

Windwalker Humane Coalition for Professional Pet Assisted Therapy

Windwalker Credential Guidelines

Credentialed Professional Pet Assisted Therapy Teams are key to Windwalker achieving its mission: “to build the profession of pet assisted therapy that is widely integrated into health care, rehabilitation, social services, and education at all levels (from pre-school to university and beyond) and to advocate for the well being of animals and humans”.

Requirements for Windwalker Credentialed Teams (A Team is a Professional Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitator (PPATF) with his/her own family pet)

Windwalker Membership:

PPATF’s who are applying for, or renewing, their credentialing as a professional pet assisted therapy team (PPAT) must maintain an active membership in Windwalker and dues must be up to date by March 31 of each calendar year that the team is credentialed.

Adherence to Code of Ethics:

Guardians/Facilitators must have read and abide by Windwalker’s *Code of Ethics*.

Education /Training in Professional Pet Assisted Therapy:

Teams must provide documentation that they have completed a course of study in Pet Assisted Therapy at a college or university level. (ex. DJ Pet Assisted Therapy University Certificate Program, or another program similar in ethics and philosophy).

Requirements for Family Therapy Pets:

Windwalker believes that the therapy pet’s interest in doing pet assisted therapy is the most important requirement. Each family pet member of a team must also provide a current signed statement of good health by the pet’s Veterinarian, a current Rabies Certificate and vaccine history, and a town license. The pet must have satisfactorily completed a temperament evaluation and training as provided in Course 2 and Course 3 of the DJ Pet Assisted Therapy University Certificate program [or a similar educational program [philosophy and ethics]. Teams renewing a Windwalker credential must provide one reference letter from someone who has observed the therapy pet at work, or a current temperament evaluation. A new pet of an established team must receive a satisfactory temperament assessment obtained through the DJ Program.

Liability Insurance Requirements:

Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitators (PPATF’s) must maintain adequate liability insurance coverage for themselves while working with their therapy pets and proof of such insurance must be available for identification whenever engaging in paid or non-paid pet assisted therapy services. Teams who are providing non-paid or volunteer pet assisted therapy services may be covered for liability through their current homeowners’ or renters’ insurance policy and must provide documentation from the insurance company that confirms they are covered by the terms of the insurance on and off the property. Teams who receive payment must provide confirmation of adequate insurance at application and renewal (and when requested).