



NOR'WESTER THERAPY DOGS

CANINE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

revised October 2021

~ GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ~

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. Two or three visits are usually necessary before things start to run smoothly. If you have questions, need ideas, or assistance, contact one of the Executive Directors.

- Handlers and volunteers should wear or carry their personal therapy dog affiliation ID on every visit. These IDs are provided by their certifying organization.
- Only approved and certified therapy dogs are eligible to participate in Nor'wester Therapy Dogs. They must wear an appropriate, approved collar and be kept, by the handler, on a leash at all times.
- Handlers and 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 Therapy Dogs organization.
- Handlers and volunteers may **not** bring friends or visitors without first getting permission from the classroom teacher and principal.
- Handlers may not use cell phones during their classroom visit. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate. 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.
- It is suggested that handlers and volunteers be accompanied to and from the classroom by a school employee or a student from the assigned classroom.
- 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 by the handler and teacher 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.
- 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.

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