



## Preparing for your Therapy Dog Evaluations

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Congratulations on a successful test! You and your dog are now ready for the evaluation portion of the certification process.

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE EVALUATIONS:

Your three evaluation visits must be completed within **6 months of the test date**. Each evaluation takes about an hour.

You will meet your evaluator outside the facility. You are not permitted to enter the facility with your dog without your evaluator. If you are late for your appointment and your evaluator has already gone inside with the other candidates, leave your dog in the car if it is not too hot, and go inside to find the evaluator. If this is not possible, you will have to re-schedule your evaluation.

All dogs at the evaluation will be asked to greet each other briefly outside the facility. These greetings will be SHORT and done on-leash. Only two dogs will greet at a time. Handlers must exhibit awareness of their dog's behavior and carefully monitor their dogs during these greetings. Dogs may be excused from the evaluation for any behavior the evaluator deems as inappropriate. Once inside the facility, the dogs must be kept apart from each other.

### Very Important:

- **Know the *TDV Guidelines and Policies*\***. Your evaluator may quiz you on these!
- **Read *Making Safe and Happy Visits—A Guide for Your TDV Evaluations*\***. The information within this document will be discussed at your first evaluation and you will be expected to apply these guidelines during your visits.
- **Proper leash**. Your dog must be on a leash that is 4 feet or less. This cannot be a longer leash knotted or otherwise altered to be four feet, nor a flexi lead. If you do not have the correct length leash, the evaluator reserves the right not to evaluate you that day.
- **Your dog must be CLEAN** with nails clipped and not sharp.
- **Rabies**: Your dog's rabies tags must be on your dog's collar.

***\*To download the required reading material, please go to "Step 3" online at:***

[http://www.therapydogs.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=72](http://www.therapydogs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=72)

**--Your evaluator may have additional instructions for you--**