

# Getting started in Animal-Assisted Therapy is easy as **A-B-C** !!



**A**ttend our 6-week class

**B**e successful on test day

**C**onnect with clients



**Loving Animals Providing Smiles (LAPS) is a highly-respected animal-assisted therapy organization with dog, cat and miniature horse teams working in Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties.** Each team completes comprehensive training to develop advanced skills allowing them to work safely and effectively with clients of all ages and in a variety of settings. LAPS teams provide quality animal-assisted interventions to challenging, fragile and often underserved client populations. For more information about LAPS, please visit our website: [www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org](http://www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org)



**Complete and submit a Canine Team Application, along with a copy of pet's current vaccination records and class fee payment by August 30, 2022.** Download PDF from our website (click on the 'Join Us' or 'Downloads' tab) and mail to our PO Box 6596, Napa, CA 94581.

This training class is especially designed for dogs. Your dog must be at least one year of age, have lived in the home for six-months and be dog-friendly to participate in LAPS. Your pet must also reliably demonstrate Sit, Down, Stay, Walking Politely On-Leash, Accepting Petting from a Stranger and 'Leave It' without food reward.

*"Bringing acceptance,  
laughter, and love  
into the lives of others."*





# Loving Animals Providing Smiles

## **Animal-Assisted Therapy Team Handling Skills Class → Sept. 17 – Oct 22**

The session starts with a handlers-only meeting and continues each week with pet.

- Saturday classes held at Napa Valley Dog Training Club in Napa from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Our goal is to give you the tools to help your pet be a successful therapy partner. During the class you will learn the best way to communicate with your pet, and honestly assess your pet's behavior and comfort level.
- Class includes extensive written materials, practicing required skills, building team work, role play scenarios, working around healthcare equipment and distractions.
- Because lessons build on skills learned in earlier weeks, we ask that participants plan to attend **ALL** sessions. If you have a scheduling conflict, please let us know at the time of registration.
- Teams who attend all class sessions will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate does not indicate team registration or membership in LAPS; nor does completion of the class imply certification / registration as a Therapy Dog or Therapy Team.

## **LAPS Team Evaluations on October 30**

Teams interested in joining LAPS will be offered evaluations one week after class completion. Following a successful evaluation, the team will join LAPS as a Trainee Team and begin working alongside experienced LAPS teams during a short 3-month period. With successful completion of this trainee period, and determination that the team has demonstrated satisfactory skills, the team will become a Certified LAPS Therapy Team.

## **New Team Orientation on Nov 4 ❖ CAPERS Team Training Nov 5**

Upon passing the team evaluation, new LAPS volunteers will attend an Orientation (handlers only) to help them get ready for visits. CAPERS (Children and Pets Enjoy Reading Success) training is optional for those teams assessed appropriate to work with children in reading programs.



**CLASS FEE:      LAPS team: \$100      Non-LAPS team: \$140**

We offer a discount to teams wishing to join LAPS because they will donate time and resources to our group that non-LAPS teams will not.

We firmly believe all teams need these foundation skills to be safe and effective in their volunteer service. To that end, we invite teams to take our class even if they do not intend to pursue LAPS membership. If you do not intend to join LAPS, please indicate on the Class Registration that you are a "non-LAPS team."

**Call our office at 707-265-6642 or  
email us at [info@lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org](mailto:info@lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org) if you have any questions.**