

Thank you for your interest in becoming a therapy dog team with Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Mass.

Due to the popularity of therapy dogs, we are finding that many people are interested in obtaining this certification but are not quite ready when they sign up for our workshop. In order to help you better prepare we have included some information we hope will be helpful in making your decision to register for the workshop.

Therapy dog certification is not service dogs or companion animal certification. Therapy Dogs are not covered by the American with Disabilities Act and therefore can be denied access to public and private places.

Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy dog teams are all volunteer and make voluntary social visits to those who request a visit. Our visits must be conducted on a 4 ft or shorter leash held at all times by the Dog B.O.N.E.S. certified owner/handler.

If you are considering this certification so you can bring your dog to work with you and include your dog in your profession, we are not the organization to join. If you would like to discuss your situation with us, please give us a call.

Please read the information below to make sure you are ready to attend our therapy dog workshop.

This workshop is not an obedience class or training. Over the three consecutive sessions we are evaluating you and your dog for therapy dog work and providing an orientation to best practices for making visits to those we are ready for this work.

Our workshop tries to mimic the qualities of visits-- novel stimuli, distractions, new people, and possibly other dogs.

At the workshop you and your dog will be in contact with 7 other dogs, at least 10 people and sometimes young adults and children. The three sessions are designed for us to evaluate your dog's ability to maintain focus, respond to their handler(s) and interact appropriately with other people and dogs.

Positive training, which uses rewards rather than punishment to teach, is the most compatible training method for preparing your dog to become a therapy dog. Positive methods encourage dogs to learn new skills, to be at ease in their environment and to engage with people, which are all important qualities for a therapy dog.

*We need to establish that you have a relationship with your dog, and that your dog responds to the commands that will enable you to keep those you visit, yourself, and your dog, safe. Generally, you should have had your dog for at least a year prior to taking this workshop. If you have rescued a dog please be sure to give your dog lots of time to adjust to their new life prior to taking our workshop. Not all dogs adjust in the same timeframe.

***Please be sure of your dog's overall health.** Senior dogs, dogs with arthritis, or other health issues may not be able to stand the stress of visits and should be afforded the opportunity to enjoy their life with humans providing for their comfort and wellbeing.

*Female dogs in heat or pregnant are not allowed to attend a workshop

*Dogs must display appropriate temperament for therapy dog work

-non-aggressive towards people and other animals

-enjoy attention from people

*Your dog must be on a leash at all times during the workshop. A standard, non-retractable leash of 6 feet or less. For the safety of the people/children we visit **prong, shock and choke collars are not allowed.**

If you are currently using a prong, shock or choke collar and have not trained on a flat collar or harness you should train your dog on a collar or harness prior to attending the workshop.

*You and your dog will be asked to demonstrate sit, down, stay, and heel (walking on leash without pulling) and leave it. This workshop is not an obedience class. Those not able to perform obedience skills appropriately will be given feedback on areas they need to strengthen and will not be allowed to complete the workshop series.

*Dogs who jump up or are 'mouthy' (tend to put their mouths over people's hands, etc.) and those that show any signs of aggression toward other dogs or people are not ready for this workshop.

*Dogs who have bitten/nipped a person are not eligible for therapy dog work.

*Dogs with aggression history toward other dogs are not eligible for therapy dog work

*Dogs that are shy, skittish, fearful are not appropriate for therapy dog work.

*Dogs under 9 months of age are not ready for this workshop.

IF YOU ARE READY:

Introduction to Becoming a Therapy Dog Team is a workshop designed to educate the human companion (you) and expose your dog to medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers etc. Dogs will refine their skills for making visits.

Dog B.O.N.E.S. Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts uses the three sessions as a method of evaluating teams for therapy dog work. Upon successful completion of the workshop, therapy dog teams are invited to join **Dog B.O.N.E.S.** Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts and begin making volunteer visits. An annual membership dues of \$25 is paid upon joining **Dog B.O.N.E.S.** (at the last session) and is renewable annually.

The workshop registration fee is \$50.00 per dog, is non-refundable and expected at time of registration by credit card.

At the workshop we will be learning about how to prepare for and what to expect on visits to various facilities as a therapy dog team and exposing your dog to a wheelchair and walker. We will practice simulated 'visits' and discuss how Dog B.O.N.E.S. works, and what the expectations are for you and your dog. We will also practice a few cues that may be useful on therapy dog visits.

The handler and dog (potential therapy dog team) MUST provide proof of covid vaccine and be able to attend all three sessions of this workshop. If more than one family member wishes to become a therapy dog team with the dog, they must register and provide proof of covid vaccine and be able to attend all three sessions as well. The cost of registration is per dog registered not per person and is non-refundable. Human companions must be 18 years of age or older. Those under 18 may register as potential junior handlers must be accompanied by an adult at the workshop and on all visits.

To Register for a Workshop:

Send the following information via email to: dogbonestherapydogs@gmail.com

Please reference workshop location and starting date on all correspondence

Handler Name(s)

Proof of Covid 19 vaccine

Dog Name

Dog Breed

Dog Age

Dog Sex

Jpeg full front view Photo of your dog

Proof of dog vaccine for rabies and parvo (DHLPP)

Address (street, town & zip code)

Phone Number

Email Address (if different)

Workshop location and dates

We accept: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card. Call us at 781-378-1551 with the information listed below.

If we are not here, you can leave the information on our secured voicemail .Please reference workshop location and date.

Name on card

Type of card

Card number

Expiration date

CVV number on back of card (3 digits)

Zip code

Upon receipt of registration information, registration fee, photo and human and dog vaccination records an email will be sent confirming your registration for the workshop.

Our workshops fill quickly. Timely submission will ensure your spot. Partial registration information does not hold a spot. We look forward to meeting you and your dog.

If you have questions or concerns, contact us via email at

dogbonestherapydogs@gmail.com or

phone at 781-378-1551.