

## Successful Working Dogs

include: Pet Partners ([www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org)), Therapy Dogs International ([www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org)) and Alliance of Therapy Dogs ([www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com)).

Therapy dogs are selected more for their natural traits and personality. Since no specific training is needed beyond basic manners, training by professionals is usually not warranted. Those looking for a dog suitable for therapy dog work might consider one from a dog-training program at a prison, as these dogs have already received basic manners training. Also, a professional trainer should evaluate the suitability of a potential therapy dog.

### Therapy Dog Training by Owners

It is important for the volunteer to learn to recognize stress in a therapy dog. This work can be trying for the dog, and it's important for both the owner and the dog to enjoy the experience. For more information on recognizing dog stress, Truid Rugus has a good book on dog behavior, or a volunteer could consult a professional trainer.

An important aspect of a good therapy dog is its willingness to be positioned by the owner, i.e., put beside or on the lap of someone needing the dog's good cheer and support. The best training for a therapy dog is working with the owner at one of the aforementioned facilities. The dog is bonded to the owner as a pet and usually quite willing to do what the owner requests during therapy dog visits. Moreover, dogs generally warm to this kind of work as they usually get lots of petting, which is their most prized form of attention.

### Training for Specific Activities

It is important that all therapy dogs walk on a loose leash

