

## Steps to Becoming a Visiting Pet Partner

### 1. Pre-Screening

Schedule an appointment with a Positive Paws evaluator for a pre-screening. Pre-screening appointments evaluate your dog (or pet's) suitability, temperament, and training level. If your dog (or pet) is suitable for therapy work and has a very social and non-aggressive temperament you will go onto Step 2. Appointments are usually scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evenings between 5-6pm and take 30 minutes.

**Cost: \$30.00**

### 2. Pet Training

At your pre-screening appointment the evaluator will make a training recommendation. If your dog needs more training on basic obedience skills, leash pulling, jumping, or basic control you will be directed to attend a beginner or intermediate level training class. If your dog has good self-control and knows the basic obedience commands necessary to take the Delta Society Test you will be directed to attend the Visiting Pet Training Class. All other animals will go directly to the Visiting Pet Training Class.

The Visiting Pet Training class trains pets specifically to pass the Delta Society Evaluation and for training skills needed to handle your pet on a Therapy Visit. VP Classes meet on Wednesdays at 8pm.

**Cost: Basic and Intermediate Level Classes \$125 each. Visiting Pet Training Class \$100 one time fee.**

### 3. People Training

While you are training your pet to be a well-behaved therapy pet you will also go through a short "people" training. This training will include meeting with our Member Trainer, purchasing the Delta Society Home Study Book, and completing the required Delta Society Take Home Test. The Member Trainer will schedule times during the VP Training Class to meet you and will review all of the VPP policies and procedures as well as the Take Home Test in the Delta Society Home Study Book. All the people training takes place during the VP Class, which is held Wednesdays at 8pm.

**Cost: Pet Partners Team Training Course Student Manual \$37.50**

### 4. Delta Society Evaluation

Once you have completed your People Training and you feel that your dog has had enough training you will register for a Delta Society Evaluation. The evaluations are scheduled by Positive Paws and are held at the training center. It will consist of you and your pet completing a set of tasks determined by the Delta Society during which you will be scored by a Delta Society Evaluator. Once you have passed this evaluation you are ALMOST ready.

You will be required by the Delta Society to retest every two years.

**Cost: \$35 per evaluation. (Note: You will need to have a copy of a current rabies certificate to give to the evaluator when you arrive to test.)**

### 5. Delta Registration

Once you have passed your Delta Evaluation you will need to mail your completed Registration Packet, a current Photo and payment to Delta Society before you can begin visiting. Once Delta has received and processed your registration application you will receive notification via email or snail mail of your Pet Partner ID number. Your ID badge will follow in the mail within a few weeks. You will be required by the Delta Society to re-register every two years after testing.

(Note: Some parts of the registration packet will be required to be completed for the Evaluation.)

**Cost: Between \$75-\$100 depending on who and how many pets are registering.**

### 6. Visiting

Once you have passed your Delta Society Evaluation and have received your Pet Partners ID number you can begin visiting. You can visit on your own or with the Visiting Pet Program. All visits scheduled by the VPP are scheduled at the monthly meeting, which is on the SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 8pm. At these meetings you will volunteer for the visits that you are interested in. When you participate in a VPP visit you will be asked to wear a VPP Shirt and have your dog wear a VPP vest.

**Cost: Shirts \$10, Vests \$30**