They live up to their motto of "Bringing Love and Leaving Smiles" with every visit they make. The 24-year-old nonprofit features dogs, cats, guinea pigs and rabbits as animal therapists.

The program also provides a literacy project, Reading to Rover, to local libraries. Designed to help beginning readers practice their reading aloud skills, the gentle, patient dogs prove to be excellent listeners. Reading to Rover is offered at Jefferson Parish libraries.

For more information about the Visiting Pet Program, go to the website **www.visitingpetprogram.org**.

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