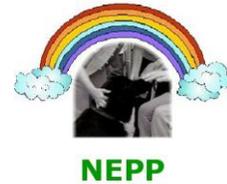


## **NEW ENGLAND PET PARTNERS, INC.**

*Bringing People and Pets Together to Enhance Well-Being  
and Education with Pet-Assisted Therapy*



### **What is Pet Partners?**

[Delta Society's Pet Partners](#) program trains and screens volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and other facilities. The Pet Partners program was established in 1990 to ensure that "both ends of the leash," people as well as animals were well-prepared to participate in animal-assisted activity and animal-assisted therapy programs. Pet Partners is well known as a national registry that requires volunteer training and screening of animal-handler teams beyond CGC (Canine Good Citizen).

### **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. (reading education assistance dogs) Training Workshops (or private consultation). We provide on-going training and education, networking and mentoring opportunities for our members.

### **What pets are involved in Pet-Assisted Therapy Programs?**

NEPP works primarily with dogs and cats, occasionally horses. Delta Society registers *domesticated* animals -- cats, rabbits, goats, horses, pigs, birds, dogs and cats. Reptiles, including ferrets) 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 therapy dog training class?**

The class is for you AND THE DOG! The Pet Partners program is unique in that it looks at both ends of the leash. In addition to your pet being well behaved, the human must capture the essence of the skills, savvy and team spirit to work well within particular environments and clients that you visit. Private training, classes or workshops prepare you and your dog for visiting, giving you valuable information and support.

### **My dog is very friendly but doesn't always listen to me. Does Pet Partners provide pet training?**

[New England Pet Partners](#), in collaboration with [Dog Talk & TheraPet](#), provide group and private therapy dog training classes. To become a registered Pet Partner, all dogs need to be people-friendly and know basic skills like sit, down, stay, leave-it, take-it. They must be manageable around other dogs and people. The team is evaluated for handling and aptitude skills, thus the name -- team evaluation.

### **How difficult is the Team Evaluation?**

The Pet Partner's Team Evaluation is made up of two parts, skills and aptitude. The Skills portion relates to the team's manners or skills. This is where training skills and socialization are vital. ***Do you have a reliable relationship with your pet?*** The second is to assess the team's aptitude in various situations. This will capture the essence of what and where you and your pet will best make a difference. It helps 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 or private training sessions. You need your [Pet Partner Home Study Manual](#) that can be purchased at the [Delta Society](#). Home Study and/or workshop is currently your choice.*** Delta Society offers a complete list of workshops throughout the USA at their web site.

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

Yes, depending on what you choose: Workshop or private training. All teams must pass a Team Evaluation and send in their completed registration package to Delta Society with payment to them. If you choose to become more involved with [Reading Education Assistance Dogs](#), then additional training and registration is required at a nominal cost.