



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS

PETS HELPING PEOPLE

Name _____

Self-Assessment for Volunteering as a Team with Intermountain Therapy Animals (ITA)

Thanks for your interest in Intermountain Therapy Animals and in volunteering with your animal. Working with animal-assisted interactions since 1993, we at ITA have come to realize that it is a complex and demanding kind of volunteering—but it offers incalculable rewards for those people and animals who are well-suited for it. For example, people are often surprised at the commitment required—both in time and finances. And they are also often surprised that, while all pets are marvelous personal and family therapists, very few actually desire to provide this service to unfamiliar people in strange places on a regular basis.

PLEASE NOTE: ITA does not accept service, assistance or emotional support dogs to become therapy animals. We are committed to the wellbeing of both animals and people, and we feel that it is asking too much of any dog to subject him or her to the stress and emotional pressure of more than one of these huge and challenging jobs.

Take this self-assessment to determine if both you and your animal are ready to proceed. Please plan to bring your completed assessment with you if you decide to come to our offices for an interview.

1. What kind of animal do you want to volunteer with?

Dog Cat Horse or Donkey Bird Guinea Pig, Rabbit, or Rat

About You

2. Do you have the time to work with your dog on a regular, ongoing basis to teach and maintain the behaviors necessary for making safe and effective visits (an hour a week could be a reasonable amount of time)?

Yes Not sure No

3. Do you have the time to commit to keeping your animal thoroughly bathed and groomed for your visits? Or the money to have a professional groomer do it?

Yes Not sure No

Unlike many kinds of volunteering, there are fees associated with becoming a registered therapy animal team because of the extensive training and education required. They include:

- Handler Course: \$110
- Vet visit to complete the Animal Health Screening Form: \$60-300 (varies)
- Team test: \$40
- Registration Fee/Annual dues to Intermountain Therapy Animals: \$99

You will also need to re-test with your partner every two years, including an updated veterinary health screening and evaluation.

4. Are you willing to pay fees to ITA and to your vet to volunteer?

Yes Not sure No

(please continue on next page ...)

Place an **X** along the line to indicate how you would rate yourself in the following areas, along a continuum from 1 to 10.

5. With my dog . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I use a firm, no-nonsense tone of voice and leash corrections to make sure s/he knows I am boss								I use a conversational tone of voice and hand signals to work with my dog as a partner	

6. With my dog . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I am often confused about what my dog's behavior means								I clearly understand what my dog communicates through his/her subtle behaviors	

About Your Animal

Place an **X** along the line to indicate how you would rate your dog in each of the following areas, on a continuum from 1 to 10.

7. My animal . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Is never interested in meeting or being with strangers								Always, consistently and actively seeks out the company of people outside my home	

8. My animal . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Is extremely high energy and hyperactive								Is extraordinarily calm, mellow and relaxed	

9. My animal . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Is afraid of anything and everything outside of his/her normal, familiar environment								Quickly adjusts to all new environments, sounds, strangers, etc. with no problem	

10. How often does your animal have significant interaction with people outside of your home?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Never								Several hours each day	

11. What does your dog do when he meets someone new?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very shy; avoids contact					No interest			Eager to make a new friend	

How often does your animal do the following:

12. Paw people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	All the time								Never	

13. Jump up on people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	All the time								Never	

14. Lick people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	All the time								Never	

15. Vocalize (whine, bark, "talk," etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	All the time								Never	

(please continue on next page ...)

16. How does your dog behave at the veterinarian or groomer?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nervous, shaking, pacing panting, etc.								Calm, cool and Collected	

17. How does your dog react when seeing another dog?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Growls, snarls, lunges					Wants to play			Mildly curious, but still pays attention to me	

18. Do you and your dog together have reliable basic skills, including:

	<i>Yes, Consistently</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>No</i>
Sit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Come when called	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking on a loose leash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NOT jumping up on people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potty-training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About Your Cat (if applicable)

19. Will your cat tolerate wearing a harness and lead while on visits?

Yes No

20. Will your cat be able to enjoy sitting on a stranger's lap for 30 seconds?

Yes, consistently Sometimes No

Thank you! Please bring your completed assessment with you if you decide to come for an interview.