



PRECIOUSK9S^{LLC}
DOG TRAINING & BEHAVIOR
(417) 207-3215

Precious K9s Therapy Teams

Mission Statement

Precious K9s Therapy is a company that is focused on the well-being of our four-legged family members while visiting people that can benefit from the therapeutic effect dogs can have on us. This is a group of individuals dedicated to making a difference with their best friend by their side. We visit a variety of places such as, but not limited to, hospice facilities, retirement homes, teen homes, hospitals, courtrooms, victim centers, schools, and workplaces. Each team will have different specialties; therefore, each will have different services to offer. These include, but are not limited to, animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy. We will strive to help all involved in our visits to be comfortable and help them to enjoy the rest of their day with a smile.

Vision Statement

We are a group of K9 Therapy Teams that will learn from each other and stand by each other while creating a positive and comfortable environment for handlers, dogs, and the people that are impacted by us and our four-legged family members.

What are Animal-Assisted Interactions?

(Pet Partners 2014)

Animal-assisted interactions provide opportunities for motivational, educational and/ or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life. These activities are delivered in a variety of environments by a specially trained professional, paraprofessional and/ or volunteer, in association with animals that meet specific criteria.

It can also be a more formal process:

- 1) If it is overseen by a health and human service provider as part of his or her profession. This person might be a physician, occupational therapist, physical therapist, certified therapeutic recreation specialist, teacher, nurse, social worker, speech therapist, or mental health professional.
- 2) If the professional must incorporate the animal as part of his or her own specialty. For example, a social worker must incorporate the animal in the context of social work.

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- 3) If it is goal-directed and there's a specific end in mind, such as improvement in social skills or range of motion.
- 4) If it is documented- Each session is documented in the client's record, with the activity and progress noted by the professional.

Benefits of Membership with Precious K9s:

- Access to Carrie Galvan, CPDT-KA, for basic therapy questions and mentorship after your class is completed
- Information about places that have been visited by Precious K9s Therapy Teams and visit opportunities that are available
- Advice on entering a new facility to establish a rapport with the Activities Director and/or contact person
- Opportunities to participate with Precious K9s at group public events
- Guest speaker events
- Discounted rate when repeating the Dogs With a Job course

Each member receives:

- Team ID badge (member pays \$10 for replacement if lost)
- Precious K9s dog ID tag
- Access to Members Facebook group

Items on Secret group on FB

- Valuable forms for your therapy visits
 - Visit Log
 - Photo Release
 - Incident Report
 - Complaint Report
 - Handler Guide
- Videos and written resources that can help you with your therapy visits
- The ability to chat with and gain information from other members.

Extra Items Members can purchase:

- Precious K9s shirts
- Precious K9s patches in small and large

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-You will be able to purchase an event package that includes a Precious K9s T-shirt and bandana that will be required if you attend with our group.

Precious K9s in Your Facility

"Research shows that positive interactions with animals increase endorphins, oxytocin, prolactin, and dopamine. These are the hormones associated with blood pressure regulation, pain relief, stress relief, and joy. Visits from therapy animal teams can normalize stays away from home for hospital patients, improve motivation to participate in treatment protocols, and lessen worry, anxiety, unhappiness, and pain." (Pet Partners 2014)

Know the answer to the following questions and then contact us to find the Therapy Team for you!

- 1) Why do you want to have therapy teams visit your facility?
- 2) Do you have specific goals in mind?
- 3) Who is the person in charge of your new program?
- 4) Do you have scheduled times lined out where the contact person can supervise the visits?
- 5) What are your guidelines for each team that visits?
- 6) What are your requirements for teams visiting your facility?
- 7) Do you have any unique needs in your facility?
- 8) Is there a designated area for the dogs to use the restroom or take breaks if needed?
- 9) Are there any residents in your facility that would prefer the teams not visit them?

Each Precious K9s Team has passed an eight-week course in which the dog's behavior has been observed in many different situations. There is a four-week handling and dog behavior section and a four-week on-site section of the class. The handling and dog behavior section gives the teams the chance to work toward better dog handling skills and understand their dog's comfort level. This teaches them to always be an advocate for their dog and gives them the know-how to keep their dog happy and safe at all times. The on-site portion of the test has allowed teams to learn positive and professional ways to handle many new situations. Each application is reviewed, and the dog and the handler have to pass all sections to be approved as a Precious K9s Team. Teams must always have clear identification so there is no confusion why they are in your facility.

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