



Paws for People®

Questionnaire for prospective PFP Handlers

Can be faxed to 766 3728 or 'e' mailed to lesley.deklerk@pixie.co.za or lesley@smfm.co.za

N.B. Before filling in this questionnaire, please pause a moment to consider the commitment our visitation program requires from you – the handler. Do NOT consider this program if you cannot commit to at least one facility per month (2 actual visits) & situational training once a month. The folks we visit rely on, and look forward to our REGULAR SCHEDULED CALLS.

**Our goal is to bring joy to the folks we visit, NOT disappointment!
Your dog should be obedient, and must be able to perform a sit, down, down or sit stay and a reliable recall (Off Leash.) (Completion of a basic obedience course is suggested.)
Your dog must have a stable tolerant temperament, towards humans and other dogs/animals.**

THE PAWS FOR PEOPLE® ASSESSMENTS ARE TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF A HANDLER AND DOG TEAM IN OUR ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY/ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. WE ASK WITH RESPECT THAT UNLESS YOU HAVE CONSIDERED AND REACHED A DECISION TO COMMIT TO OUR PROGRAM, PLEASE DO NOT WASTE OUR EVALUATORS' TIME BY ATTENDING AN ASSESSMENT WHEN YOU HAVE NO REAL INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN PAWS FOR PEOPLE®.

1. Why do you want to become a therapy dog handler?
2. **If you work**, will you be able to get time off during the week in order to do a visit? Please be honest.
3. **One visit will take 2 – 3 hours plus a traveling distance of approximately 10 – 50KM.** Can you commit to at least one visit (2 calls) per month for an extended period of time?
4. Do you own a reliable car?
5. **Training sessions are not negotiable for safety reasons**; can you attend the therapy dog situational training session that is usually held once a month?
6. (a) What training experience, (past and current) if any, do you have with your dog?

(b) Have you ever trained your dog in any type of " attack/defense/protection/Schutzhund/ Bite work" that requires that your dog to react in an aggressive manner?

7. How does your dog react to people of different cultures and other (strange) dogs/cats/birds/other animals? Please be honest, and specific.
8. Do you currently own a dog that you would like to be assessed? List details on the bottom of this page.
9. Therapy dogs must be Frontlined every four weeks, de-wormed every three months, vaccinated annually, certified healthy by a qualified veterinarian annually, and tested for worms bi-annually (twice a year) with a fecal flotation worm test. (Can you afford this?)
10. Do you have an animal other than a dog that you would like assessed?
11. Do you feel more comfortable interacting with:
Children
Elderly people
People with physical/mental disabilities
Other – please specify

Please note: Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, or shows aggression/excessive fear towards a person or another dog at any point before, during or after the assessment, cannot be considered for therapy work. (A dog should not be provoked into reacting defensively or from fear.) Dogs will be required to work in close proximity to each other during the testing procedure.

'Paws for People®' is fully insured for Public Liability Insurance. A minimum of 2 handlers must be present at all visits. Any handler, who calls on his/her own at a facility with a dog, will NOT be operating under the auspices of Paws for People, and will therefore not be covered by Public Liability Insurance.

As this work is totally voluntary, you, as a therapy dog handler, will be responsible for your and your dog's expenses.

Name: _____ Dog's Name _____
Breed: _____
Address: _____ Gender: _____
Age: _____

Contact Numbers: _____ 'e' mail address: _____

If you have specific qualifications/skills that you feel may be relevant, please supply details.