

Steps to Become a Sponsored
Animal Health Foundation
Caring Creatures
Pet Partners® Team



www.animalhealthfoundation.org

The Animal Health Foundation is a Southern California Community Partner of Pet Partners® and a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity

If you would like to be sponsored by the Animal Health Foundation Caring Creatures Program which is a Pet Partners® Community Partner, you must complete the steps in this document.

- Sponsorship benefits of AHF membership include:
 - Your registration packet will be mailed into Pet Partners for you
 - Your Pet Partners fees will be paid for by AHF
 - Your evaluation fees will be paid for by AHF
 - You will receive a free Caring Creatures vest, compliments of AHF
 - You will have access to AHF's mentoring program
 - You will receive baseball trading size business cards for your pet partner
 - AHF will sponsor your READ Program registration & Manual (for those interested)
 - AHF's sponsorship is a \$400 Value to you!
- AHF offers only members the benefits above. You are not required to be a member of AHF to be a Pet Partners Team.

PREREQUISITES - for AHF Sponsorship

- For the Handler - Both Pet Partners and AHF Requirement
 - 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 - Both Pet Partners and AHF Requirement
 - 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: Assist/Observe Team Evaluations - AHF requirement only

- This is not a Pet Partners requirement, but it is a requirement to be a sponsored member of AHF.
- Observe at least 4 individual teams being evaluated.
- 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 petpartner@animalhealthfoundation.org

STEP 2: Pass the Canine Good Citizen Test - AHF requirement only within a year before being evaluated

- This is not a Pet Partners requirement, but it is a requirement to be a sponsored member of AHF.
- If you need a list of AKC CGC evaluators in the Orange County area, contact petpartner@animalhealthfoundation.org

STEP 3: Attend the AHF Pet Partners® Team Training Workshop

- Taking the AHF Pet Partners Team Training Workshop is a requirement to be a sponsored member of AHF. To be a Pet Partners® team and **not** sponsored by AHF, you may take either the online course or the workshop.
- The workshop is hands-on with discussions and practice sessions for the participants with a licensed Pet Partners instructor.

- It will help develop participant's visiting techniques when visiting fragile populations in various settings with hospital equipment.
- Course manuals will be available for purchase.
- A Certificate of Completion will be given to participants who successfully complete AHF's Pet Partners Team workshop and must be included in the teams registration packet.

STEP 4: The Pet Partners Team Evaluation Process

- The Team Evaluation process evaluates the animal/handler team, how well they perform the various tasks as a team that is responsive to one another. The evaluation is conducted by Pet Partners® 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 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, your animal and the environment around you. The evaluation is a simulated mock visit with various scenarios presented using hospital equipment.
- **Pet Partners Skills Test (PPST)**—shows whether the animal is responsive to the handler's cues. Details of the test are on the Pet Partners® website at www.petpartners.org
- **Pet Partners Aptitude Test (PPAT)**—various scenarios will be presented that simulate a mock visit situation. Details of the test are on the Pet Partners® website at www.petpartners.org
- The handler is encouraged to be proactive and their animal's advocate. The team needs to be responsive to each other and working as a cohesive unit.
- After you have taken the PPST and PPAT, AHF's Pet Partners Team Evaluator will review the evaluation with you. AHF will submit and sponsor the teams' registration with Pet Partners for those teams that have completed AHF's required Prerequisites. For teams not wishing to be sponsored by the Animal Health Foundation, the Pet Partners Team Registration Packet and evaluation score sheets will be returned to the team for them to submit to Pet Partners for processing.

STEP 5: After Your Registration Packet is Submitted

- Once Pet Partners processes your completed Registration Packet, you will be issued a letter with your Pet Partners ID#, which allows you to begin visiting. The lead time for Pet Partners to process registration packets varies.
- It may take 2 to 3 weeks after you receive your registration number via email to receive your ID Badge from Pet Partners.
- AHF Caring Creatures Pet Partner will mentor sponsored team, if desired, for your first few visits.
- You will receive your ID Badge from Pet Partners, your vest and cards from AHF.

To be on our email list or assist at team evaluations, contact petpartner@animalhealthfoundation.org and you will be notified of upcoming workshops and evaluations. Be sure to tell us the species and breed or mix of your animal and the animals' name.