

Title:	TheraPaws Volunteer
Responsible to:	TheraPaws Co-ordinator
Location:	Venues throughout London

Overview

Therapaws is one of Mayhews community outreach programmes where volunteers and their behaviourally assessed dogs visit places in our communities to improve the quality of life for those interacting with the animal. In turn our volunteers and dogs enjoy socialising and interacting with our service users throughout London. Our Therapaws programmes are currently operating in places such as hospitals, mental health centres, SEN schools, care homes and hospices and is inclusive to all communities.

Role of a Therapaws Dog

The role of a Therapaws dog is vital and plays a great role in our communities covering hospitals, mental health clinics and care homes as an example. Therefore, it is important that we ask for specific traits below of a Therapaws dog for the health and wellbeing of people in our society and the dog volunteering. Please see below the traits we ask for from a Therapaws dog.

- Generally well-behaved and well-mannered
- Sociable with other dogs and humans
- Enjoy interacting with a variety of service users (e.g.- Gender, Race and Age)
- Must not have a previous history of bites
- Must not have a previous history of reactivity
- Must not have a previous history of noise sensitivity
- Must not have a previous history of resource guarding
- Must be neutered or owner must be willing to neuter before commencing visits.
- Vaccinations and flea and worming treatments are up-to-date.

Role of a Therapaws Volunteer

As well as the Therapaws dog, it is equally important that we look for certain traits with our Therapaws volunteers to ensure that the work we are doing is beneficial to those most vulnerable in our communities. Please see below the list of traits we look for in Therapaws Volunteer.

- Has a good relationship with their dog, knowing the dog's limitations so they are not pushed over their threshold
- Good communication skills
- Reliable
- Compassionate
- Enjoys working in the community and helping people

Time Commitment Required

- One visit of 1-2 hours per week, potential to volunteer by-weekly etc. this can be discussed with co-ordinator.
- Long-term commitment required 6+ months.
- Ad-hoc corporate visits to support the work of the TheraPaws programme

Expenses

Please be aware that we are unable to pay volunteer expenses at this current time.

Environment and Physical Requirements

This role takes place within venues across London, such as Hospitals, SEN Schools and local council support service buildings. Volunteers will typically be matched with one venue to regularly to visit.

Dress Code

Volunteers should wear the volunteer t-shirt and your dog the TheraPaws bib that will be provided to carry out this role. There will be an option to purchase a sweater or a windbreaker. Jewellery should be kept to a minimum for health & safety reasons.

[Click here to apply](#)