



Pawsitive Pals Frequently Asked Questions

Our Pawsitive Pals volunteers make a real difference to patients living with serious illness, and are often surprised by how much they get in return.

"I have gained so much from our work at San Diego Hospice. I can honestly say that not only have I learned more about people and have become more compassionate, I have also gotten to know my dog, Moli, better... I am always amazed when I see how sensitive she is to the needs of the staff, the patients and their families."

- Kathy, Pawsitive Pals Volunteer

Below are answers to common questions we receive about our Pawsitive Pals program.

What will I do as a Pawsitive Pals volunteer?

- You and your pet will visit our patients in their homes, long-term care facilities, or our inpatient units to provide companionship and comfort.

What are the requirements for me?

- You should be in good physical health, emotionally mature, stable, non-judgmental, and have a sincere desire to help.
- You will need to complete an orientation and a 2-day patient care volunteer training course.

What are the requirements for my dog?

- Your dog must have current pet therapy certification and insurance. The necessary insurance is included with certification at our approved agencies.

What if my dog is not yet certified?

- Your dog will need to be certified prior to becoming a Pawsitive Pals volunteer. Currently approved certification agencies include:
 - The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
888-738-5770 info@golden-dogs.org www.golden-dogs.org
 - Delta Society Pet Partners
425-679-5539 info@deltasociety.org www.deltasociety.org
 - Love on a Leash
760-740-2326 info@loveonaleash.org www.loveonaleash.org
 - Therapy Dogs Incorporated
877-843-7364 therapydogsync@qwestoffice.net www.therapydogs.com
 - Therapy Dogs International (TDI)
858-759-9847 tdi@gti.net www.tdi-dog.org

What is our time commitment?

- We ask our Pawsitive Pals volunteers to commit to 6 months of service with our agency.
- The average weekly time commitment is 2-3 hours.

How do I get started?

- Please fill out an application and return it to us along with a copy of your pet therapy certification.
 - Email to: volunteer@sdhospice.org
 - Mail to: SDHIPM, Attn: Volunteer Resources, 4311 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92103
 - Fax to: 619-688-0017
- Once your application and pet therapy certification are received, we will contact you to discuss scheduling for orientation and training.

We hope to have the opportunity to meet you and your dog soon! In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Volunteer Resources with questions: **619-278-6451 • volunteer@sdhospice.org**.