











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