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.
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