



Pet Partners® “The knowledge that your pet and your effort brought someone a little joy when they needed it most is worth it all.”

Delta Society Pet Partners (*people-animal volunteer teams*) are the lifeblood of the organization. In the United States alone, there are more than 8,000 Pet Partner teams working in their communities to improve human health by promoting mutually beneficial relationships between people and therapy animals. The number of Pet Partners is constantly growing and the organization receives over 400 requests *each month* from people wishing to become Pet Partners. Of note: one Pet Partner team who makes an average of three hospital visits each month is likely to touch the lives of more than 540 people in a single year!

Delta Society trains volunteers through the Pet Partners Team Training course on how to visit safely and effectively with their pet. Volunteers and their pets are screened by Delta Society Team Evaluators for appropriate skills and aptitude which determines the best setting for a team to visit. Pet Partner teams provide visits to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other places their assistance and companionship is requested.

Pet Partner teams participate in Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA) and Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) visits.

AAA	AAT
Casual “meet and greet” activities that involve pets visiting people	Significant part of treatment for many people who are physically, socially, emotionally, or cognitively challenged.
No specific treatment goals planned	Stated goals for each session
Same activity can be used with many people	Individual treatment for each patient
Detailed notes unnecessary	Notes on patient progress taken at each session
Visit content is spontaneous	Visit scheduled, usually at set intervals
Visit can be as long or short as desired	Length of visit is pre-determined to best fit needs of patient
Example: Pet Partner team visits during community time at a local nursing home.	Example: Pet partner team works with a physical therapist to assist patient in regaining movement in shoulder after an accident.