



Procedure for Becoming an ARL TheraPets Team

1. Application

- a. All prospective TheraPets volunteers must fill out a program-specific application.

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

- a. Covers our Mission, definitions related to Animal Assisted Interactions, the benefits of AAI's and qualities needed to succeed. Attendees will learn the responsibilities of a TheraPets volunteer, HIPAA/confidentiality, infection control, how to work with different populations and patient approach. Will demonstrate exercises in the TheraPets Team assessment.

3. Observe a Visit *(optional)*

- a. New volunteers can shadow an experienced TheraPets team.

4. Pet Health Screening Form

- a. This form can be completed from the pet's veterinary records *if* the pet has been examined within the last 12 months (and at the Veterinarian's discretion). If it has been longer than 12 months, or if the pet is due for any vaccinations, these will need to be updated at the volunteer's expense.

5. The TheraPets Team Assessment

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

6. Select a Facility

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

For more information, visit our website www.arl-iowa.org/TheraPets