



How to become a Pet Partners® Team

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in becoming a Delta Society Pet Partner! Your involvement will allow you and your pet to share joy, love, and assistance to people in need. This document outlines the prerequisites and steps necessary to become a registered Pet Partners team. For more information check out the Delta Society website at www.DeltaSociety.org.

Prerequisites

1. Handlers must be at least 10 years old. Handlers younger than 16 must have written permission to participate and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
2. Animals should be healthy and already have a basic level of training. Cats/dogs must be at least 1 year old, and must have lived with the handler for a minimum of 6 months. Other species please refer to www.DeltaSociety.org. Both handler and animal should have an interest in people and be comfortable in health care settings or other environments. Handlers should also have good control of and proactive communication with the animal.
3. Animals with a bite history, aggression, trained for protection or bite work are not eligible.

Four major steps to becoming a Pet Partners Team

Step 1: Course work

1. Go to www.DeltaSociety.org. Click on the green EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING navigation button on the left hand side of the screen. Then, click on the green COURSES & EVALUATIONS navigation button on the lower left hand side of the screen. NOTE: You may have to scroll down to see it.
2. Click on the name of your state to view that calendar. If the name of your state is not a hyperlink, click on the name of a surrounding state that is linked to a calendar. These courses are updated regularly, so a course may come available in your area at any time. NOTE: When displaying the calendar it is best to choose LIST VIEW and project 3 – 4 months in advance.
3. If you are still unable to find a workshop, then you can click on SEARCH FOR A TEAM EVALUATOR OR INSTRUCTOR at the bottom of the COURSES & EVALUATIONS page. Utilize the search engine on the following page to locate evaluators and instructors in your area.
4. If no workshops are being held in your area, you may order the home study course for \$37.50 plus shipping/handling. You can order online at www.DeltaSociety.org, or by calling 425.679.5500 (Prices subject to change). NOTE: It is a requirement that you obtain your own copy of the Pet Partners Team Training Manual by attending a workshop or purchasing the home study course.

Step 2: Animal Health Screening

Different species have different health needs. Animals need to be healthy, friendly, sociable, and up-to-date (as required by your veterinarian) on vaccinations. Animals must be free of external and internal parasites. Proof of rabies vaccination and fecal exam results within the last 6 months, must be included in your animal's health screening. For more information, go to www.DeltaSociety.org click on the green EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING navigation button on the left hand side of the screen. Then click through the tutorial about How To Become a Pet Partner until you reach *Step 2: Health Screening for Your Pet*.

Step 3: Team Evaluation

1. Go to www.DeltaSociety.org. Click on the green EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING navigation button on the left hand side of the screen. Then, click on the green COURSES & EVALUATIONS navigation button on the lower left hand side of the screen. NOTE: You may have to scroll down to see it.
2. Click on the name of your state to view that calendar. If the name of your state is not a hyperlink, click on the name of a surrounding state that is linked to a calendar. These courses are updated regularly, so a course may come available in your area at any time. NOTE: When displaying the calendar it is best to choose LIST VIEW and project 3 – 4 months in advance.
3. If you are still unable to find a workshop, then you can click on SEARCH FOR A TEAM EVALUATOR OR INSTRUCTOR at the bottom of the COURSES & EVALUATIONS page. Utilize the search engine on the following page to locate evaluators and instructors in your area.
4. For further assistance, please contact Delta Society at 425.679.5500 petpartners@deltasociety.org.

Step 4: Paperwork

Once you complete the evaluation, send all completed paperwork from the back of the Team Training manual (including your evaluation and volunteer review) along with the registration fee to Delta Society. You soon will receive an acceptance letter with your ID, which will allow you to begin making visits. You must receive the acceptance letter prior to scheduling or making visits. Your permanent ID badge and animal tag will arrive in 3 – 4 weeks. Time commitment for visits can range monthly to weekly. This is directly dependent on your schedule, the population that you are visiting, and the needs of the facility.

Category	2 Year Registration Fee (subject to change)
*Pet Partner Patron	\$150
Pet Partner with 1 animal	\$75
**Pet Partner Affiliate Group Member	\$50
Pet Partner without an Animal	\$40
Pet Partner Senior or Pet Partner w/disability	\$40
Pet Partner additional Handler	\$30
Pet Partner additional Animal	\$20
*\$50 of the Patron registration is tax-deductible plus you receive a free Pet Partners vest!	
**Not sure whether your group is a Delta affiliate? Please call us or ask your local group leader	



Delta Society® Pet Partners® Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of animals can qualify?

A. All companion animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, horses, mini-horses, & even llamas.

Q. How do I know if my animal might be a candidate for this work?

A. Animals must be at least 1-year old and have lived in the owner's home for at least 6 months. (Pocket pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. only need to be 6 months old.) Animals should: show no shyness, aggression, or fear; demonstrate non-threatening or neutral body position; show a tail that is wagging in a friendly manner, or relaxed; have a soft body and relaxed face, not eliminate during the evaluation (cats and dogs only); vocalize minimally (a single aggressive bark is unacceptable).

Q. My animal is intact (not spayed or neutered) – can they be registered as a Pet Partner?

A. Yes, however some places may not allow intact animals to participate in their programs.

Q. What training courses do you provide for the animal?

A. Delta Society does not provide any training courses for the animals.

Q. Can my children volunteer with me or do this on their own?

A. Children as young as 10 years old can become a Pet Partner. They will need to complete the same steps as noted on the reverse side of this sheet. Children 10 – 15 years of age must have written permission to participate and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Q. What is the time / visit commitment required of Pet Partners?

A. Delta Society does not require Pet Partners commit to any number of hours or visits per year. We recognize that every person's availability and interest is different. Pet Partners need just work out a schedule that works for both them and the place(s) they visit. For Pet Partners interested in becoming a Team Evaluator, they do need to complete at least 100 hours of visits.

Q. How do I find a place to visit once I'm registered?

A. There are several options. Ask your Workshop Instructor for ideas. Contact places of interest to you and inquire directly with them. Visit our website (under the Members Only section) to find places advertising for more Pet Partners. Contact Ricky Namavong at Delta Society for help: rickyn@deltasociety.org.

Q. I have two animals, can I register with both?

A. Yes, but you need to have a separate evaluation with each animal, as well as you will need to complete a separate Registration Packet for each animal partner. A registered Pet Partner team includes 1 human and 1 animal combination. Please also take note that you will only be able to visit with one animal at a time.

Q. How much does it cost to do this?

A. The Student Manual is \$37.50 plus tax, and shipping & handling if ordered online. You will need to confirm current pricing with Instructors for their Workshops (Student Manual included), as well as confirm evaluation fees with the Evaluators. Average prices for the Workshop are \$130 - \$150. 'Stand alone' evaluations average \$15 - \$30. The registration fee paid to Delta Society is as follows.

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Pet Partner Patron*	\$150
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Pet Partner without an Animal	\$40
Pet Partner Senior or Pet Partner w/disability	\$40
Pet Partner additional Handler	\$30
Pet Partner additional Animal	\$20
* \$50 of the Patron registration is tax-deductible plus you receive a Pet Partners vest!	

Q. I have more questions. Who can I contact at Delta Society?

A. Ricky Namavong at rickyn@deltasociety.org or via phone at 425.679.5524.

Pet Partners® Program Team Evaluation

Part 1 - Skills Exercises (PPST)

◆ Indicates exercises used in evaluating complex area placement



Exercise 1
Review Handler
Questionnaire



Exercise 2 ◆
Accepting a Friendly Stranger
Animal may change position



Exercise 3
Accepting Petting
Animal may change position



Exercise 4 ◆
Appearance and Grooming
Animal may change position



Exercise 5 ◆
Out for a Walk
All dogs must walk on floor



Exercise 6 ◆
Walk Through a Crowd



Exercise 7
Reaction to Distractions
One visual and one auditory



Exercise 8
(med./large dogs)
Sit on Command



Exercise 9
(med./large dogs)
Down on Command



Exercise 8 and 9
(small dogs/cats)
Animal Passed to 3 Strangers



Exercise 10 ◆
(med./large dogs)
Stay in Place
10 ft line with a 2-3 second pause



Exercise 10 ◆
(small dogs/cats)
Placed on Lap or Table
Stay for 30 seconds



Exercise 11
Come When Called
All dogs must do



Exercise 12
Reaction to Neutral Dog



DELTA SOCIETY®

The Human-Animal Health Connection

Chart by Shari Sternberger
Illustrations courtesy of Terry Ryan,
Legacy Canine Behavior
and Training, Inc.

Pet Partners® Program Team Evaluation

Part 2 - Aptitude Exercises (PPAT)

Volunteer Teams are permitted to have 2 "Not Ready(s)" (NR) marks in PPAT exercises D through J

◆ Indicates exercises used in evaluating complex area placement

Scenario 1



Exercise A ◆
Overall Examination



Exercise B ◆
Clumsy Petting



Exercise C ◆
Restraining Hug

Scenario 2



Exercise D
Staggering, Gesturing
Assistant staggers, then moves normally to pet animal



Exercise E
Angry Yelling
Assistant yells, then calms down and calls animal



Exercise F
Bumped from Behind

Scenario 3



Exercise G ◆
Crowded and Petted by Several People



Exercise H
Leave It



Exercise I
Offer Treat



Proactive
Or
Reactive
Handler?

Exercise J ◆
Overall Assessment

The team should:
› Be reliable
› Be predictable
› Be controllable



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