

# **GUIDELINES FOR ILLNESS/DEATH OF A DOG/HANDLER**

## **Nor'wester Therapy Dogs**

### **Canine Partners in Education**

There may come a time when a dog or handler either becomes ill or dies during the school year. The following steps have been approved and adopted as the procedure to follow in this event.

1. The Directors must be notified within 48 hours of onset of illness or death.
2. The Directors will contact the school principal and host teacher.
3. The principal, teacher, and school guidance counselor/psychologist will determine the best way to handle informing the class. Most school districts already have crisis intervention policies in place.
4. The Directors will attempt to locate a team to fill in for the remainder of the year. It will depend upon the availability of a suitable therapy dog team.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Once notice has been given to the Directors by the handler or a family member, all further contact with the teacher and principal is solely the responsibility of the Directors of Nor'wester Therapy Dogs and school personnel. The school will assume all responsibility for informing the children as per their district policy.

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