

**CAAA Social Pet Therapy Volunteer
Job Description**

Volunteers are needed to take their qualifying pets to visit residents in designated health care facilities (which serve senior citizens) and represent CAAA at certain events (with or without their pets).

The primary goal these social pet therapy visits (*also known as animal-assisted interactions or animal-assisted activities*) is to enhance the quality of life for facility residents by promoting the human/ Companion Animal Bond and to provide support when the bond is broken.

Essential Functions:

Volunteers interact with facility residents and staff:

- while continuously interpreting situations to gauge the appropriateness of their pet's participation and interaction
- by carefully monitoring and managing the pet's participation/interaction to ensure the safety and well-being of both humans and animals

Interactions are usually spontaneous and usually last only a few minutes per resident and may occur in the individuals' rooms and/or among individuals gathered in groups.

Qualifications:

- Ability and willingness to deal tactfully, courteously, and patiently with a diverse target audience:
 - enjoys interacting with individuals who may be: elderly; disabled; physically and/or mentally ill or impaired; and/or socially disadvantaged
- Verbal communication skills
- Ability to control animal through verbal commands and/or hand signals and to physically restrain animal, if necessary
- Provides own transportation
- Meets and be able to follow all other requirements of the CAAA social pet therapy program (*e.g., insurance qualifications, code of conduct, rules and regulations for pet therapy etc.*)
- Has a pet that currently meets all requirements to qualify for CAAA certification *<while the animal doesn't have to be owned by the volunteer, it must be covered by the volunteer's liability insurance>*
- Able to participate independently as a CAAA Pet Therapy Volunteer without supervision and/or monitoring and/or minimal other support

Physical requirements: Essential functions involve manual dexterity, strength and physical reflexes to control pet and manage the pet's visits and interactions with target audience. Could involve bending, twisting, walking, stooping and turning; and in some cases to lifting the pet.

Sensory Requirements: Essential functions require sound and visual perception and discrimination to:

- interpret animal's behavior, disposition and warning signals
- avoid medical equipment, tubing, hazardous situations and materials
- interpret peoples' reactions to the pet

Environmental requirements: Essential functions require regularly traveling to assigned facility at scheduled times; being in places housing mentally and physically ill people; and being around sights and smells that occasionally may be offensive

Minimum age: 18 years. *<The minimum age for children accompanying a Pet Therapy Volunteer is 13.>*

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____