

**Northern Indiana Pet Partners General Info.**  
**03.19.05 - drm**

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED as a Delta Society registered (and insured) Pet Partner team, you and your animal must be screened for the necessary skills and aptitude according to Delta Society's standardized evaluation, a 19 part screen. Then, the handler must attend and successfully complete the Delta Society Team Training course which will follow the Evaluations. Instructions regarding the Team Training Course and registration will be given to you upon your successful passing of the behavioral evaluation.

You must have owned/known your animal for at least six months. Dogs must be at least one year of age. Pocket pets and birds must have been owned/known by you for a minimum of six months.

\*\*Delta Society guidelines for selection of suitable, competent animal handler teams require that all teams must be able to handle any and all situations that may occur in a facility (school, nursing home, Alzheimer Care center, Hospice, rehab centers, hospitals). Dogs that have had Schutzhund or protective training are not eligible for the Delta Society Pet Partner program and are ineligible to be evaluated.

Delta's selection process will help keep everyone involved safe...the patient, staff, visitors, and of course, of utmost importance is the safety and comfort of you and your wonderful animal. Every team that passes the aptitude and skills screen is then re-evaluated every two years for ongoing competency, and the animal must be re-screened for health annually.

\*\**The SKILLS AND APTITUDE SCREENING* is conducted by Licensed Delta Society Animal-Handler Team evaluators. All evaluations are standardized by Delta Society Pet Partners Program and are objective. The obedience portion of the screen does not follow American Kennel Club rules – that is, you may cue your animal more than once to get the requested behavior. If you do not pass the PPST and PPAT first time, we encourage you to try again, (but not on that same day). Many times, the team does not test well the first time, but passes with flying colors the second time. We schedule evaluations in this area at least every six months.

\*\*When you pass the behavioral evaluation, you, the handler, are then required to attend and successfully complete the Delta Society Team Training Course, which is conducted by Licensed Delta Society team Training Course Instructors. It is a full day course, and is mandatory. We cannot make exceptions to this...the course is a very valuable educational experience. You may also be required to attend a facility-sponsored orientation to visit in that particular facility.

**Special Note\*\*\*** Handler applicants must be age 16 or older to be considered for our hospital programs. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to accompany the

handler... however, children age 16 or above may accompany the handler if they have attended and successfully completed the Delta Society Team Training Course, and the mandatory facility orientation.

If you are going to volunteer with your dog at a facility other than our hospitals, you should check with the administration of facilities you wish to visit for their policy on children entering the facility. Many facilities other than acute care hospitals permit younger volunteers and most facilities – hospitals and extended care facilities - have a guideline about acceptable ages of volunteers.

We want you to be successful as a volunteer with your dog and we will support you in any way we can.

The evaluation fee is \$10.00 and partially covers the costs of the bringing our evaluator in from Akron, Ohio. She has been a great mentor to us, and we really appreciate her continued interest in our group.

\*\* Delta Society's fee for two year's registration (includes Delta Society's \$1,000,000 primary liability insurance) is \$65.00. (\$50.00 WITH OUR DISCOUNT). When you pass the behavioral evaluation, we will give you the registration application and instructions. The registration fee is to accompany your registration application and brought with you to the Pet Partner Team Training course. Do not bring the registration fee to the evaluations!

***THE PET PARTNER SKILLS AND APTITUDE EVALUATION IS BASED HEAVILY ON GOOD OBEDIENCE TRAINING AND SKILLS.*** It has been developed over time by animal behavioralists, medical health care professionals, animal trainers, veterinarians, etc., to closely simulate situations and circumstances that can and do occur in a health care facility, school, or prison. Delta wants you and your animal to be comfortable and equipped to handle anything that comes your way.....so that you and your animal, and all others that you encounter are safe. The animal-handler team is to inspire confidence in everyone he meets. So, good manners, an outgoing pleasant personality on both ends of the leash are what we look for.

1. You must demonstrate that you are **in complete control** of your animal at all times. Your animal must show that **he is polite and very much a gentleman** and that he performs willingly and on cue with minimal modeling to the following behaviors:
  - a. SIT\*
  - b. DOWN\*
  - c. STAY\*
  - d. COME from 20 feet directly to the handler\*
  - e. ON LEAD\* (your animal must walk quietly on the leash/lead with no pulling, tugging, wandering---all dogs, regardless of size, must be proficient on lead and have the same adequate obedience skills of sit, down, stay, come...very small dogs, those that can be picked up with one hand, are permitted to be carried for part of the test and in the facility. However, the obedience requirements of the evaluation are the same, regardless of size.)

\*depending on the species of animal being tested.

Your animal must not jump, hop up, or paw at anyone. He cannot pull the handler around, tug on the leash, or wander. His on-lead skills are very important.

2. You must demonstrate that your animal has the ability to **accept and enjoy handling and restraint in a variety of ways by a variety of different people.....**(petting, hugging, squeezing, holding, touching all over, handling feet, ears, tail, stomach, and separation out of sight from you for 2 minutes)
3. You must demonstrate that your animal **is confident** around various hospital equipment – he will be exposed to wheelchairs, walkers, IV poles, etc, and loud noises during the evaluation.
4. You must demonstrate that your animal is **polite and calm around other animals..** (He may meet another animal in the facility you visit. So, he will meet a “neutral dog” during this evaluation. The “neutral dog” is an experienced member of our hospital program and will pose no threat to your animal.)
5. You must demonstrate that your animal is **friendly, calm, and polite and willing to be handled by** people who walk and talk and act differently (wild gesturing, shouting).
6. Your animal must be properly groomed, just as he would be if he were going on a visit to the facility. He must be in good physical condition, able physically and mentally to do the work.
7. **At no time may your animal pose any threat to evaluator, assistant or bystander.**
8. **Your animal must not whine, bark, growl, or vocalize in any manner, defecate or urinate.**

\*\*Delta Society Animal-Handler Team Evaluations are standardized, objective and are conducted by Delta Society licensed Animal-Every candidate must have a scheduled evaluation appointment time. The eval takes 20 minutes, only.

\*\*A \$10.00 non-refundable fee is due at the time you send in your completed Owner Questionnaire. Make check payable to Northern Indiana Pet Partners, Inc.

**\*\*YOU MUST PRESENT PROOF OF YOUR ANIMAL'S UP TO DATE PROOF OF INNOCULATION RECORD PRIOR TO THE EVALUATION. Your animal's veterinary office can run a copy of that inoculation record for you. Please be ready to present it at check in prior to being evaluated.** Your animal will not be evaluated without this record. TITRE REPORTS ARE NOT ACCCEPTABLE FOR THE HOSPITAL PROGRAMS. ANIMALS THAT ARE FED A RAW MEAT/BONE DIET ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOSPITAL PROGRAMS.

To learn in advance about the 19 part Delta Society Pet Partner evaluation, go to Delta's site at [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org) and click on "therapy animals" and then click on "Pet Partners". The 19 part Pet Partner Skills and Aptitude evaluation is there in a condensed overview format.

***\*\*PRONG TRAINING COLLARS, CHAIN COLLARS, CHAIN LEASHES, FLEXI LEADS, "NO-JUMP Training" harnesses and head halters are not permitted. In our hospital programs, head halters such as Snoot Loop, Halti, Gentle Leader, etc., are not permitted to be used. However, if you use one of these devices, you may be evaluated for a different kind of facility where they are permitted....nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.***

***Flat fabric or leather flat buckle collars, and limited slip martingale collars are permitted. A four foot or less leash of web or leather is preferred. Please bring with you one of your animal's grooming tools for the evaluation. (Pin brush, slicker, body brush, etc). Your animal will not be evaluated without it.***

Thanks for your interest in this wonderful volunteer opportunity! We will look forward to meeting you and your wonderful animal!

If you have any questions, please contact us by email or phone:

574-536-0038

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