

# Pet Partners Handler's Questionnaire

Handler Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this questionnaire and bring it with you to your team evaluation along with other required materials such as a soft brush suitable for visiting, a treat and proof of current rabies vaccination.

My animal and I meet all the following standards for participation in the Therapy Animal Program:

- \_\_\_ My animal is at least 1 year of age (or 6 months for rabbits, guinea pigs and rats).
- \_\_\_ My animal has lived in my home or has known me for at least 6 months (or 1 year for birds).
- \_\_\_ My animal's rabies vaccination is current. (Rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, and birds are exempt.)
- \_\_\_ My animal does not have a history of aggression towards people including growling, lunging or biting.
- \_\_\_ My dog has never been trained or encouraged to aggressively bite for protection or sport.
- \_\_\_ My animal has never seriously injured or killed another companion animal.
- \_\_\_ My animal does not eat a raw protein diet.
- \_\_\_ My animal is in good health with no open wounds or signs of illness or infection, and is not pregnant, nursing young, or in season.
- \_\_\_ My animal is not taking antibiotics, antifungals, or immunosuppressive medications.
- \_\_\_ My animal is wearing the approved collar or harness and leash that I plan to use for visiting.
- \_\_\_ My animal has been groomed for this evaluation according to Pet Partners' grooming guidelines.
- \_\_\_ I have completed the Pet Partners Handler's Course or am a current or renewing team.

*If you have specific questions about your eligibility as a team, please contact [volunteering@petpartners.org](mailto:volunteering@petpartners.org) or call 425-679-5530.*

For the following questions, there are no incorrect answers. Being thoughtful in your responses helps your evaluator get to know you and your animal. If your evaluator suggests you have an area to work on before evaluating, it is because they wish to set you up for success.

1. All animals demonstrate some behavior that indicates stress, fatigue, overstimulation, anxiety or concern.
  - a. How does your animal communicate when it needs a break?
  - b. If the situation remains unchanged, how does your animal demonstrate a higher level of stress, fatigue, overstimulation, anxiety or concern?
  - c. How quickly does it escalate and what are the resulting behaviors?
  - d. Once you perceive that your animal is stressed, fatigued, overstimulated, anxious or concerned, how do you respond to support your animal?
2. All animals occasionally exhibit undesirable behaviors such as jumping, vocalizing or excess sniffing or licking. What undesirable behaviors have you noted in your animal and how do you manage or redirect them?

3. There are many types of environments where you may find yourself volunteering as a therapy animal team, such as noisy surroundings, unfamiliar places or buildings with slippery floors, elevators or automated doors. What types of environments might be uncomfortable for your animal?
4. Most animals have triggers, such as specific objects or noises, which result in discomfort or stress. What items triggers an uncomfortable response in your animal?
5. When you are out in public with your animal on a leash, describe the behaviors your animal demonstrates if you encounter the following situations:
  - Someone your pet sees frequently
  - Strangers you have never met before
  - People wearing hats
  - Adult men with facial hair
  - People of an unfamiliar race
  - School age children
  - Toddlers
  - People moving differently, awkwardly or erratically
  - People using assistive equipment such as crutches, a wheelchair or walker
  - Crowds
6. In this line of work, our animals can potentially come in contact with other animals during visits, such as other therapy animals, service animals or pets.
  - a. How does your animal react when meeting small dogs? Large dogs?
  - b. How does your animal react when meeting other species, such as cats or horses?
  - c. How do you manage your animal's reaction to other animals? Examples might include: redirecting their attention, talking to your animal, walking in another direction.
7. As a handler, you will have the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people, possibly those who terminally ill, individuals with mental illness or people displaying strong emotion. What visiting scenarios do you anticipate might cause you, the handler, to be uncomfortable or stressed?