

Some facts about Pets As Therapy

- Any dog/cat can become a P.A.T. dog or a P.A.T. cat as long as it has been with its owner for at least 6 months and is over 9 months of age and can pass the necessary temperament assessment. Assessments are undertaken by a team of people throughout the UK, all of whom have taken the accredited course run by Pets As Therapy.
- Since its inception over 24,000 dogs have been registered and more recently 140 cats. Every year some retire through old age or ill health, so new recruits are always needed.
- Over ninety Voluntary Area Co-ordinators look after volunteers in their own area, as well as organising social and fun events to encourage good relations within the Charity.
- Pets As Therapy carry public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £5,000,000.
- All Pets As Therapy dogs and cats wear a special identity disc on their collar. Their owners also wear a special ID badge whilst on visits.
- Pets As Therapy volunteers generously give their time. Most make one visit a week, of between one and two hours, although some do more. So it is really up to them to decide how much time they can spare, and when.
- Whilst the lives of approximately seven million people are improved in a year by the visits made by Pets As Therapy volunteers, the Charity's services are run by a very small number of staff. They provide help and advice to the volunteer force, to encourage recruitment and develop the reach, value and effectiveness of the charity's services. Authorised photographic identity badges, for the protection of all involved, are issued to all registered volunteers.

Responsibility for the Charity is carried by an unremunerated Board.

You can significantly help Pets As Therapy by

- Applying for you and your dog/cat to become a registered volunteer (18 years and over) and paying the annual subscription of £19.*
(This also includes voucher towards Pets As Therapy polo shirt OR P.A.T. ID Jacket).
- By becoming a supporter.*
- Joining Pets As Therapy Junior Club.*
(for 18 years and under)
- Dog show societies and training classes and visiting establishments can become supporters.*
- Establishments can become supporters of Pets As Therapy as well as receiving visits from P.A.T. dogs/cats.*
- Sending a donation to Pets As Therapy.
- Sponsoring a volunteer.*
- Remembering Pets As Therapy in your will.
- By making a small donation to Pets As Therapy, through GAYE.
- Organising a sponsored activity using JustGiving.com

* (Please contact Pets As Therapy for an application form)

Contact:

PETS AS THERAPY

Registration Office,
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Telephone: 01844 345445
Email: Reception@petsastherapy.org
Visit our website www.petsastherapy.org

Regional Voluntary Area Co-ordinators contacts appear on our website.

NB: All information contained in this general leaflet is correct at the time of going to print Feb 2011



Pets As Therapy



www.petsastherapy.org

Visiting P.A.T. Dogs and P.A.T. Cats



Pets As Therapy have approximately 5,000 dogs and 106 cats visiting throughout the UK. Around 150,000 people benefit every single week from the services provided by Pets As Therapy. Each dog/cat is owned by our registered volunteers who make regular visits into various establishments.



Before any animal is accepted as a Pets As Therapy visitor, they must undergo a temperament assessment, which is carried out by one of our nationwide team of assessors. This gives the information needed to ascertain if the dog/cat, has the necessary temperament to make a suitable visiting animal. It is more important for a dog/cat to have the correct nature to become a Pets As Therapy animal than it is to have a pedigree. It really doesn't matter if the dog/cat is a pedigree or cross-breed; it is the temperament that is essential. We have a national network of Voluntary Area Co-ordinators who play a major role in taking the new volunteer 'under their wing' and helping to get them introduced to visiting. The Charity now has P.A.T. dogs/cats visiting in hospitals and hospices, residential and nursing homes, working with special needs children and in mainstream schools and many other establishments.

The Charity is becoming increasingly involved in structured Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) interventions, for example, through referral by Clinical Psychologists working with dog phobic children and with Occupational Therapists in the rehabilitation of stroke victims.

Pets As Therapy covers the whole of the UK. These wonderful P.A.T. dogs and P.A.T. cats can work with people of all ages and abilities bringing comfort, companionship and therapy to all those who are in need.

Where will you find Pets As Therapy visiting dogs and cats

- In Hospitals
- In Hospices
- In Residential Homes
- In Nursing Homes
- In Day Care Centres
- Working with Phobic Children
- Working with Stroke Patients
- Working with people suffering from Clinical Depression
- In Special Needs and Mainstream Schools
- In Schools with the READ 2 DOGS Programme

Further information on -

READ 2 DOGS

Pets As Therapy has worked closely with Westfields Junior School in Yateley, Hampshire, running the pilot READ 2 DOGS programme with extremely positive results. Quote from Debbie Jones the Inclusion Manager .

"READ 2 DOGS is wonderful. Everything went according to plan. Polly, the Pets As Therapy dog was really good and the children loved her. One little girl who hates reading insisted on reading a whole book to her".

Quotes from children who took part , *"Reading to Polly is one of my favourite lessons. I like to read to her because it makes us both feel happy. I didn't enjoy reading before, but now I love it".*



"It is so enjoyable reading to the P.A.T. dog that I have started reading to my two budgies at home as well. I think my reading is getting much better."

Who benefits - Children who are reluctant to read, including those with special educational needs e.g. autistic spectrum disorder, selective mutism, learning difficulties, emotional and social difficulties, speech, language and communication difficulties.

Phobic Work

Quote from: **Nigel Trevarrow** – a clinical Psychologist treating children suffering from debilitating phobias.

'On behalf' of the children and families that have been helped. I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Pets As Therapy. They have improved the psychological and emotional well-being of all the children that they have worked with'.

Legacies

Pets As Therapy is a national charity which benefits so many people here in the UK, but we can only do so with your help. We receive no government funding and rely entirely on the generosity of supporters.

Would you help this service to continue in the future by remembering Pets As Therapy with a legacy or a simple donation in your will?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that you have helped this service to continue in future years and leave the gift of comfort and companionship?

How can young people get involved?

Junior Club

The Pets As Therapy Junior Club is open to anyone under the age of 18. You do not have to own a P.A.T. dog/cat; you don't even have to own a pet.

Since the Junior Club started in 2003 it has gone from strength to strength. The Junior Club has a unique scheme P.A.F.T.A. (Pets As Therapy Awards For Tremendous Achievement), rewarding the Juniors who are involved in specific activities within the Charity. Members of the Junior Club help promote the Charity, spread the word about the service we provide, help at local events and often accompany volunteers on their Pets As Therapy visits.

Interested? Would you like to know more?

Please contact our Junior Coordinator
Tel: 0191 489 0178 Or visit 'Juniors' on our website

www.petsastherapy.org



Pets As Therapy Junior Club members Sarah & Bill with P.A.T. Dog Bob