



POSITION STATEMENT

On Therapy Dog Breeds



Pet Partners
Touching Lives, Improving Health

About This Document

Pet Partners holds a variety of positions that are not only important to our message and organization, but are also important to researchers, professionals, facilities, and the general public. The following position statement has been approved by Pet Partners' Human Animal Bond Advisory Board and Board of Directors.

Pet Partners' Position on Therapy Dog Breeds

Pet Partners recognizes that successful therapy animals possess a combination of important traits, including obedience skills, an affiliative nature and strong bond with their handler. Such traits make these animals appropriate for interacting with the general public and more reliable in animal-assisted interventions. Pet Partners has extensive experience in evaluating therapy dog teams and has observed no breed differences in therapy dog effectiveness. We are not aware of any evidence suggesting that any breed or breed mix is unsuitable to serve as a therapy dog.

The Therapy Animal Program registers dogs of any breed or mix of breeds able to demonstrate the skills and aptitude for therapy animal work through the rigorous Pet Partners evaluation process. This team evaluation must be repeated for renewal as a therapy animal team every two years. We encourage everyone – from facilities receiving therapy animal visits to cities and municipalities – to assess dogs individually rather than by a breed, breed type or physical characteristics.