



## *Procedure for Becoming an ARL TheraPets Team*

### **1. Application**

- a. All prospective volunteers will submit program-specific application.

### **2. Attend ARL TheraPets Training Workshop** *(without animal)*

- a. Responsibilities of an ARL TheraPets volunteer, definitions related to and benefits of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI), qualities needed to succeed, HIPAA/confidentiality, infection control, working with different populations, patient approach, therapy animal's well-being and more. Plus a review of the TheraPets Team Assessment.

### **3. Observe a Visit** *(optional)*

### **4. Pet Health Screening Form**

- a. This form can be completed from pet's medical record, at the discretion of the pet's Veterinarian.
- b. If the pet is due for any vaccinations/testing, these must be updated *prior to* their TheraPets Teams Assessment, at the volunteer's expense. Failure to do so can result in the assessment being canceled.

### **5. The TheraPets Team Assessment**

- a. An assessment of the potential TheraPets Team is performed by the Program Coordinator and ARL's Pet Behavior department. After completion, the Program Coordinator will review score and next steps.

### **6. Select a Facility** *(after passing Team Assessment)*

- a. The volunteer selects a facility from the TheraPets Partners list and contacts them directly to schedule their first and subsequent visits.
  - i. Depending on past experience, the team may be accompanied on their first visit by the program coordinator or other experienced TheraPets volunteer.

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#### **Current/Past Members of Other Therapy Animal Organizations**

*Some potential volunteers may have/had therapy animal certification or registration with another organization. In order to become an ARL TheraPets Team, all volunteers must complete our process as outlined above.*

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**For more information [ARL-iowa.org/TheraPets](http://ARL-iowa.org/TheraPets)**