

Training Your Dog

To prepare you and your dog, as a team, for Lend A Heart Pet Assisted Therapy, formal obedience training is highly recommended. Lend A Heart evaluates the handler and animal as a team. Basic and advanced obedience classes allow the handler and dog to begin learning the necessary skills for pet therapy work. Solid obedience is the foundation on which more complex skills are built.

Obtaining American Kennel Club's [AKC] Canine Good Citizen [CGC] Award is recommended (but not required) as a good assessment of your skills as a handler and your pet's temperament and level of obedience. Many of the CGC evaluation exercises are similar to a portion of Lend A Heart's evaluation exercises. The CGC test will give you a good head start of what to expect at a Lend A Heart Evaluation.

Some obedience trainers offer classes in Pet Assisted Therapy, also known as Animal Assisted Therapy, to help prepare teams interested in more specific training.

Taking obedience classes are fun and well worth your time and effort.

(Note: Lend A Heart does not offer obedience training classes)