

**PLEASE BE AWARE ... that there are many fake entities that will claim to qualify your dog as a “therapy dog.”**

As with many other subjects online, misleading information abounds for having your companion animal become a therapy dog.

Several entities offer extensive training for your dog at extremely high prices (\$1,000 to \$3,000 is common), but at the end of that investment they do not provide liability insurance, membership in a therapy organization, or places to take your dog to volunteer. Often this includes your spending even more to get extras like dog tags (\$25) or “official ID cards” (2 for \$59) that say your dog is a therapy dog. These items look very impressive but grant you no support or legitimate access anywhere.

Some entities troll for your dollars without even mentioning any training at all. Anyone can purchase from online sources an official-looking therapy dog vest, certificate, and ID badge, but what matters to facilities that welcome therapy dogs is their training, screening, and liability insurance. Online sites that register or certify therapy dogs for a fee don’t provide these essentials, which makes their credentials meaningless.

Intermountain Therapy Animals has been around for almost 30 years, training people and their pets to be teams and providing animal-assisted interactions at more than 100 facilities. We insure each member team for \$2 million and support you throughout your journey to volunteer. We have members who have been with us for 5, 10, 15 and 20+ years doing this valuable and rewarding work for minimal cost.

Please ask questions carefully and thoroughly before spending your money.

Here is a link to an excellent related article from the *Whole Dog Journal*:

<https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/volunteering-with-a-therapy-dog-look-out-for-fake-registries/>