

DELTA SOCIETY PET PARTNERS® & THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL (TDI)

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 difference between Delta Society Pet Partners www.DeltaSociety.org and Therapy Dogs International or TDI <http://www.tdi-dog.org/> is. Following is a quick look at the basic differences between the two therapy animal registries & testing procedures. This information is not intended to impugn the reputation of any particular organization or group but to provide accurate information. 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 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

* DELTA SOCIETY PET PARTNERS® (Total of 22 Elements)	THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL (TDI) (Total of 17 Elements)
* Trained Evaluators must have at least 2 years of documented visiting experience in least 2 different types of facilities, Complete a Home Study, Attend Practicum & Pass a Test. Evaluators must document at least 20 evaluations every 2 years to renew license.	Untrained Evaluators – Application Process only
* 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 either individually or in groups
* 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 for each exercise.
* Teams are qualified to work in either Predictable or Complex Environments	No environmental distinctions
* All domestic pets may be tested & registered	Only Dogs are tested and registered.
* All Pet Partners are re-tested every 2 years.	One 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 at a time
* 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." – from TDI web site
SKILLS EXERCISES (PPST)	
* 1 - Review Handler's Questionnaire (including animal stress!)	-----
2 - Accepting a Friendly Stranger	1- Accepting a Friendly Stranger
3 - Accepting Petting	2 - Sitting Politely for Petting
4 - Appearance & Grooming	3 - Appearance & Grooming
5 - Out for a Walk	4 - Out for a Walk
6 - Walk Through a Crowd	5 - Walking Through a Crowd
7 - Reaction to Distractions	9 - Reaction to Distractions
8 - Sit or pass between strangers	6 - Sit
9 - Down (or pass between strangers)	6 - Down
10 - Stay in Place (or place on lap or table)	6 - Stay
11 - Come When Called	7 - Come When Called
12 - Reaction to Neutral Dog	8 - Reaction to Another Dog
APTITUDE EXERCISES (PPAT)	
* 13 / A - Overall Exam	-----
* 14 / B - Exuberant & Clumsy Petting	-----
* 15 / C - Restraining Hug	-----
16 / D - Staggering & Gesturing	12 - Acclimation to Infirmities
* 17 / E - Angry Yelling	-----
* 18 / F - Bumped from Behind	-----
* 19 / G - Crowded & Petted by Several People	-----
20 / H - Leave It	11 - Leave It
* 21 / I - Offer Treat	-----
* 22 / J - Overall Handler Assessment	-----
* Medical Equipment is used in Exercise D & G	10 - Reaction to Medical Equipment
* Leaving a Therapy Animal with anyone is strictly prohibited	13 - Supervised Separation
* This is covered in other exercises	14 - Say Hello
* Delta considers it unethical to use children while testing unfamiliar animals	15 - Reaction to Children

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	DELTA SOCIETY PET PARTNERS®	THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL
Are pets required to pass a test performed by a licensed evaluator?	YES (22 elements)	YES (17 elements)
Are registered therapy pets insured for liability?	YES	YES
Are pets required to show proof of health screening by a vet?	YES	YES
Are dog training classes or other pet training classes required either before or after testing?	NO	NO
* HOW THEY DIFFER *	*	*
<i>Can pets other than dogs be registered as therapy animals?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are dogs allowed to be tested and visit in a Gentle Leader?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Do evaluators complete standardized training by a trained and licensed AAA/T evaluators instructor?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are evaluators required to complete any training in order to become licensed to conduct & score therapy animal tests?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are tests required to be conducted in a controlled indoor setting?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are handlers (as opposed to just the pets) given separate scores and feedback of equal importance to pet scores for each exercise during the test, with an emphasis on teamwork, to assure competent visiting skills?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are handlers required to complete any training specific to AAA/T (infection control, recipient populations, stress, etc.) without their pets.</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are animals & handlers both required to be re-tested periodically to assure continued suitability for AAA/T?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are volunteers permitted to visit with more than 1 registered therapy pet at a time?</i>	NO	YES
<i>Are groups of volunteers permitted to form independent non-profit organizations for independent fund raising or any other purpose?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are volunteers permitted to join, register, affiliate or operate under any other names, groups, or organizations such as R.E.A.D.® (Reading Education Assistance Dogs®)?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are affiliate organizations required to meet any organizational standards of practice to be a registered affiliate?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are there resources provided to help such groups and organizations get started and maintain quality standards of practice?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Are there policies, procedures and standards of practice provided for facility program implementation, on-going evaluation & quality control?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Does the organization do any scientific research on the health or educational benefits of the human/animal bond?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Does the organization publish and promote results of human/animal bond research in the media?</i>	YES	NO
<i>Does the organization also work with Service Dogs?</i>	YES	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.

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.

APIC AJIC PUBLISHED AAI GUIDELINES	DELTA SOCIETY PET PARTNERS®	THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL
<u>IV. Determining suitability of animals for AAI programs by temperament</u>	YES	Yes, to a lesser degree. See below and attached.
1. Verify that the AAI program, whether run by the HCF or an external entity, requires a temperament evaluation for all participating animals.	YES	Yes, to a lesser degree. See below and attached.
2. Require that every animal pass a temperament evaluation specifically designed to evaluate the behavior of AAI animals under conditions that they might encounter when in HCF’s. Such an evaluation process should assess, among other factors:	YES, all elements (a. through h.) and more are tested for by trained evaluators.	NO, not all elements listed are tested for. See below and attached.
c. Reactions to angry voices and potentially threatening gestures.	YES	NO
d. Reactions to being crowded	YES	NO
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 evaluating temperament and to have experience in assessing animal behavior and level of training.	YES, evaluators are required to complete & are provided with comprehensive training.	NO. Evaluators neither receive or are required to complete any training.
b. If several animals need to be evaluated for behaviors other than reactions to other animals, require that the temperament evaluator assess each animal separately, rather than assessing several animals simultaneously.	YES	NO, animals are not always assessed separately.
4. Require that animal-handler teams be observed by an AAI program representative at least once in a health care setting before being granted final approval to visit.	Although Delta Society does not require this Angel Paws does require and provide on-site mentoring and evaluation	NO, no such requirement
5. Recommend that each animal be evaluated at least every 3 years.	YES, teams are evaluated every 2 yrs.	NO, one test lasts a lifetime.
<u>VII. Training and management of animal handlers</u>		
2. Handlers of AAI animals only		
a. Require that every handler participate in a formal training program and an evaluation of that training which includes modules on:	YES, comprehensive training provided and required	NO, no handler training 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, 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)	YES	NO
c. Require that each handler use particular care in directing the visit to prevent ... (various risks listed)	YES, comprehensive training provided and required	NO, no handler training provided or required.
d. Restrict visiting session to a maximum of 1 hour to reduce the risk of adverse events associated with animal fatigue. (1) through (3) (various animal considerations listed)	YES, comprehensive training provided and required (though handlers may visit up to 2 hrs. max)	NO, no handler training provided or required.
3. Require that all animal handlers:		
a. Self screen for symptoms of communicable disease and refrain from visiting while ill. Such symptoms include, but are not limited to: 1-6 (various symptoms listed)	YES, comprehensive training provided and required	NO written guidelines may or may not be provided but no 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 provided and required on all elements	NO, written guidelines may or may not be provided but no training.
<u>VIII. Preparing animals for visits. 1. a. through j. and IX. Managing appropriate contact between animals and people during visits. 2. AAI Animals a. through f. (various policies)</u>	YES, comprehensive training provided and required on all elements	NO, written guidelines may or may not be provided but no training.
<u>X. Contact tracing</u>	YES, comprehensive policies provided and required.	NO, no required policies.
<u>XI. Determining appropriate visit locations</u>	YES, comprehensive policies are provided & all Pet Partners are required to assure the facility provides some specific policies for AAI.	NO, no known policies required or provided.

