

East Central Therapy Dogs Orientation

Welcome to our new volunteers. We hope you will enjoy visiting with your dog.

East Central Therapy Dogs have been serving the Peterborough area since 2002. We are a totally self-supporting non-profit organization. The profits from our fall calendar sales pay for our insurance (our biggest expense) and our uniforms, leashes, bandanas and tags. We are proud of our record of dedicated service to our community. Our volunteers give thousands of hours of their time each year bringing smiles to the faces of our clients in hospital and long term care facilities.

All the information that you will need about the organization and therapy dog visiting is in your binder and also available on our website. Please visit www.ectd.ca and sign in. Click on 'Member login' at the top right. You can sign in with your email, Google or Facebook. Once you've signed in, you can click the down arrow beside the member login to see the various member pages including:

Hours Reporting (report your hours at the end of each month)

Member FAQs

Documents and Downloads:

- Liability release and photo permission

- Orientation information

- Directors and Officers

- Therapy dog visiting rules

- Therapy dog manual

- ECTD bylaws (online only)

My Account (update your account info & photo)

Log Out

The new website provides the public with information about our organization and our therapy dogs as well as contact information should they wish to make an inquiry. It also allows potential members to register for the next evaluation, new locations to request a scheduled visit and local institutions to request a special visit, all online. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your coordinator Anne Corke at 705-749-9698.

Insurance

Our organization carries third party liability insurance which covers the clients we visit in case they are injured. Should an incident occur in which a client were hurt, our policy would cover any costs and you would be protected from any personal law suit. Our insurance does not cover you and your dog. You are responsible for your own dog. Your personal home insurance should cover any injury which may occur to you or your dog while you are visiting. Your personal home insurance policy should cover your dog while he is on your property and also when he is off your property working as a therapy dog. You may wish to call your insurance agent to confirm. Each member is required to sign a Liability Release Form which releases East Central Therapy Dogs from any responsibility should there be an incident with you and your dog while you are visiting.

Liability Release Form

Please read and sign the provided liability release form. As the form explains, dogs are never totally predictable and therefore each volunteer must sign a release form to protect the organization in the event of an incident. We do our best during the evaluation to determine a dog's suitability for therapy work but sometimes unusual situations can occur. Your signature on this form also gives us permission to use photographs of you and your dog in our publications or on our website. Please return the signed form to the orientation coordinator before you leave.

Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting is held at the end of May. At the meeting, we discuss business and present certificates and service awards. Afterwards there's time for refreshments and mingling. Please make every effort to attend. This is our only formal meeting of the year.

Fund Raising

East Central Therapy Dogs is a self-supporting registered non-profit organization. To support our visiting program and to pay expenses such as vests, leashes and insurance, we sell calendars each fall at the Farmers' Market and in the mall. Members (and their dogs) are expected to commit some time to help sell our calendars. The calendar sales also help to raise awareness of our program within our community.

Information Sessions

From time to time we organize information sessions where we can share our experiences and hear speakers on topics relevant to our program. These sessions have been extremely well-received and have proven to be valuable both for the information which is exchanged and for the camaraderie which they encourage. We'll let you know via email when the next one is scheduled. If you have any ideas for possible topics or speakers, please share them with us.

Hours Reporting

At the end of each month, you are required to report your visiting hours on our website www.ectd.ca. This information allows us to quantify our contribution to our communities while ensuring our commitments to our clients are met. Hours are calculated as the time of your visit plus 1 ½ hours for grooming and traveling time. For example, if you visited for 1 hour, you would credit yourself with 2 ½ hours. You should also include time spent at other ECTD activities such as meetings, calendar sales and special visits. Please report your hours as soon as you have completed your hours for the month.

Christmas Party

Each year around the end of November we have a Christmas potluck dinner (for people only!) with lots of good food, prizes and games. Members volunteer to organize the party so why not get involved next time and show us your party planning skills.

Contact Information