

FAQ

- **My dog is handicapped; can he still be a therapy dog?**

As long as you and your dog can pass our test, you and your dog can be a B&BTD therapy team.

- **What kind of commitment am I making when I become a B&BTD pet therapy handler team?**

You must volunteer at least one hour per month for pet therapy visitation.

- **Is Membership with B&BTD expensive?**

Testing is \$15.00 and it's \$35.00 to register with one handler and one dog for the first year. Each additional dog and or handler is \$10.00 each. Renewal is \$30.00 annually.

- **Does my dog have to be a purebred?**

Any dog is eligible to be a Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog —mixed breeds, rescues, retired show dogs and obedience dogs have all made fine therapy dogs. We ask before you test a rescued dog, that the dog be living in your household with you for a minimum of six months.

- **What type of dog makes a good therapy dog?**

Our insurance is non-breed discriminatory. No dog is too large or too small. We have Toy Poodles, Great Danes, Chihuahuas, pit bull mixes, and just about every breed you can think of— they're well represented in our membership. What we do is find the right job for your dog.

- **Can any dog be a therapy dog?**

Not every dog has the potential to be a therapy dog. If they just don't have the right temperament, it doesn't mean they're not a wonderful pet, just not quite right for therapy dog. There are some things you just can't train into a dog no matter how long you try.

Questions?

Call us at 888-738-5770.

We'd love to hear from you.

Get That Dog Off The Couch!!



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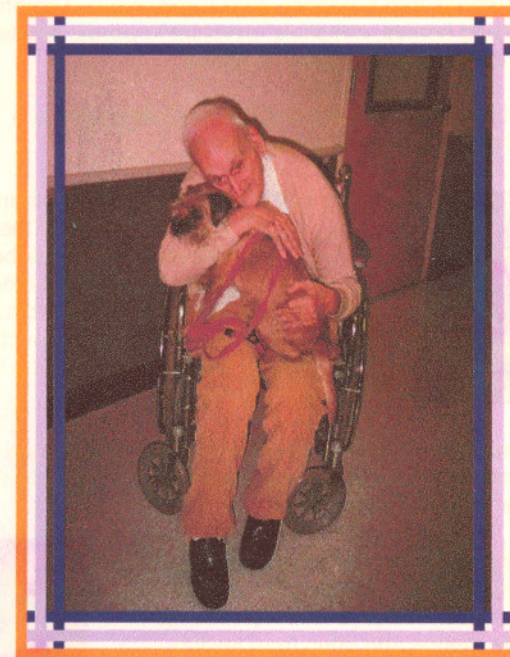
A nonprofit organization

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The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc.



**People Helping
Dogs Helping
People**

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The Bright and The Beautiful

The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a nonprofit organization which certifies owners with their well behaved dogs to work as therapy dog teams. B&BTD teams give unconditional love, boost self-esteem, relieve loneliness and boredom, offer friendship and comfort in nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric wards, shelters, schools and many other facilities.

Pet therapists are in great demand, and there is a serious shortage of therapy dogs.



Our dogs visit children in pediatrics. Most of the children have never been away from home before. They are frightened and fearful at the prospect of having to spend time in a big scary hospital.

Sometimes the children are severely handicapped. When they visit, the dogs seem to spark a reaction no one has ever seen before.

We visit lonely seniors in nursing and assisted living homes. The dogs and handlers provide a welcome change in their routine and often form lasting friendships with the patients. They bring back pleasant memories of family pets in days gone by.



When we visit rehabilitation facilities and hospitals, the patients are able to ease the boredom of institutional life or the pain of recent surgery by visits from a friendly face with a wagging tail. Sometimes a depressed patient who hasn't spoken in months will have a conversation with a dog. Difficult patients can become more compliant with a furry face to convince them to take their pills, etc.

We never charge for visitation. We believe visitation should be conducted as a volunteer service, because the handlers & their dogs are volunteers. We pride ourselves upon being an all volunteer organization, so contributions and donations are important to us. Of course, they all are tax deductible.

Our handlers and dogs come in all ages, shapes and sizes — they are truly *bright and beautiful*.

June Golden, Executive Director



FAQ

- **I want to work with my dog as a therapy dog—how do I get started?**

Are you & your dog ready for our therapy dog test?

If you and your dog have basic obedience training, you may be ready. The actual test is shown on our website. If you wish to go for training there are many dog training facilities we recommend, so you can take a class before the test. A therapy dog training class is best so your dog can be exposed to medical equipment: cane, crutches, walker and wheelchair.

- **How long does it take to train a therapy dog?**

Therapy dogs are always in training; preparing for the test really depends upon you and your dog.

- **Does my dog need to have formal obedience lessons?**

Training is very important, but the test is by no means an obedience test — we *prefer* a more casual atmosphere. We've had obedience trial champions sail through testing that weren't good therapy dogs! We want friendly, well socialized dogs that are controlled and not timid.

- **How old does my dog have to be to take the pet therapy test?**

Dogs must be at least one year old to be tested.

- **If my dog doesn't pass the test, may I retake it? If so, when am I eligible to retest?**

You can retake the test any time you feel ready to do so — the next day if you wish.

- **Is your test the same as The AKC Canine Good Citizen® test?**

No, our test is not the AKC Canine Good Citizen® test.

Our test is a test designed specifically for therapy dogs and events they may encounter while working in actual facilities.

FAQ

- **What health requirements are required for a therapy dog?**

The dog must be clean, neat, healthy and pain free, parasite free, pleasant smelling, along with meeting basic veterinary requirements. (Ask for the Health Requirements booklet).

- **What does a typical visit entail?**

B&BTD dogs are emotional support dogs; they give comfort & love with petting & affection. Our pet-therapists ease loneliness & bolster self-esteem, entertain with simple tricks & obedience routines & provide nurturing friendship.

- **How can I have a therapy dog visit me or a member of my family?**

Call our offices and we'll schedule a visit for you based on availability in your area.

- **Am I covered by insurance while visiting a facility?**

You and your dog are protected by primary liability and accident insurance while working as a therapy dog team, provided you follow our guidelines.

- **What types of facilities may I visit with my dog?**

After you register with B&BTD, you should begin slowly with more traditional settings, such as nursing homes and senior homes. After you have some experience under your belt, the applications are limitless — we find new environments for therapy dogs every day. You must make a group therapy dog visit so we can orient you to proper and safe protocol.

- **Can I bring more than one dog at a time?**

Our safety guidelines permit only one dog per handler.