



Frequently Asked Questions About Becoming a Registered Pet Partners Team

NEPP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) heart-centered organization bringing people & pets together to enhance well-being and education with pet-assisted therapy (EIN# 20-8765241.



What is Pet Partners?

Pet Partners is a program administered by Delta Society (a national, non-profit organization based in Washington State) for the training and registration of human/animal teams to visit health care facilities, schools, and other institutions on a volunteer basis. Pet Partners teams are made up of a handler and his/her animal that has been evaluated for skills and aptitude, as well as health issues. Teams carry identification and volunteer liability insurance.

What does New England Pet Partners do in relation to Pet Partners?

NEPP is a Delta Society Affiliate, based in Pelham, NH. Our members have completed the Pet Partners Workshops, online training or home study. They have successfully completed the animal/handler team evaluations, and are registered Pet Partners teams with Delta Society. In collaboration with facilities and healthcare professionals (hospitals, rehabs, nursing-assisted living, schools and libraries), NEPP sponsors Pet Partner Team Training Workshops, Team Evaluations and R.E.A.D. Training Workshops each year (more if there is adequate need). We provide on-going training/education, networking and mentoring opportunities for our members. Most information is relayed via email.

I have a great horse. Can a horse be a registered Pet Partner?

Delta Society registers any *domesticated* animal - cats, rabbits, goats, horses, pigs, birds, etc. -- not just dogs. (Reptiles are not considered domesticated.) Many facilities enjoy a variety of pets, although there are some visiting/therapy programs at facilities that **ONLY** allow dogs.

My dog is really well behaved, why do I have to take a class?

The class is for you, the owner! The Pet Partners program is unique in that it looks at both ends of the leash. In addition to your pet being well behaved, you, too, must illustrate that you have the skills to work well with your animal, clients and facilities that you will serve. The workshop prepares you for visiting with your pet and gives you valuable information about Delta's policies and procedures.

My dog is very friendly but doesn't always mind. Does Pet Partners provide pet training?

Neither Pet Partners nor NEPP provides specific basic-training for your pet. To become a registered Pet Partner, all dogs need to be people-friendly and know basic skills like sit, lie down, stay, leave-it and come when called. All animals are evaluated for skills and temperament. Owners are evaluated for handling skills. It is a "team" evaluation. If your dog needs training, we recommend that you take a positive reward based training class preferably with a trainer who is familiar with and demonstrates an understanding of pet partner team training before you consider becoming a Pet Partner Team. Canine Good Citizen is a good option too.

How difficult is the Team Evaluation?

The Pet Partner's Team Evaluation is made up of two parts. The first part relates to the team's manners or skills. This is where the training skills and socialization come in to play. Do you have a reliable relationship with your pet? The second is to assess the team's aptitude (and attitude/response) in various situations. This will help the evaluator coach the team on the types of facilities to visit and what to work on to avoid stress. Everything you need to know to prepare for the evaluation is discussed and demonstrated during either a Pet Partners workshop, online Pet Partner Team Training and/or in your Home Study Manual. You have some choices.

Since this is a volunteer program, does it cost me anything?

ElderPet and its partner, Exeter Hospital, charge a fee for the workshop and the evaluations in order to cover our costs. We do not make any profit on this fee. Delta also charges a registration fee to cover their costs. However, because ElderPet is a Delta Society Affiliate, you will receive a discounted rate. You and your animal must be re-evaluated every two years and must pay a new registration fee to Delta at that time.