



## Consider Joining Us!

1. **Make sure it is a good fit.** Go to our website at [www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org) and thoroughly review the program requirements, policies and procedures to see if this is a good fit for you and your animal.
2. **Complete the Handler Course.** The key to safe and effective visits is training for the “human end of the leash”.
3. **Visit your vet.** All animals that participate in the Therapy Animal Program must be healthy, so you will need to ask your vet to complete the Animal Health Screening Form to submit with your application.
4. **Pass Your Team Evaluation.** The Team Evaluation process evaluates the animal/handler team and allows Pet Partners to identify teams that will be safe and successful in the community.



## R.E.A.D. Program



As a benefit to becoming a registered Therapy Animal Team with Pet Partners, you and your partner will be eligible to take the necessary steps to become a registered R.E.A.D. team. The Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program strives to improve children's reading and communication skills by having children read to a therapy animal. R.E.A.D. Teams volunteer to go to schools, libraries and many other settings so they can be reading companions for children.



**MO-KAN Pet Partners**

[www.mo-kanpetpartners.org](http://www.mo-kanpetpartners.org)  
a community partner of Pet Partners

[www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org)



**MO-KAN PET PARTNERS**  
a Community Partner of Pet Partners



*Volunteer Therapy  
Animal Teams*

**Touching Lives,  
Improving Health**





## Improving the Lives of Those We Serve

### MO-KAN Pet Partners

- Mo-Kan Pet Partners is a non-profit organization and a **local** community partner of Pet Partners. Pet Partners is an international organization that prepares teams to work in animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy.
- MO-KAN Pet Partners teams volunteer to serve local healthcare facilities, schools, nursing homes, VA centers, mental health centers, hospice organizations, and many other facilities. We also serve camps and community events, such as providing college stress relief.
- As Pet Partners, we employ superior risk management and high industry safety standards. We offer ongoing education and require re-registration of our teams every 2 years; helping to ensure our teams are working safely and effectively.
- MO-KAN Pet Partners provides local opportunities to network with other Pet Partners teams, work with mentors and share best practices and successful experiences.

### Proven Benefits of Our Work

- People with Alzheimer's Disease experience a decrease in sadness and anxiety and an increase in positive emotions or motor activity with animal-assisted activities. Mossello, et. al., 2011
- Patients visited by therapy animals require significantly less pain medication after joint replacement. Kaplan, 2010
- Long-term care residents have significantly improved moods, engagement and core compliance when visited by therapy animal teams. Buettner, 2007; Soprano, 2010
- Patients visited by a therapy animal had a significant improvement in systolic and diastolic blood pressure. Stasi, et.al., 2004



### Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of animals can qualify?

A. Pet Partners registers a variety of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, rats, llamas, alpacas, horses, mini horses, and donkeys.

Q. I just got a new puppy. Can we register?

A. Animals must be at least one year old and have lived in the owner's home for at least six months before evaluating and registering with Pet Partners. Pocket pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and rats only need to be six months old.

Q. How do I know if my animal is a good fit for this kind of work?

A. Animals should reliably demonstrate basic obedience skills, be confident and friendly in unfamiliar settings and enjoy meeting strangers. All species should be housebroken.

Q. How much does it cost to do this?

A. There are fees for the handler course, evaluation and registration. Additionally, you will need your vet to complete a health screening, which may have associated charges.

Q. What should I do next?

A. Please go to our website to learn more about how you can be a Mo-Kan Pet Partner Therapy Animal Team!

Please visit our website at

[www.mo-kanpetpartners.org](http://www.mo-kanpetpartners.org) or  
[www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org).