What We Look For In A Therapy Dog Team

😊 Team as a whole
- How the animal relates to the handler and vice-versa
- How the animal and handler relate to others
- We visualize the team in a hospital corridor and you must look confident

😊 The animals need to be
- Obedience trained
- Predictable; reliable and controllable
- People-oriented and sociable
- Comfortable being touched, at times awkwardly
- Comfortable being crowded by a group of people
- Able to cope with stressful situations
- Have a non-threatening or neutral body posture, relaxed face

😊 The handler must
- Be friendly
- Be comfortable in healthcare settings
- Be confident, natural and relaxed
- Be aware of animal behaviors, responses and reassure with cues
- Be proactive
- Ensure the animal’s well-being
- Not yell or jerk on the leash
- Have a gentle interaction with your animal in a friendly, normal tone