

AKC Therapy Dog Program Has Expanded!

Previously the (AKC) offered a single therapy dog title, the THD. The program has now expanded to include five titles! You do not need to apply sequentially for the titles (i.e. if your dog has no title but has made 100 visits you can apply for that title).

The Therapy Dog program applies to any/all dogs. The only requirement is that your dog *must* be registered with AKC. There are three ways to register a dog: 1) a purebred with a certified pedigree (e.g. a standard AKC registration); 2) a purebred with an unknown pedigree (PAL or Purebred Alternative Listing); 3) a mixed breed (Canine Partner). You can search the AKC website (<http://www.akc.org>) for more information and details on how to register.

Once you meet the criteria for a title you apply for it via the AKC Therapy Dog Title Application and mail it in to AKC with payment. Go to <http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/apply.cfm> for details and/or the application form (http://images.akc.org/pdf/therapy_dog/title_application.pdf)

Available titles are:

Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) - 10 visits
Therapy Dog (THD) - 50 visits
Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) - 100 visits
Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) - 200 visits
Distinguished Therapy Dog (THDD) - 400 visits

What do you need from Furry Friends? We will provide with a letter that will satisfy the Section 3, item 2 requirements on the application form (for Section 3, item 1 just copy your dog's Furry Friends badge. If you do not have a badge for your dog, please go to the Furry Friends website and apply for one...it's simple and easy).

Here is the information we need to generate a letter for Section 3, item 2:

1. Dog's registered name
2. Dog's AKC or PAL or Canine Partner number
3. Date your dog became a FF member
4. The full name and city of all sites you've visited, and the estimated number of visits for each site *

* This is totally on the honor system. Here is one way to estimate your visits, if you do not have exact records. If you make pretty much every visit, you could estimate 10 visits per year. If you're more casual about visits, maybe that number is 6 times a year.

Furry Friends member and team captain Ann Begun (otchlabz@gmail.com) has volunteered to help Furry Friends members apply for American Kennel Club (AKC)

Therapy Dog titles for their dogs. She has been involved with showing dogs in AKC obedience, conformation, tracking, agility, field trials and hunt tests since 1977, so is very familiar with how they work and how to navigate their procedures and forms. She has been a Furry Friends member since 2007, and a captain since 2009.

Once Ann receives the information, she will email a PDF letter back to you within 7 days. And, if you need help with the application or have questions, she is more than happy to help.