

General Requirements for Humans

- Are 18 years or older
- Have lived with your pet for at least six months
- Enjoy meeting strangers and making conversation with them
- Must be available to log in at least 24 hours annually
- Have homeowner's or related insurance to cover an unexpected incident with your pet

General Requirements for Pets

- Must be at least one year old
- Obedient, socially friendly, and calm temperament
- Tolerant of being roughly touched with no retaliation
- Socialized with people of all ages
- Able to handle unusual events, sights, and sounds
- Current on all vaccinations with written proof from your veterinarian
- Able to walk calmly on a tight leash or be carried around calmly in a basket if a small pet
- Pass a shelter-performed behavioral evaluation and handler course



**HINSDALE
HUMANE
SOCIETY**

Therapaws

Pet Therapy Program



**For any questions or more information,
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Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center
operated by Hinsdale Humane Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
Hinsdale, IL 60521
(630) 323-5630

Our Therapaws Pet Therapy Teams enhance the well-being of hundreds of children, seniors, rehab, hospital and hospice patients. We provide over 1,200 hours of Pet Therapy annually in libraries, eldercare facilities, and a variety of healthcare and wellness settings. We value our community relationships and work hard together to make a difference, celebrating the human-animal bond.

Hinsdale Humane Society's Therapaws Pet Therapy Program gives back to the community at:

Local Libraries
Schools

Special Education Classrooms
AMITA and RML Specialty Hospitals
Eldercare Facilities
Outpatient Therapy
AMITA St. Thomas Hospice

Benefits of Pet Therapy

Animals are a medication without side effects. Pet Therapy can provide benefits in the areas of:

- **Mental Health** – Animals provide acceptance without conditions.
- **Physical Health** – Animals can facilitate an increase in an individual's fine motor skills, wheelchair skills, and balance.
- **Education** – Animals don't judge, creating a non-threatening learning environment.

Pet-a-Pet Program

Pet-a-Pet sends owner/pet teams to Chicago western suburban eldercare communities. Owners visit with residents, sharing chats and smiles while the pets share their unending supply of warmth and love. The goal is to reduce loneliness and boredom, while encouraging reminiscence and recall.



READ Program

READ helps children improve literacy and communication skills by reading to a pet in a setting without judgement. We partner with libraries and several special education classrooms, and work with preschoolers, middle schoolers, english learners and high schoolers to provide a variety of educational and stress-reducing opportunities.



CARe Program

CARe provides pet therapy, focused on mental and physical healthcare. In partnership with AMITA Health and RML Specialty Hospital, trained volunteers take part in animal assisted activities, work with therapists' cases at outpatient centers or at our building, interact with patients at acute care facilities and support individuals in hospice and families in bereavement groups through AMITA St. Thomas Hospice.



"One of our patients is with us working on contamination OCD – the adolescent is very worried about germs and feels the need to wash his hands up to 100 times a day. He was slow to warm up to being at the Hinsdale Humane Society with the animals, but after a bit was observed sitting on the ground petting the dogs. Not too long after that, he even allowed Neville (the therapy rat) to crawl around his shoulders! It's wonderful for us as clinicians to see animals helping us break the barriers that are holding our patients back from living their fullest lives." - **Rogers Behavioral Health**