



# DOES YOUR PET HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

## Pet Therapy Volunteer Program

Pet therapy is yet another way that Community Hospice & Palliative Care brings comfort and smiles to our patients and their families. Registered therapy animals and their owners have played an important part of the Community Hospice & Palliative Care team since 1996. Studies have shown that pet therapy helps to lower a patient's blood pressure and to decrease stress and anxiety.

Our pet therapy teams visit patients at Community Hospice & Palliative Care inpatient centers or wherever they call home.

### Therapy Pet Temperament:

- Is at least one year of age and gets along well with other animals
- Does not jump on people or pull on their leash
- Has a calm demeanor and likes receiving attention without being pushy
- Is comfortable in unfamiliar environments

*For cats and other pet therapy animals, please see the Pet Partners' website at [petpartners.org](http://petpartners.org) for their requirements.*

### Pet Therapy Volunteer Program Requirements:

- Owner must be a Community Hospice & Palliative Care patient/family volunteer and successfully complete volunteer orientation
- Pet and owner must be registered with a nationally recognized therapy animal organization (see below)

### Acceptable Therapy Dog Registration Organizations:

- Pet Partners
- Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Inc.
- Therapy Dogs International

Apply online to become a Community Hospice & Palliative Care patient/family volunteer at [Volunteer.CommunityHospice.com](http://Volunteer.CommunityHospice.com) and click on **Volunteer Application** or contact Chris Whitney at [CWhitney@communityhospice.com](mailto:CWhitney@communityhospice.com) or **904.407.5204**.



*Serving Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwanee, and Union counties*

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