



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION TEST

- **You must have verbal control over your dog.** This means your dog will respond to your voice commands (sit, down, stay, come, heel, etc.) without the necessity of using leash pressure, training aids or body language to encourage the required behavior. You must be upright when giving commands.
- **Your dog must be at least one year old to be eligible to take our certification test.**
- **Your dog must have completed at least a six-week obedience class or equivalent private training OR you (the handler) must have completed an obedience class with another dog sometime in the past ten years.**
- **Attendance at both sessions is mandatory to complete the certification process.** If you do not come to the practice session, you may not attend the test session.
- **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** must receive your fully completed paperwork, including animal certificate of health, reservation form, check, and volunteer application **by close of business the Thursday prior to your practice date.** No exceptions.
- **Please watch the test video on our website ([www.caninetherapycorps.org](http://www.caninetherapycorps.org)) prior to attending the practice session.**
- At the practice session, you may use any training method or training aids you normally use. **No training aids of any kind may be used during the test, including, but not limited to food, clickers, harnesses and training collars (electronic, prong, choke, martingale/limited slip, etc.).** If you have a question regarding equipment, ask.
- You are required to use a six-foot lead at both sessions; flexi-leads are not permitted at either session. **You must use a flat, buckle collar at the test session.** Your dog may not wear any additional collars at the test session, nor may there be anything attached to your leash.
- Walk your dog prior to bringing them into the practice and test site. **Elimination at either session will result in automatic failure.**
- Only registered dogs may attend the practice and test. Other dogs and pets are not allowed in the room.
- Please bring a water bowl for your dog. You may bring a mat (though not a dog bed) for your dog to use during down time or for the sit-stay (where we do not have a mat available), but be sure it is one that he/she is familiar with.
- **Aggression or reactivity toward people or other testing dogs at either session will result in an automatic failure.** **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** reserves the right to immediately dismiss your dog from either session for aggression; he/she will not be permitted to complete the certification procedure at that time. If the problem has been addressed, your dog may retest at another session.
- Use your best judgment - if your dog has an open wound, is in heat or just isn't feeling well, don't come! We test each quarter, and your registration fee and paperwork will carry over to the next session. Your dog won't perform at the level you expect if he or she isn't well.
- We offer the practice session so you and your dog can become familiar with the test site, other dogs testing and the test itself. Use the practice session to evaluate your dog and his/her performance in light of what he/she will be expected to do in the sessions, and later, in therapy programs. It is a terrific tool for getting your dog prepared to take the test.
- The practice session is the perfect time to ask questions, request clarification, address concerns and be sure that you fully understand what is expected of both you and your dog. Do not hesitate to call the office or your trainer before or after the practice session.
- **The certification test is pass/fail. You and your dog must successfully complete all of the required exercises on the test in order to become a CANINE THERAPY CORPS certified therapy dog.**
- Our test is a hard one, but if you and your dog are well prepared, he/she will make you proud!