

VISITING PET PROGRAM

A 501 (C3) non-profit animal assisted therapy organization serving over 25 nursing homes and hospitals in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS



 **MAY**

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 am-Noon

Reservations Required

For more information or a reservation
contact us at

paws4visits@gmail.com

Interested volunteers need to attend
only one orientation

All orientations are held at the
Harahan Senior Center,

100 Elodie Street, Harahan

A \$10.00 advanced reservation fee
is required to attend an orientation.

 **JUNE**

Saturday, June 8, 2024

10:00 am-Noon

 **NOVEMBER**

Saturday, November 9, 2024

10:00 am-Noon

 **no pets please...people only** 

Pet/handler evaluations will be held
Saturday, July 27, 2024

Details given at the Orientation

Attendance at an orientation is mandatory to participate in an evaluation.

Initiation fee to the Visiting Pet Program is \$30.00.

Membership dues are \$30.00 annually.

Check out our web site at www.visitingpetprogram.org

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMAL THERAPISTS

The Animal Therapists

- **must have a sweet, affectionate, friendly disposition.**
- **must be able to socialize well with other animals and with people.**
- **must be capable of entering new situations with confidence. The animal cannot react negatively to loud noises, wheel chairs, medical carts and other normal sights, smells and sounds of a hospital situation.**
- **should have the stamina to complete an hour long visit**
- **Formal obedience training is not required. A calm, friendly, outgoing personality is more important than performance. A basic understanding of sit & stay commands is preferred. The animal must be kept under control and at the handler's side at all times.**
- **All dogs and cats must be at least one year old and have proof of all shot requirements given by a veterinarian.**
- **All dog and cat therapists must remain on leash or harness during visits.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMAL HANDLERS

The Handler

- **must accept full responsibility for their animal's actions and must be in complete control of the animal at all times.**
- **must be willing to attend a minimum of 1 visit per month.**
- **must enjoy meeting people and adding joy to their lives.**
- **must attend a mandatory orientation and pass the pet/handler evaluation.**
- **must satisfactorily complete a 4 visit probationary training period**
- **must be at least 18 years of age**