



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR PET DOG TO MAKE A PATIENT HAPPY?

We need motivated and committed volunteers to carry out therapeutic visits to hospital patients with their friendly dogs.

This is a challenging and rewarding role which brings great enjoyment and comfort to patients.

We work with our partner organisations '*Therapy Dogs Nationwide*' and '*Pets as Therapy*' to ensure that our visiting dogs are of the right temperament to benefit patients.



Will I and my dog be suitable for the role?

You will need the following:

- To be motivated, reliable and committed
- To enjoy visiting frail and/or unwell patients
- To have owned your dog for at least 6 months
- To become a member of Therapy Dogs Nationwide or Pets as Therapy (annual fee of £12 or £19)

Your dog:

- Can be any breed or size
- Must be at least 9 months of age
- Must be friendly and enjoy being stroked and petted by strangers
- Must be healthy and fully vaccinated

Becoming a Therapy Dog Volunteering Team

Patience is needed as the recruitment process is robust and is likely to take several months. There are two parts of the process:

1. Membership of Therapy Dogs Nationwide or Pets as Therapy

You will need to register with either Therapy Dogs Nationwide or Pets as Therapy who will carry out reference checks for yourself and a temperament and behaviour check for your dog. This can take a few months to complete.

Please contact **either** Therapy Dogs Nationwide **or** Pets as Therapy using the contact details below:

Website: <http://therapydogsnationwide.org/>

Email: enquiries@tdn.org.uk

Website: <http://petsastherapy.org/>

Tel: 01494 569130

Email: reception@petsastherapy.org

2. Recruitment of yourself as a Volunteer with the Health Board

A number of forms will need to be completed, as well as a DBS and Occupational Health check and attendance of a volunteer training session.

3. Beginning the Placement

When you have received your Therapy Dogs Nationwide or Pets as Therapy membership number and your recruitment checks have been completed, a placement will be agreed with you. We have a wide range of placements available at our hospitals throughout Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Monmouthshire. To ensure that you and your dog are happy with the placement, you will be accompanied on your introductory visit and ongoing support and guidance will be available.

**For further information please contact Rhian Lewis,
Volunteering Development Manager: Rhian.lewis2@wales.nhs.uk**