



## REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN PAW PALS

### HANDLERS

- 1) Handler must be a current associate or regular TDTC member.
- 2) Handler is expected to wear his ID Badge on each visit.
- 3) Handler is expected to fill out a Paw Pals Membership Renewal Form each year. This must be turned into the coordinators along with a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination.

### DOGS

- 1) The dog must be at least 1 year old, and up to date with his rabies vaccination.
- 2) The dog must have completed the Beginner and Novice I classes or have earned a CD Title. If these requirements have been completed at another training facility, then you and your dog will be tested by a TDTC trainer before you begin your Paw Pals application process.
- 3) The dog must have earned a Canine Good Citizenship certificate, and a copy needs to be provided for his Paw Pals file.
- 4) While it is assumed that dogs have proven themselves to be well socialized by the time you apply to Paw pals, some dogs end up not doing well in some settings.

NOTE: If an incident does occur that indicates a dog may not be well suited to making therapeutic visits, the Team Leader and the dog's handler must contact a Paw Pals Coordinator(s) within 24 hours. The situation will be assessed by the Paw Pals Coordinator(s) and TDTC's Board of Directors.

## **VISIT REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Visits to non-approved facilities may not be made on behalf of Paw Pals.
- 2) Handlers and dogs are to wear the Paw Pals ID badge/tag while making visits.
- 3) Female dogs may not participate in Paw Pals visits while “in season.”
- 4) Dogs must be well groomed, clean, and parasite free.
- 5) Dogs must be kept on a lead and close to you at all times when in a facility.

**NOTE:** Leads may be removed when doing obedience or trick demonstrations.

- 6) Each facility may have different rules regarding pet visits; they are to be strictly followed unless the Activity Director OK's a change. It is the Team Leader's responsibility to know those rules and to inform team members.

**NOTE:** Typically dogs are not allowed up on beds, but often bed-ridden residents wish to have them within close reach. Be sure to get the OK from the Activity director to do this.

- 7) Keep in mind that elderly folks are often very frail, and skin may easily tear from a dog's nails.
- 8) The Activity Director (or an appointed staff member) must meet the Paw Pals group and stay with them during a scheduled visit. This is an insurance requirement and is done to protect all parties involved in Paw Pals visits.
- 9) In the event that only one member shows up for a scheduled visit, the member must still be accompanied by a staff member.

**NOTE:** If you are not comfortable without another Paw Pal member present, then the visit should be rescheduled for a later date.