

PET PARTNERS®, THERAPY DOGS INT. (TDI) & TD Inc.

HOW THEY DIFFER

Angel Paws www.AngelPawsTherapy.org is a registered Delta Society Pet Partners affiliate organization and as such we are often asked what the differences between Delta Society Pet Partners www.DeltaSociety.org, Therapy Dogs Int. (or TDI) http://www.tdi-dog.org/ and Therapy Dogs Inc. http://www.therapydogs.com are. Following is a quick look at the basic differences between the three therapy animal registries. This information is not intended to impugn the reputation of any particular organization or group but to provide accurate information of minimum requirements. Please call Angel Paws Director and licensed Delta Society Pet Partners Evaluator/Instructor Patti Shanaberg at 740.364.0824 or email Patti@AngelPawsTherapy.org if you have any further information regarding these issues or have questions or interest in learning more about the importance of &/or rational behind the variations in policy and standards of practice listed below. More information about each organization may also be found on their respective web sites included above. Variations listed below reflect minimum standards of practice required by each registry. Individual groups may vary.

Frequently Asked Questions & Association of Professionals in Infection Control Guidelines for Animal Assisted Interventions on Page #2 & 3.

THERAPY ANIMAL TESTING PROCEDURES (certain elements of new TDI Testing process as of 2013 may be unclear)

* DELTA SOCIETY PET PARTNERS®	THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL (TDI)	THERAPY DOGS
(Total of 22 Elements)	(Total of 13 Elements)	INC. (10 Elements)
* Trained Evaluators must have at least 2 years of documented visiting experience in least 2 different types of environments, Complete a multimedia on-line course with segment quizzes and final exam, Attend an 8 hour Practicum with a Licensed Evaluators Instructor & Pass a Test. Evaluators must document at least 20 evaluations every 2 years to renew license.	No training for Evaluators – Application only	No training for Evaluators – Application only – 6 months as a member
* Standardized Tests must Always be Conducted in Private Indoor Setting One Team at a Time According to Standardized Procedures	Tests May be conducted indoors or outdoors, parts in a groups & parts individually	?
* No Charge for Tests however some groups may charge a room fee	\$10. Per dog testing fee – may be higher for room &/or travel fees	?
* Both Animals & Handlers are given a detailed score & feedback for each exercise and an overall Handler assessment for interaction abilities, confidence, ease, sensitivity to dog and people, pro-active, reactive or inactive.	Only dogs are given a pass or fail score only	Some exercises include yes or no answers about handler.
* Teams are qualified to work in either Predictable or Complex Env.	No environmental distinctions	Same as TDI
* Several species of domestic pets may be tested & registered	Only Dogs are tested and registered.	Dogs only
* All Pet Partners teams are re-tested every 2 years to assure continued suitability	One test lasts a lifetime.	1 test lasts a lifetime.
* Handlers may test and visit with only one animal at a time	Handlers may test & visit with more than one animal	Sometimes more
* Delta Society has no restriction on multiple therapy animal registries or visitation	"TDI Associate Members and their dog(s) may not visit, be registered by, or be active under the auspices of another Therapy Dog-related visitation program, organization, or group other than TDI."	Individual members may join other groups, but TDInc. has no affiliates or chapters.
SKILLS EXERCISES (PPST)	numerous elements listed below were recently added '13	ajjiiiaces er eriapeerer
* 1 - Review Handler's Questionnaire (including animal stress signals!)	NONE	NONE
2 - Accepting a Friendly Stranger	1 & 7 – Entry Table & Visiting with a Patient	Comparable
3 - Accepting Petting	various	Comparable
4 - Appearance & Grooming	1 – Entry Table	Comparable
5 - Out for a Walk	8 - Testing of reactions to unusual situations	Comparable
6 - Walk Through a Crowd	8 - Testing of reactions to unusual situations	Comparable
7 - Reaction to Distractions	8 - Testing of reactions to unusual situations	NONE
8 - Sit or pass between strangers	8 – Sit while Testing of reactions to unusual situations	Comparable
9 - Down (or pass between strangers	8 – Down while Testing of reactions unusual situations	NONE
10 - Stay in Place (or place on lap or table)	4 – Group Sit/Stay	NONE
11 - Come When Called	6 - Recall	NONE
12 - Reaction to Neutral Dog	11 - Reaction to Another Dog	Comparable
APTITUDE EXERCISES (PPAT)		
* 13 / A - Overall Exam	NONE	Comparable
* 14 / B - Exuberant & Clumsy Petting	NONE (similar may have been added in 2013, unclear)	NONE
* 15 / C - Restraining Hug	NONE	NONE
16 / D - Staggering & Gesturing	9 - Testing of reactions to unusual situations	Comparable
* 17 / E - Angry Yelling	NONE (some "talking loud" in #9)	NONE
* 18 / F - Bumped from Behind	NONE (new test?)	NONE
* 19 / G - Crowded & Petted by Several People	Although 2 & 8 involve others, interaction is unclear	NONE
20 / H - Leave It	9 & 10 - Leave It, food offered & on floor	NONE
* 21/I - Offer Treat	NONE (no test of how an animal accepts a treat)	NONE
* 22 / J - Overall Handler Assessment	NONE	Pass/Fail
* Leaving a Therapy Animal with anyone unregistered is strictly prohibited	2 — Check in & out of sight supervised separation	NONE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESITONS	DELTA SOCIETY	THERAPY	THERAPY
	PET PARTNERS®	DOGS INT.	DOGS INC.
Are pets required to pass a test performed by a licensed evaluator?	YES (22 elements)	YES (13	YES (7 comb.
		elements)	elements)
Are registered therapy pets insured for liability?	YES	YES	YES
Are pets required to show proof of health screening by a vet?	YES	YES	YES
Are dog training classes or other pet training classes required either	NO	NO	NO
before or after testing?			
* * * HOW THEY DIFFER * * *	*	*	
Can pets other than dogs be registered as therapy animals?	YES	NO	NO
Are dogs allowed to be tested and visit in a Gentle Leader?	YES	NO	?
Do evaluators complete standardized training by a trained and licensed AAA/T evaluators instructor?	YES	NO	NO
Are evaluators required to complete any evaluators training in order to	YES	NO	NO
become licensed to conduct & score therapy animal tests?	123	740	110
Are tests required to be conducted in a controlled indoor setting?	YES	NO	2
Are handlers (as opposed to just the pets) given separate scores and	YES	NO	Some test
feedback of equal importance to pet scores for each exercise during the	723	740	questions about
test, with an emphasis on teamwork, to assure competent visiting			handlers are
skills?			answered with a Yes or No only
Are handlers required to complete any training specific to AAA/T	YES	NO	NO
(infection control, recipient populations, stress, etc.) without their pets.	, 123	,,,,	7.10
Are animals & handlers both required to be re-tested periodically to	YES	NO	NO
assure continued suitability for AAA/T?	. = 5		
Are volunteers permitted to visit with more than 1 registered therapy	NO	YES	YES (with
pet at a time?			permission)
Are groups of volunteers permitted to form independent non-profit			,
organizations for independent fund raising or any other purpose?	YES	NO	NO
Are volunteers permitted to join, register, affiliate or operate under any			
other names, groups, or organizations such as R.E.A.D.® (Reading	YES	NO	YES
Education Assistance Dogs ®)?			
Are affiliate organizations required to meet any organizational	YES	NO	No sanctioned local
standards of practice to be a registered affiliate?			groups or chapters
Are there resources provided to help such groups and organizations get	YES	NO	No sanctioned local
started and maintain quality standards of practice?			groups or chapters
Are there policies, procedures and standards of practice provided for			
facility program implementation, on-going evaluation, quality control &	YES	NO	NO
other risk/benefit considerations?			
Does the organization do any scientific research on the health or	YES	NO	NO
educational benefits of the human/animal bond?			
Does the organization publish and promote results of human/animal	YES	NO	NO
bond research in the media?			
Does the organization also work with Service Dogs?	YES	NO	NO

See Page #1 for Testing Process Differences
See Page #3 for **Association of Professionals in Infection Control**"Guidelines for animal-assisted interventions in health care facilities"

In March 2008 the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC) major articles – a publication of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) – published "Guidelines for animal-assisted interventions in health care facilities" because: "The popularity of animal-assisted interventions (AAI's) in human health care has grown to the point where many hospitals and long-term care facilities in North America currently permit animals to visit with patients and residents. But while the use of AAI's and the evidence supporting their many benefits for patients/residents has grown, the development of applicable infection control policies has lagged." What follows are some of the AJIC Published Guidelines that are met by Delta Society Standards of Practice but found lacking on other programs such as TDI. The comparison chart below reflects minimum standards only and individual programs may vary. It's important to also respect the implications of such variations beyond infection control such as patient comfort, effectiveness of interactions, perception of the program, and other risk/benefit considerations.

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APIC AJIC PUBLISHED AAI GUIDELINES	DELTA SOCIETY	THERAPY DOGS
	PET PARTNERS®	INT. & <i>TD INC (*)</i>
IV. Determining suitability of animals for AAI programs by	YES	Yes, to a lesser degree. See
temperament		below and attached.
1. Verify that the AAI program, whether run by the HCF or an external entity, requires	YES	Yes, to a lesser degree. See
a temperament evaluation for all participating animals.		below and attached.
2. Require that every animal pass a temperament evaluation specifically designed to	YES, all elements (a. through	NO, not all elements listed
evaluate the behavior of AAI animals under conditions that they might encounter when	h.) and more are tested for by	are tested for. See below
in HCF's. Such an evaluation process should assess, among other factors:	trained evaluators.	and attached.
c. Reactions to angry voices and potentially threatening gestures.	YES	(similar in new TDI test?)
d. Reactions to being crowded	YES	(similar in new TDI test?)
e. Reactions to being patted in a vigorous or clumsy manner.	YES	NO
f. Reactions to a restraining hug	YES	NO
3. Require all evaluators to successfully complete a course or certification process in	YES, evaluators are required to	NO. Evaluators neither
evaluating temperament and to have experience in assessing animal behavior and level	complete & are provided with	receive or are required to
of training.	comprehensive training.	complete any training.
b. If several animals need to be evaluated for behaviors other than reactions to	YES	NO - TDI animals are
other animals, require that the temperament evaluator assess each animal separately,		assessed in a group.
rather than assessing several animals simultaneously.		(*TD INC. ?)
4. Require that animal-handler teams be observed by an AAI program representative	Although Delta Society does	NO, no such requirement
at least once in a health care setting before being granted final approval to visit.	not require this Angel Paws	(*TD INC. does have this
	does require and provide on-	requirement)
	site mentoring and evaluation	115
5. Recommend that each animal be evaluated at least every 3 years.	YES, teams are evaluated	NO, one test lasts a lifetime.
	every 2 yrs.	
VII. Training and management of animal handlers		
2. Handlers of AAI animals only		
a. Require that every handler participate in a formal training program and an	YES, comprehensive training	NO, no handler training
evaluation of that training which includes modules on:	provided and required	provided or required.
(1) Zoonoses	YES	NO
(2) Infection control practices	YES	NO
(3) Identifying appropriate contacts in the event of an accident or injury	YES	NO
(4) Visual inspection for ectoparasites	YES	NO
(5) Reading an animal's body language to identify signs of physical discomfort,	YES	NO
stress, fear, or aggression (Angel Paws NOTE: this is very important and very few dog		
owners are able to do this adequately or objectively without training)	\(\frac{1}{2}\)	
c. Require that each handler use particular care in directing the visit to prevent	YES, comprehensive training	NO, no handler training
(various risks listed)	provided and required	provided or required.
d. Restrict visiting session to a maximum of 1 hour to reduce the risk of adverse	YES, comprehensive training	(*TD INC. ?) NO, no handler training
events associated with animal fatigue. (1) through (3) (various animal considerations	provided and required (though	provided or required.
listed)	handlers may visit up to 2 hrs.	provided of required.
instear)	max)	
3. Require that all animal handlers:		
a. Self screen for symptoms of communicable disease and refrain from visiting	YES, comprehensive training	NO, written guidelines may
while ill. Such symptoms include, but are not limited to: 1-6 (various symptoms listed)	provided and required	or may not be provided but
(,	no formal training.
b. Limit visits to 1 animal per handler.	YES	NO, more than 1 animal per
'		handler is allowed
c. through k. (various visiting techniques, policies and standards of practice listed)	YES, comprehensive training	NO, written guidelines may
	provided and required on all	or may not be provided but
	elements	no formal training.
VIII. Preparing animals for visits. 1. a. through j. and	YES, comprehensive training	NO, written guidelines may
IX. Managing appropriate contact between animals and people	provided and required on all	or may not be provided but
during visits. 2. AAI Animals a. through f. (various policies)	elements	no formal training. (*TD Inc.
dorning visits. 2. AAT Anniniais a. tinioogii i. (vanious policies)		mentors on site)
X. Contact tracing	YES, comprehensive policies	NO, no required policies.
	provided and required.	(*TD Inc.?)
XI. Determining appropriate visit locations	YES, comprehensive policies are	NO, no known policies
	provided & all Pet Partners are required to assure the facility provides some	required or provided.
	specific policies for AAI	

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