

# PETS AS THERAPY

## The Application and Registration Process

### - Becoming a Volunteer with Pets As Therapy

**Thank you** for considering becoming a Pets As Therapy volunteer. Our charity provides comfort, happiness and emotional well-being to many people each week. The joy this brings to the volunteer, in our experience, is immense and you and your pet's time is such a worthwhile gift to others. We have prepared this factsheet to describe the application and registration process more fully for you to help you decide whether Pets As Therapy volunteering is for you.

#### The application process involves:

Completing an application form (online registration now preferred); providing two character references and a copy of your pet's vaccination certificate; having your pet's temperament assessed and paying an annual subscription of £19 (£29 for joint subscription).

#### Suitable dogs and cats

PAT Dogs and PAT Cats come in all shapes and sizes: pedigrees or crossbreeds, from Chihuahuas to Irish Wolfhounds and Moggies to Maine Coon. If you think your dog or cat might be suitable, you are halfway there! Dogs and cats must be a minimum age of 9 months and have been with their owner for at least 6 months before applying.

#### Vaccinations, treatments and feeding

Visiting PAT dogs must be conventionally vaccinated against Leptospirosis, wormed and protected against fleas. Records are required by the charity and each volunteer is requested to send copies when boosters have been administered. **We also highly recommend that dogs receive inoculations from your vet against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus at the frequency recommended on the product data sheets.** PAT pets should **NOT** be fed raw meat - or unpasteurised milk. This minimises the risk of diseases such as E-coli, Salmonella and Listeria being transmitted to humans from our pets.

#### Temperament Assessment

Your pet will be assessed by a local accredited Pets As Therapy Temperament Assessor as part of the application process. This checks that your pet is sociable and friendly, calm and gentle when being stroked or handled and copes well with new and unexpected stimuli.

#### Expenses and Fees

There is no payment for undertaking Pets As Therapy visits. All volunteers and Voluntary Area Co-ordinators give their time freely to the charity. As mentioned, the annual subscription is currently £19 or £29 for joint subscription. Expenses may be reimbursed by some establishments, but please enquire about this before you start visiting.

#### Frequency of Pets As Therapy Visits

There is no set requirement on how often you undertake visits on behalf of Pets As Therapy, but regular visits are greatly appreciated by establishments, residents, patients and staff!

For further information please contact the Pets As Therapy Head Office on 01865 671440  
email [reception@petsastherapy.org](mailto:reception@petsastherapy.org) or visit [www.petsastherapy.org](http://www.petsastherapy.org)