

# About the Doggie Brigade™

The Doggie Brigade's™ Mission is to promote positive human and animal interaction and improve the physical, emotional and psychological health of the patients we serve, their families, and hospital staff.



Akron Children's Hospital

# VOLUNTEER AND DOG REQUIREMENTS

**Doggie Brigade™**



Akron Children's Hospital

# Commitment to the Program



- Current certification with the therapy dog certification we recognize
- Attend and successfully complete Volunteer onboarding process
- **Commit to a minimum of 26 visits per year** on a regular schedule
- Attend 2 special/community events per year
- Submit a **yearly** vet check
- Re-evaluate your dog every 2 years



# Team Requirements

In order to attend the ACH Evaluation, you must be registered with one of the following Therapy Dog Organizations:

- Pet Partners (Complex Level)
- Therapy Dogs International
- Bright & Beautiful



# Handler Requirements

- At least 18 years old and graduated from high school
- Adaptive to a busy, changing environment
- Proactive, redirect your dog's behavior when needed
- Advocate for your dog's needs, know his/her stress signs and be ready to alter or end an interaction
- Able to handle your dog independently with minimal supervision



# Handler Requirements

- Commit to a weekly/biweekly volunteer shift with your dog
- Follow the Akron Children's Hospital policies & procedures
- Able to work with patients with various types of behavioral or physical ailments, injuries or disabilities
- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of patients, staff and visitors – do not share any Protected Health Information outside the hospital or on social media
- Obtain a flu shot annually
- COVID vaccination
- Complete online hospital safety training annually



# Dog Requirements

- Is at least 1 year old
- Lived with handler for at least 6 months
- House trained
- Enjoys and seeks out interactions with people of all ages and capabilities, friendly
- Remains calm while approaching or being approached by people, does not exhibit uncontrolled exuberance (i.e., jumping on people)
- Responds to handler cues quickly with confidence
- Does not avoid interactions or demonstrate aggressive behavior towards animals and people



Thank You for Your Interest!

Questions?

Call Volunteer Services

330-543-8424



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