

What is a Therapy Dog?

Therapy Dogs provide affection and comfort to children, at-risk-youth, adults and seniors in a wide variety of settings.

A Therapy Dog interacts with people to offer feelings of wellbeing, or encourage rehabilitation through actual contact. Animals can provide a non-judgmental presence.

Animal Assisted Therapy introduces pets to withdrawn people to encourage communication, to improve physical and/or emotional function.



Access:

A Therapy Dog does not have public access rights.

Eligibility:

- A child or adult with a disability
- A health care professional working with assistive therapies
- Organisations seeking to include animal assisted therapies into their programs
- The ability to care for a dog
- Able to provide a safe and loving home
- Can meet a Guide Dogs WA home assessment and handling requirements

Dog Selection Process:

- Sound temperament
- Basic obedience
- Engages positively with people

Matching Process:

- We will consider placing a Therapy Dog if the dog has the appropriate characteristics
- Time is allocated within the day for the dog to engage in non-therapy activities
- Suitability of the dog to the role
- Ability of the main handler to apply the techniques required

Placement:

Guide Dogs WA will initially do a pre-allocation trial placement, thereafter a two week trial placement with full support.

Successful Placement:

If the placement is successful GDWA will transfer ownership of the dog and complete the relevant documentation.

Note: If this placement is unsuccessful the dog will be considered for the next consumer on the waitlist.