

“My son’s eyes just lit up when he was working with Hoop. He wanted to try even harder to do his therapy when Hoop was there with him.”

- Mother of a young patient at  
Primary Children’s Hospital



Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting positive human-animal therapy, activities and education. Nearly forty years since the organization’s inception, the science that proves these benefits has become indisputable. Today, Pet Partners is the nation’s largest and most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interactions. Pet Partners teams interact with a wide variety of clients including veterans with PTSD, seniors living with Alzheimer’s, students with literacy challenges, patients in recovery, people with intellectual disabilities and those approaching end of life. The impact of these interactions is felt one million times a year. Pet Partners’ curriculum and continuing education for licensed instructors, evaluators and handlers is the gold standard in the field.

Animal-Assisted Therapy is now frequently being prescribed by doctors for their human patients. Numerous scientific research studies have proven that interactions with animals:

- Reduces blood pressure
- Lowers anxiety and stress levels
- Stimulates the release of endorphins, which help people feel good, which is especially important for those feeling isolated or depressed
- Encourages exercise
- Leads to more independent and fulfilling lives
- Increases a sense of community

# Volunteering With Your Pet

People and animal volunteer teams are the heart and soul of Pet Partners' Therapy Animal Program.

With the highest caliber curriculum in the industry, Pet Partners trains volunteers and evaluates them with their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, veterans' centers, hospice, Alzheimer's facilities, courtrooms, schools and other settings. Pet

Partners currently has more than 11,000 therapy animal teams in 48 states who are specially trained to lovingly share the healing power of their pets with people in need.

To help ensure the animal does not become overly tired or stressed, most visits last for just one to two hours. Some volunteers commit to one visit a month while others do several per week.



Therapy animals aren't just dogs. Cats, equines, rabbits, pigs, birds, llamas and alpacas, guinea pigs and even rats are eligible for evaluation through the Pet Partners program.

To learn more about volunteering with your pet, visit:

[www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org) or email us at [volunteering@petpartners.org](mailto:volunteering@petpartners.org).

For more information please contact:

[www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org) or 425.679.5500



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