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## **Class Descriptions**

### **AT-1: Beginner Visiting Dog Training**

6:30 p.m. @ Twin Cities Obed. Club

For the Handler and/or dog having some obedience and little or no experience with therapy dog training. Through hands-on practice, review of video tapes, study of homework sheets, and individual instructor attention, this weekly course will cover the correct methods for:

- Beginner, Low Impact, Body Desensitizing
- Beginning therapy dog maneuvers such as head down, hold still, let's visit
- Introduction to medical equipment
- Etiquette for visiting handlers and dogs
- Evaluation Steps to Beginning Assessment of dog/population match
- Evaluation Steps to Beginning Stress Assessment for dog and handler and how to alleviate stress
- How to employ articles found in every home to train for exposure to visiting situations
- How to choose where to visit

It is NOT anticipated that animal / handler completing this initial course will be ready for evaluation by a national organization.

#### **Pre-requisites to enter this class:**

Must be assessed by Instructor during Free Therapy Animal Overview / Orientation Seminar

Dog must be at least 18 months old.

Class size limited.

### **AT-2: Intermediate Visiting Dog Training**

7:30 p.m. @ Twin Cities Obed. Club

For the handler who wishes to learn more advanced maneuvers for their dog, and polish their own visiting skills. Through hands on practice, interactive situations, review of video tapes, study of homework sheets, and individual instructor attention, this weekly course will cover the correct methods for:

- More intense involvement with medical equipment
- Novice, Medium Impact, Body Desensitizing
- Individual problem solving to optimize individual dog / handler team skills
- Handling difficult situations
- More advanced steps to reducing stress for dog and handler
- More advanced visiting dog maneuvers such as: avoiding IV tubes, working in tight spaces, sudden chaos,
- Equipment to take to visits
- Observation of actual visits
- Participation in actual animal evaluations

#### **Pre-requisites to enter this class:**

Successful Completion of AT-1.

Completion of this course should have the animal / handler team ready for evaluation by a national therapy animal organization.

### **AT-3: Advanced Visiting Dog Training**

8:00 p.m. @ Twin Cities Obed. Club

AT-3 is advanced situational practice needed for confident visiting. This class runs concurrently with level 2. Level 3 students receive individualized instructor assistant with specific needs of that team.

Animal / handler teams are presented with a variety of interactive situations that simulate those encountered on visits. Individual instructor attention will help the team problem solve these situations for effective, safe visiting.

- Advanced Impact, Body Desensitizing
- Assessment of dog / population match
- How to protect your dog and yourself in dangerous situations
- Handling various situations dealing with different diseases, illnesses, disabilities.
- Prof. Standards of Practice as they apply to incorporating animals as a treatment modality
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**Pre-requisites:**

Successful completion of AT-2

Required participation in and help with upcoming therapy animal evaluations

Fee for this class is \$40 for 7 weeks to provide the accomplished, trained team with simulated visiting situations and problems to gain confidence, a broad level of expertise and work on individual team challenges.

It is anticipated that during this class, the team will actually begin visiting with an experienced team mentoring.

Cost: \$40.00