

Preparing for your Therapy Dog Certification Test

THERAPY DOGS

of Vermont



Unleash a Smile

www.therapydogs.org
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Greetings,

Thanks for your interest in becoming a certified therapy dog team!

- **Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled test time, for check-in.** (*late-comers may not be admitted once the testing begins and forfeit the testing fee*).
- If you cannot attend your scheduled test, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may offer your appointment to another waiting candidate.
- ***Information related to the Fee and Application:*** Upon successful completion of all certification requirements, the fee will be applied to first year membership. If you cancel your appointment less than 48 hours prior to your test, do not appear at your test, or fail the test; your fee will NOT be refunded (and you would need re-apply and pay the testing fee again). If you choose not to be certified and want to withdraw your application, the fee is not refundable. (Please be sure that you understand the requirements for certification before you apply! For example we have restrictions on the types of training equipment we accept. If you have any questions about the process e-mail us!). If you cancel your test three times or more, TDV reserves the right to delete your application (and the non-refundable test fee will be retained by TDV). Applications will automatically expire within six months of your application date and your fee will not be refunded.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The TDV test is the first part of our certification process. If you successfully meet the testing criteria, you will be scheduled for three evaluations. Upon successful completion of the evaluations, payment of dues, and submission of all required paperwork, you will become a certified therapy dog team and a full member of TDV.

The test will take about an hour and a half.

TO PREPARE:

- **Bring the TDV Certification Packet** to the test. This document is located at: <http://therapydogs.org/become-a-team/therapy-dog-test-certification/> (Step 2). PLEASE FILL OUT ALL FORMS BEFOREHAND.
- **Bring a COPY (FOR US TO KEEP) of your dog's proof of rabies vaccination**—your rabies tag will not be enough—we need clear and current rabies paperwork from your vet.

If you fail to have the above items with you, TDV reserves the right not to test you and your dog.

- **Review the test criteria and policies** (found in the TDV Certification Packet).
- Please have your dog on **the acceptable equipment** (We do not permit spraying collars, electric/shock collars, vibrating collars, spray bottles or spraying devices of any kind, clickers and other noise-making devices; prong/pinch collars of any type, choke chains or nylon choke collars of any type, and head halters of any type.). Please have a regular collar on your dog in addition to other equipment (for example, if you use a harness). No flexi-leads, chain leashes, or leashes longer than 6 feet are permitted.
- The test begins when you walk in the door—so please have your dog under control and on leash when you arrive.

We're looking forward to meeting you and your dog!