

PETS AS THERAPY

The Application and Registration Process

- Becoming a Volunteer with Pets As Therapy

Thank you for considering becoming a Pets As Therapy volunteer. Our charity provides comfort, happiness and emotional well-being to many people each week. The joy this brings to the volunteer, in our experience, is immense and you and your pet's time is such a worthwhile gift to others. We have prepared this simple factsheet 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 application form; providing two character references and a copy of your pet's vaccination certificate; having your dog or cat's temperament assessed and payment of an annual subscription fee of £19 (or £29 for a joint subscription).

Suitable dogs and cats

PAT Dogs and PAT Cats come in all shapes and sizes: pedigrees or crossbreeds, from Chihuahuas to Irish Wolfhounds and Moggies to Maine Coon. 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. All visiting pets must be fully vaccinated or homoeopathically protected, wormed and protected against fleas. Records are required by the charity and each volunteer is requested to send copies when boosters have been administered.

Temperament Assessment

Your dog or cat will need to be assessed by a local accredited Pets As Therapy Temperament Assessor as part of the application process. 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 they aren't overly fearful of new and unexpected stimuli.

Expenses and Fees

There is no payment for undertaking Pets As Therapy visits. All volunteers and Voluntary 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 (or £29 for a joint subscription). Expenses may be reimbursed by some establishments, but please enquire about this before you start visiting.

Frequency of Pets As Therapy Visits

There is no set requirement on how often you need to undertake visits on behalf of Pets As Therapy, but regular visits are greatly appreciated by the residents and establishments.

For further information please contact the Pets As Therapy Head Office, Tel: 01494 569130
Email reception@petsastherapy.org or visit www.petsastherapy.org