

# VISITING PET PROGRAM

A 501 ( C3) non-profit animal assisted therapy organization  
serving over 25 nursing homes and hospitals in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS



 **JUNE**

**Saturday, June 16, 2012**  
**10:00am-Noon**

### Reservations Required

For more information or a reservation  
contact us at

[paws4visits@gmail.com](mailto:paws4visits@gmail.com)

Interested volunteers need to attend  
only one orientation

All orientations are held at the  
**Harahan Senior Center,**

**100 Elodie Street, Harahan**

A \$10.00 advanced reservation fee  
is required to attend an orientation.

 **JULY**

**Sunday, July 15, 2012**  
**2:00pm-4:00pm**

 **OCTOBER**

**Saturday, October 20, 2012**  
**2:00pm-4:00pm**

 **no pets please...people only** 

**Pet/handler evaluations will be held**

**Saturday, September 8, 2012**

**Saturday, January 5, 2013**

**Details given at the Orientation**

*Attendance at an orientation is mandatory to participate in an evaluation.*

**Initiation fee to the Visiting Pet Program is \$30.00.**

**Membership dues are \$25.00 annually.**

**Check out our web site at [www.visitingpetprogram.org](http://www.visitingpetprogram.org)**

# ***REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMAL THERAPISTS***

## *The Animal Therapists*

- **must have a sweet, affectionate, friendly disposition.**
- **must be able to socialize well with other animals and with people.**
- **must be capable of entering new situations with confidence. The animal cannot react negatively to loud noises, wheel chairs, medical carts and other normal sights, smells and sounds of a hospital situation.**
- **should have the stamina to complete an hour long visit**
- **Formal obedience training is not required. A calm, friendly, outgoing personality is more important than performance. A basic understanding of sit & stay commands is preferred. The animal must be kept under control and at the handler's side at all times.**
- **All dogs and cats must be at least one year old and have proof of all shot requirements given by a veterinarian.**
- **All dog and cat therapists must remain on leash or harness during visits.**

# ***REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMAL HANDLERS***

## *The Handler*

- **must accept full responsibility for their animal's actions and must be in complete control of the animal at all times.**
- **must be willing to attend a minimum of 1 visit per month.**
- **must enjoy meeting people and adding joy to their lives.**
- **must attend a mandatory orientation and pass the pet/handler evaluation.**
- **must satisfactorily complete a 4 visit probationary training period**
- **must be at least 18 years of age**