



BECOMING A VOLUNTEER WITH PETS AS THERAPY [1]

THE APPLICATION & REGISTRATION PROCESS

IN 2006, THE CHARITY SENT OUT IN EXCESS OF 3,000 APPLICATION PACKS TO PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS AT A COST TO THE CHARITY OF £1 PER PACK. ONLY ONE QUARTER OF THESE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION RESULTED IN FULL APPLICATIONS BEING MADE. UNFORTUNATELY THIS WAS AT A CONSIDERABLE COST TO THE CHARITY, SO WE HAVE PREPARED THIS SIMPLE FACT-SHEET TO DESCRIBE THE APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS MORE FULLY FOR YOU TO HELP YOU DECIDE WHETHER PETS AS THERAPY VOLUNTEERING IS FOR YOU.

The application process involves: completing the form, providing two character references, a copy of your pet's vaccination certificate, having your dog or cat temperament assessed and payment of a subscription fee of £19. In return you will receive a voucher towards the cost of a T-shirt or an ID coat and a car sticker. At busy times of the year, it may take up to 8 weeks for your application to be processed

Suitable dogs and cats

- ❖ PAT dogs and PAT cats come in all shapes and sizes; pedigrees, cross-breeds or mongrels. If you think your dog or cat might be suitable, you are half way there!
- ❖ Dogs and cats must be a minimum age of 9 months and have been with their owner for at least 6 months before applying

Temperament Assessment

- ❖ Your dog or cat will need to be assessed by a local temperament assessor, or your vet as part of the application process. Please note that some vets may charge for this service. The assessment checks that your dog or cat is sociable and friendly, that it is calm and gentle when being stroked or handled and that he or she isn't overly fearful of new unexpected stimuli

Expenses & Fees

- ❖ There is no payment for undertaking Pets As Therapy visits. All volunteers and Area Co-ordinators give their time freely to the Charity.
- ❖ Volunteers are required to pay an annual subscription to the Charity, which is currently £19
- ❖ Expenses may be re-imbursed by some establishments, but please make this clear to them before you start visiting

Frequency of Pets As Therapy Visits

- ❖ There is no set requirement how often you undertake visits on behalf of Pets As Therapy, but regular visits are greatly appreciated by the establishments

Contact us at: 01844 345445 or visit www.petsastherapy.org