



## PET THERAPY PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Application submitted** to Pete's Pet Posse Program Coordinator (Fall 2017 application period is from Aug.14-Sept.1, 2017).
2. Once it is determined the application is complete and owner/handler personal interviews will be scheduled with members of the **Pet Therapy Advisory Board** (interviews will begin September 2017).  
After personal interview, the physical exam of the dog will be scheduled with Dr. Lara Sypniewski at OSU-Tulsa (\$60 fee) and disposition evaluation with therapy dog trainer (no fee) (exams and evaluations will be conducted on or about Oct. 4).
3. The Tulsa Pet Therapy Advisory Board reviews the results of the personal interview, physical exam, and disposition evaluation for consideration (Board selects members of new class in October or November 2017).

### After pet is approved, the OSU Veterinary Medical Hospital will provide the following:

- Yearly physical examination with Dr. Lara Sypniewski
  - All necessary vaccinations, given at the annual examination (Merial proud supporter)
  - Yearly deworming and fecal examination
  - Monthly heartworm and flea/tick prevention, one year of product will be dispensed (Heartguard proud supporter)
  - Monthly food products (Purina proud supporter)
  - Microchip placement and registration (Home Again proud supporter)
- \*\*OSU is not responsible for any other medical costs.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Owner/handler of the Pet Therapy Dog should be affiliated with OSU – such as an employee, spouse of an employee, or OSU Emeriti.
- The dog belongs to the owner/handler and will act as a volunteer for OSU.
- Owner/handler must **submit an application** to participate in the program.
- Owner/handler must have the consent of the Director/Department Head and both signatures are required on the application.
- Application to participation in the OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Program is three-step process:
  1. a personal interview of the owner/handler by members of the **OSU Pet Therapy Advisory Board**
  2. a physical exam to assess the dog's health by a veterinarian at the OSU Veterinary Medical Hospital (\$60 fee)
  3. a disposition evaluation to assess the dog's suitability by a therapy dog trainer. The results of each step are given to the OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Advisory Board to consider the pet for the OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Program.
- The \$300 fee for therapy dog training may be paid for by the department, the owner/handler, or a donor. The training class is 6-8 weeks long, meeting once each week. Each owner/handler is required to attend a minimum of 6 training sessions. Owners/handlers train as a group to provide a better "team" experience. An owner/handler may choose to have individual training classes rather than participate in group training. However, the group class method is more cost effective and may provide a greater success rate for passing the registration exam.
- At the conclusion of the therapy dog training, all OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Program dogs must pass an AKC Canine Good Citizen exam, which is organized by the therapy dog trainer. The exam will be administered as a group, and the fee is currently \$20 per dog.
- All approved OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Dogs must be registered through **Alliance of Therapy Dogs**, a therapy dog organization headquartered in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The registration involves a handling assessment, which tests a dog's basic good manners and the owner/handler's handling skills, and three supervised visits (observes) with strangers. Once the assessment and observe are successfully completed, the initial registration fee to **Alliance of Therapy Dogs** is \$40 and the annual registration renewal is \$30.
- An OSU Tulsa Pet Therapy Fund has been established at the **OSU Foundation**. Departments may work with their OSU Foundation development officer to identify possible donors to contribute to the fund to pay for training and other items needed for the Pet Therapy dog.

○ **OSU Foundation in Tulsa contact for the Pet Therapy Program:**

Alea Hubbard, Senior Development Coordinator  
 Oklahoma State University Foundation  
 700 N. Greenwood Ave.  
 Tulsa, OK 74106  
 Phone: 918-594-8500  
[ahubbard@osugiving.com](mailto:ahubbard@osugiving.com)

**ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE PET THERAPY PROGRAM**

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Estimated Cost to Owner/Handler*</b> | <b>Sponsors Secured by Vet School</b> |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Non-refundable application fee (made payable to OSUVMH and due at time of physical exam)** | \$60.00                                 |                                       |
| Group Therapy Dog Training**   | \$300.00                                |                                       |
| Canine Good Citizen Testing**  | \$20.00                                 |                                       |
| Therapy Dogs, Inc. Initial Registration Fee** (\$30 annually thereafter)                   | \$40.00                                 |                                       |
| Yearly Wellness Exam**   | \$43.00                                 |                                       |
| Yearly fecal/deworming**   |   | \$30.00                               |
| Yearly Vaccinations (Merial)   |   | \$50.00                               |
| Home Again Micro chipping  |   | \$15.00                               |
| Frontline (per year)   |   | \$160.00                              |
| Heartguard (per year)  |   | \$100.00                              |
| Purina Food (per year)   |   | \$600.00                              |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | <b>\$453</b>                            | <b>\$955.00</b>                       |

\* Costs are estimated and may fluctuate.

\*\* Costs can be paid by owner/handler, OSU Foundation donor via the Pet Therapy Fund, or by the Department (except for therapy dog registration, Canine Good Citizen certification, and membership fees). Financial arrangements will be agreed upon by the owner/handler and Department Head. Individual therapy dog training may be requested by the owner/handler, but the cost is significantly greater than the group training offered by the Program (estimated at \$1000).

08/10/2017