



Dear Prospective Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in **CANINE THERAPY CORPS**! We are passionate about our mission and delighted that you are interested in sharing your time with us. Volunteers are essential to the success of our effective and innovative animal-assisted therapy programs.

On our website you will find a volunteer application form, certification test with explanation, test reservation form, animal certificate of health and some general information about **CANINE THERAPY CORPS**. I hope this letter and accompanying information will be helpful to you as you contemplate becoming a part of our organization.

The **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** therapy dog certification process consists of two parts: a practice session to familiarize you with test procedures and the actual certification test, which follows one week later. The next **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** practice and testing session dates are posted on the home page of our site, or you may call the office for the dates and locations. You must attend both sessions to be eligible for certification. To reserve your place in the upcoming sessions, please complete the following items and submit them to the **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** office - volunteer application, test reservation form, a \$35 check (made payable to **CANINE THERAPY CORPS**), and a animal certificate of health. All of the aforementioned items must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior the practice session you are participating in. **Please read the accompanying bullet points for important details about our certification process.**

While reading the test requirements, please keep in mind that you will be working with your dog in healthcare facilities with adults and children who have physical or emotional challenges. The elements of the test are intended to simulate the situations you and your dog will encounter during your work as volunteers. Frequently, you will be working in a group setting which requires your dog to be able to maintain focus on you and your client even when there are many distractions, including other dogs, medical equipment and unfamiliar smells. Behaviors you may find endearing in your pet, such as jumping up to greet you, can be devastating to a person whose balance has been compromised by a brain injury or whose skin is fragile after surviving a fire. To ensure an effective and positive therapeutic experience for our clients, as well as a satisfying volunteer experience for you, your dog must be under your total verbal control, reliable and patient.

Please tell us more about you and your dog by completing the volunteer application. We are always in need of help with a variety of exciting activities in addition to work in our programs, so be sure to let us know if you are willing to help even without your dog. **All new volunteers must attend an orientation meeting.** At this meeting, you will receive a volunteer manual and learn more about animal assisted therapy and our programs. Please consult our website regarding the next volunteer orientation. We typically host it at the **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** office, 1700 West Irving Park Road, Suite 311, Chicago, on the Tuesday evening following the testing date. If you are able to attend the orientation, please contact the office to RSVP.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. It is intended to help you and your dog prepare for the test, not discourage you! Do not hesitate to call me at the office, 773.404.6467, if you have any questions. Best of luck to you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Callie Cozzolino'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Callandre A. Cozzolino  
Program and Outreach Director