



Paws for People®

Questionnaire for prospective Paws For People Handlers

Can be faxed to 011 766 3728 or 'e' mailed to tracy@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 two visits per month (supervised visits may NOT be done in hospitals) & 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 advised). 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 respectfully ask 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 actively involved in the Paws for People® programs.

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? (Most visits occur during the week)
3. A visit could take 2 – 3 hours plus a travelling distance of approximately 10 – 50km. Can you commit to at least **two visits per month** for an extended period of time?
4. Do you own a reliable vehicle?
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. What training experience (past and current), if any, do you have with your dog?
7. Have you ever trained your dog in any type of "attack/defense/protection/Schutzhund/bite work" that required your dog to react in an aggressive manner?

8. Have you ever trained your dog using toys or any other article as a reward and if so, does your dog exhibit obsessive behaviour with regards to the toy or article used?

9. How does your dog react to people of different cultures and other (strange) dogs/cats/birds/other animals? Please be honest, and specific.

10. Do you currently own a dog that you would like to be assessed? List details on the next page.

11. Therapy dogs must be treated against fleas every four weeks, de-wormed every three months, vaccinated annually, certified healthy by a qualified veterinarian annually, and tested for worms twice annually with a faecal flotation worm test. (Can you afford this?)

12. Do you have an animal other than a dog that you would like assessed?

13. 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 (and visits). If your dog is aggressive towards other dogs during this test it will be disqualified.

'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:

Gender:

Age:

Address:

Contact Numbers:

Email address:

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