

Evaluator Criteria for Badges



Therapy Dog – Reading

This badge shows that the handler has taught his or her dog to act mannerly in public, controlling his exuberance around elderly people, the disabled, facility patients, and/or children. Specifically, this badge shows that the team has successfully completed visitations that include schools, libraries, homebound visitations, and other community reading situations.

Dog Requirements:

- Dog must be nationally registered as a Therapy Dog, and is covered by their organization's insurance
- Dog must have earned the Therapy Dog I badge before proceeding to the Hospital/Hospice or Reading badges.
- In addition, dog must have put in a *minimum total of 50 hours* of volunteer therapy dog work in the community.
- A *minimum of 20 hours* of these visits must be in community reading settings.
- Time logged toward the Therapy Dog I badge and/or Therapy Dog – Hospital/Hospice badge may be applied toward the total required hours for this badge.

Owner Requirements:

- Handler has reviewed the document: *Introduction to Therapy Dog Work*.
- Handler knows how to keep his dog safe and avoid potential mishaps.
- Handler manages dog's actions, preventing dog from scratching peoples' skin, knocking people down, or otherwise not acting in a gentle and controlled manner.
- Handler keeps his dog clean, groomed, and free from parasites at all times when greeting public.
- Handler keeps a log of all therapy visits, complete with a contact phone numbers for verification.

Equipment Needed:

- No special equipment is required by DSA.

NOTE: The Therapy Dog log sheets are done on the honor system, but if the Evaluator chooses to check on the validity of the visits or the certification, a telephone number is required.

Allowable:

Proof of certification through any nationally recognized registry as a Therapy Dog.

A visit log, based on the honor system, provided contact names and numbers are provided.

TDI log sheets are acceptable records for this badge.

Not Allowable:

Poorly documented therapy visit log.

Registration with therapy groups we have never heard of.