



Steps to Becoming an Animal Health Foundation Pet Partner Team



The Animal Health Foundation is a Southern California Affiliate of the Delta Society and a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity

If you have taken the Team Training Course Home Study, observed an evaluation and received your CGC, please do the following: contact therapyk9s@cox.net and you will be put on the list to be notified of upcoming PRE Evaluation Reviews. Once you have attended a PRE, you will be put on a list to be notified of evaluation dates.

For more details about the Delta Pet Partner Program and Delta Society go to www.deltasociety.org. For more information about the AHF go to www.animalhealthfoundation.net.

Please note that the AHF (Animal Health Foundation) is an affiliate of the Delta Society.

PREREQUISITES

➤ For the Handler

- The person handling the animal must be at least 10 years old. Handlers younger than 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have written permission to participate from a parent or guardian.
- People who do not have an animal may also register as Pet Partners.

➤ For the Animal

- All animals (except birds) must have lived in the owner's home for at least 6 months. Birds must have lived in the owner's home for at least 1 year.
- All animals except "pocket pets" must be at least 1 year at the time the animal is evaluated. Pocket pets (e.g., guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, etc.) must be at least 6 months at the time the animal is evaluated.
- Dogs trained to aggressively protect and/or encouraged to actively bite, even as a component of a dog sport (e.g., Schutzhund, Ring) may not be Pet Partners.

STEP 1: Take the Home Study Course

- Review the skills needed to visit safely with your animal in hospitals, nursing homes, classrooms and other facilities.
- Thoroughly read the manual
- Taking the Home Study Course is a requirement of Delta Society.

Order Delta's Pet Partner Team Training Course manual online through www.deltasociety.org (click on the Shop button).

STEP 2: Assist/Observe at an Evaluation

- This is a very important step in the evaluation process and is mandatory.
- You have the opportunity to see evaluations first hand to see if you and your pet partner are ready.
- When you are ready to assist/observe at an evaluation, contact Sandy Chang at therapyk9@gmail.com

Step 3: Pass the Canine Good Citizen Test within a year of being evaluated

- This is not a Delta Requirement, but it is a requirement to be evaluated by AHF.
- If you need a list of CGC evaluators in the Orange County area, email therapyk9s@cox.net.
- AHF is a local affiliate of Delta Society in Orange County. You cannot become a member of AHF until you have passed the Delta Pet Partner Evaluation.
- Benefits of AHF membership include:
 - Your registration packet will be mailed into Delta for you
 - Your Delta fees will be paid for by AHF
 - Your evaluation fees will be paid for by AHF
 - You will receive a free Delta vest, compliments of AHF
 - You will have access to AHF's mentoring program
 - You will receive business cards for your pet partner
 - AHF will sponsor your READ Program registration & Manual (for those interested)
 - \$300 Value to you!
- If you do not want to be a member of AHF, then you will pay for all of the above personally.

Step 4: Attend a Pre-Evaluation Review

- This is not a Delta Requirement, but it is a requirement to be evaluated by AHF (see below).
- You must have read the manual from cover to cover in order to attend this review
- During this review, we you will be quizzed about things that were in the manual. If you pass the review, you can be evaluated by AHF.

STEP 5: The Pet Partner Team Evaluation Process

- The Team Evaluation process evaluates the animal/handler team, how well the handler interprets and manages the animal's behavior, and how well the animal responds to the handler. They are performed by Delta-licensed Team Evaluators.
- One of the goals of the Pet Partners Program is to ensure that we can all be proud of the visiting teams because they are safe and reliable. The evaluation process gives a complete picture of each h handler/animal team. This process is the safest way to identify acceptable visiting teams.
- During the evaluation you will be assessed on how you interact with the evaluator, the evaluator's assistants, the animal and the environment around you. They will be acting as though they are in a facility. Your interactions may be in the form of questions, responses to the evaluator and evaluator's comments, eye contact, smiling, head nodding, directing the animal to interact, or other verbal and nonverbal methods of communicating.
- **Pet Partner Skills Test (PPST)** – shows whether the animal can be controlled by you and follow basic commands. Details of the test are in Delta Society's Pet Partner Team Training Course Manual.
- **Pet Partner Aptitude Test (PPAT)** – designed to simulate conditions that may be encountered on a visit. This screening helps determine the most appropriate environment for you and your animal. Many people compare this to a temperament test. Details of the test are in Delta's Society's Pet Partner Team Training Course Manual.
- Unlike obedience competitions, you and your animal do not have to perform the exercises with precision to pass the evaluation. You are encouraged to talk to your animal during the entire evaluation. The main emphasis is that the animal is under control.
- After you have passed the PPST and PPAT, the Team Evaluator will give you a signed and dated copy of your test forms for you to include when you submit your completed registration packet to Delta Society.

STEP 6: After Your Registration Packet is Submitted

- Once Delta receives your completed Registration Packet, you will be issued a letter with your Pet Partner ID#, which allows you to begin visiting.
- AHF Pet Partners will set you up with a mentor for your first few visits.
- You will receive your ID Card from Delta, your vest and cards from AHF