



NOR'WESTER THERAPY DOGS

canine partners in education

~ GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS~

- ❖ Handler/Volunteers should wear or carry their personal therapy dog affiliation ID on every visit. These are provided by their certifying organization.
- ❖ Handler/Volunteers may NOT bring friends or visitors without first getting permission from the classroom teacher and principal.
- ❖ Cell phones may not be used and must be turned off or set to vibrate during their visit to a classroom. If the use of a cell phone becomes necessary, handlers are expected to excuse themselves and their dogs temporarily and complete the call outside the facility.
- ❖ Only approved and certified therapy dogs are eligible to participate in Nor'wester Therapy Dogs. They must wear an appropriate, approved collar and be on a leash at all times.
- ❖ The Nor'wester Therapy Dogs organization has guidelines in place to follow in the event of the death or illness of a visiting therapy dog.
- ❖ It is suggested that Handlers/Volunteers be accompanied to and from the classroom by a school employee.
- ❖ Encourage students to behave appropriately in the presence of a therapy dog. They should be urged to lower their voices, sit down, and be gentle during a visitation. These expectations should be set at the first visit.
- ❖ Children should not be encouraged or permitted to PLAY with a working therapy dog.
- ❖ Children or other school personnel are not permitted to FEED a working therapy dog.
- ❖ Handlers/Volunteers will visit ONLY the classroom to which they are assigned. Handlers may NOT start visiting new classes unless approval has been granted by the Nor'wester organization.
- ❖ Two or three visits are usually necessary before things start to run smoothly. If you have questions, need ideas, or assistance, please contact one of the Directors.

DIRECTORS:

Wendi Huttner - 215-815-5700

Lab324@aol.com

Deborah Glessner

Dglessner2@gmail.com

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Nor'wester Therapy Dog teams are privileged to be invited into the classroom, and it is a privilege for the schools to benefit from the impact of therapy dogs working with students. We are working in a wonderful environment of mutual respect where we will develop heartwarming relationships with both staff members and students. We are facilitators of the interaction between our dogs and the students.