



Visitation Sites by Program

Site count 6/7/23: 169 Sites

Note: Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, our Programs may not be currently active at various partnering Visitation Sites. Please contact the PAWS Office for further information.

Program Catalog

PAWS for Adults & Elders

Adults with Special Needs
Alzheimer's/Dementia
Assisted Living
Correctional Facility Visitation Support
DeStress Events
Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Hospice
Hospitals
Oncology Support
PAWS in the Workplace
PAWS to Comfort
Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy
Psychiatric Services (All Ages)
Skilled Care

PAWS for Children

Autism Initiative
Children with Behavioral Issues
Children with Special Needs
Courthouse Companions
Early Learning Center Mobility Project
PAWS for Reading
Pre-K PAWS

PAWS by Special Request

PAWS for Adults & Elders

Adults with Special Needs

Adults with cognitive, physical and developmental disabilities often respond extremely well with pets of all types. Many sites use the therapy companions as an incentive to work on individual goals. Sites include day, long-term, and residential facilities.

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX*

Sites:

Forward Journey – Newark (formerly CERTS)

Forward Journey – Smyrna (formerly CERTS)

Chesapeake Care Resources – North East

Chesapeake Care Resources - Lokey Center

Daylesford Crossing

Easter Seals - New Castle

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Alzheimer's disease is a disease of the brain causing memory loss. Most ALZ residents are in reasonably decent physical shape but their minds are failing. They must be confined (locked down) so they don't stray away, and are usually kept together in common areas for socialization and stimulation. Pet visits often reach ALZ patients that people cannot. The magic of the pet-human connection is most evident in this type of visit.

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX; PAWS Thinking Outside of the Box training highly recommended*

Sites:

Brandywine Senior Living

Jenner's Pond

Somerford Place (Alzheimer's Program)

The Lorelton Assisted Living

The Summit

Assisted Living

Assisted living means that people are in pretty good shape both physically and mentally but need some assistance when it comes to things like laundry, cleaning, and making meals. AL folks are relatively hearty and can take a more energetic dog. They also often have lunch dates or are out of the building, so their lives are relatively full. They tend to go into their rooms after meals and watch TV or read. If doors are shut, you can feel confident about knocking & asking if they'd like a visit.

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX*

Sites:

Arbor Terrace Exton
Arbor Terrace Williston
Barclay Friends
Brookdale Dover
Country House
Elkton Nursing and Rehabilitation
Friends Home In Kennett
Gilpin Hall
Granite Farms Estates
Ivy Gables Senior Living
Jenner's Pond
Lima Estates
Little Sisters of the Poor
Manor House
Meadowcraft at Middletown
Milford Place Senior Living
Millcroft
PeachTree Health Group
Somerford House (Assisted Living Program)
Sunrise Of Wilmington
The Hickman

Correctional Facility Visitation Support

The Correctional Facility Visitation Support program was developed to help offenders deal with trauma, mental health issues and imprisonment. It also aims to provide an opportunity for those in correctional institutions to bond with the dogs and experience the benefits of pet therapy.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX; at least 1 year of pet therapy OR personal experience with the prison population; Master Level Certification; PAWS Trauma and Correctional Facility Visitation Support classes required*

Sites:

Vaughn Correctional Center

DeStress

PAWS' DeStress program is designed to decrease anxiety, brighten a day, and provide a welcome distraction from daily life. PAWS teams visit college campuses, corporate workplaces, military events and other sites as requested (sometimes after a traumatic event).

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX; DeStress and Trauma classes suggested but not required*

Regularly Scheduled Sites:

Bohemia Manor High School
ChristianaCare Health Systems
Discover
Kingswood Community Center
Mary E. Volz Middle School
Neumann University
Triton Regional High School
University of Delaware

Drug & Alcohol Treatment Programs

Residential treatment centers provide several types of visits for our therapy teams. Sometimes there is unstructured time when the patients can just hang out with our pets and get the love and attention they may be missing. We also are invited to attend group discussion sessions where the presence of a therapy pet can reduce anxiety, provide comfort, and become a reminder that there is hope and a future.

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX*

Sites:

Banyan Treatment Centers

Bowling Green Brandywine

Hospice

Working in partnership with both various hospices throughout our visiting area, PAWS provides the pet therapy training and coordination to interested hospice volunteers. In some instances, PAWS pet therapy teams can also volunteer with hospice and complete the Hospice's own orientation and training. Visits are conducted at a variety of locations.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX, Hospice-specific training required*

Sites:

accentCare (formerly Seasons Hospice Inpatient Units)

Amedisys Hospice

Bayada Hospice

Compassionate Care Hospice – New Castle County

Compassionate Care Hospice – Kent and Sussex Counties

Delaware Hospice

Heartland Hospice Services, LLC dba ProMedical Hospice Care [Chadds Ford]

Heartland Hospice Services, LLC dba ProMedical Hospice Care [Newark]

Willow Tree Hospice

Hospitals

PAWS has a presence at many of the hospitals in our service area. We visit with patients, staff and visitors in every unit providing the calm and loving presence of a therapy companion. Visits with all patients must be cleared with the nursing staff.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX and hospital-specific volunteer requirements; PAWS PATHS training highly recommended*

Sites:

Beebe Medical Center (including Bookhammer Outpatient Surgery Center Beebe)

ChristianaCare - Newark

ChristianaCare – Wilmington

ChristianaCare, Union Hospital

Cooper University Hospital

Penn Medicine – Pennsylvania Hospital

St. Francis Healthcare

Oncology Support

People who are undergoing cancer treatment have needs that differ from other types of patients. PAWS for People's pet therapy teams who have been trained to visit in cancer treatment centers (including chemotherapy and radiation labs) know how best to support those needs in a respectful, caring manner. And everyone knows that dogs will bring smiles to everyone – even the most dejected or isolated or fatigued patient.

Requirements: *Advanced level STEX; Hospital-specific training (if appropriate); PAWS PATHS Training highly recommended*

Sites:

ChristianaCare - Helen F. Graham Cancer Center
Tunnel Cancer Center - Beebe

PAWS to Comfort

PAWS to Comfort program provides bereavement support to those suffering from the loss of a loved one by sharing our loving, gentle pets. This program allows specifically-trained PAWS pet therapy teams to support those who have experienced loss through empathy, kindness and listening. PAWS to Comfort encourages grieving visitors to interact with our pets, while offering a temporary retreat and distraction in a calm, accepting atmosphere.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX; at least 6 months of pet therapy experience; PAWS to Comfort class required*

Sites:

McCrery & Harra Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc.

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home

Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy

PAWS teams work directly with therapists at a number of different sites to assist in their clients' progress. Besides the love and comfort that our pets give freely, they also provide the motivation for trying some new movements, working longer, and enjoying the activities. This in turn allows the clients to relax while exercising, which helps their muscles work with less strain and tension.

Requirements: *Basic Level STX*

Sites:

ChristianaCare - Springside

Psychiatric Services (All Ages)

PAWS' psychiatric services offer care and compassion for those that are either in a long-term or short-term care setting for mental illnesses. The severity of the illness may vary, but our therapy dogs do not mind – they provide comfort on a level that is very healing for these patients. Staff and families frequently benefit as well.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX, PS PAWS training highly recommended*

Sites:

Diamond State Counseling
Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers
Dover Behavioral Health
Sean's House

Skilled Care

Patients residing in skilled care facilities are in need of serious medical care on a regular basis. Much like a hospital setting, a skilled care facility presents a pet therapy team with challenges such as visiting people in their beds, ventilator noise, lots of wheelchairs, and nursing staff on call 24 hours a day. Therapy teams are needed in such places to help people stave off boredom, brighten their days, and give them some comfort and maybe a little escape from the daily issues of their illness.

Requirements: *Basic Level STEX*

Sites:

Cadia Rehabilitation - Broadmeadow
Cadia Rehabilitation - Renaissance
Cokesbury Village Healthcare
Elkton Senior Center
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Middletown
Harbor Healthcare & Rehabilitation
Harrison House Of Georgetown
Jenner's Pond
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

PAWS for Children

Autism Initiative

Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects children very differently so each child needs to be approached differently. Many children who have autism do not form relationships, are very aware of space around them, may internalize things and repeat words or phrases and not initiate questions or interactions.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX and PAWS Autism Initiative training*

Sites:

Brennen-Delaware Autism Program

Children with Behavioral Issues

Children in these visiting settings are typically adolescents (ages 12-18) who may have conduct disorders, anger, impulsivity, and/or ADHD. Many of these children have been sentenced by the court and are awaiting a hearing, or have been pulled out of their home and are awaiting a decision by the court system. PAWS therapy teams are used for self-soothing and stress management, as well as integration into other activities.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX, PS PAWS Training highly recommended; site-specific training (Cottages and Detention Center)*

Sites:

Cherry Hill Middle School

First State Montessori Academy

Holly Hall Elementary School – Part of CCDSS

Children with Special Needs

Special needs may range from learning differences that make it impossible for a child to succeed in a public school environment to physical disabilities that keep a child from functionally successfully in a public school setting. The children we visit in this category range in age from 6 months to 21 years.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX*

Sites:

AI DuPont High School – Autism Classroom
CADES
Early Learning Center, University of Delaware
Georgetown Elementary School
General Wayne Elementary School
Mount Pleasant Elementary School
New Castle County Detention Center
North Smyrna Elementary School
Ridgewood Early Learning Center
Ronald McDonald House of Delaware
Seaford House
Shue-Medill Middle School
Smyrna Elementary School
Sunnyside Elementary School
Terry Children's Psychiatric Center
The Bridge (Cecil County Domestic Shelter)
Y.A.L.E. School Philadelphia

Courthouse Companions

Partnering with the Cecil County and Harford County Child Advocacy Centers, this program focuses on working with children before, during and after critical case testimony. In the Delaware County Court program, teams visit the court waiting areas providing a welcome relief to the stresses of being inside a courthouse.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX, Courthouse Companions Training (area specific)*

Sites:

Cecil County Department of Social Services
Harford County Child Advocacy Center

Early Learning Center Mobility Project

PAWS teams have been working with the preschoolers at the Early Learning Center in Newark, Delaware since the fall of 2008. In the spring of 2009, we added work with Cole Galloway's Mobility Project, which utilizes our therapy companions' skills in working with children who are not independently mobile. Working one-on-one with physical therapists and patients, our teams provide motivation for extended movement, distraction from difficult exercises, and fun for the children who are working so hard to learn to walk or use their motorized devices.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX and a PAWS recommendation*

Sites:

Early Learning Center, University of Delaware

PAWS for Reading

PAWS for Reading is a program that allows children to read aloud to a therapy dog (or cat) in order to improve reading and communication skills. Children read individually to trained therapy pets (and their handlers) in schools, libraries, or other settings where they can feel comfortable and confident -- and have fun! After all, a dog will not correct them or make them feel awkward if they stumble.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX; PAWS for Reading Training*

Sites:

Albert Einstein Academy
Appoquinimink Library
Atglen Public Library
Avon Grove Charter School
Avon Grove Library
Avon Grove School District
Bay View Elementary
Bear Library
Bethany Christian School
Birches Elementary School
Brader Elementary School
Brandywine Hundred Library
Brick Mill Elementary School
Carrcroft Elementary School
Cecil Manor Elementary School
Claymont Library
Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library
David E. Robinson Elementary School
Delaware City Library
Dover Public Library
Downingtown Library
Forest Oak Elementary School
Elkton Library
Georgetown Elementary School
Georgetown Library
Frankford Public Library
Frederick Douglass Elementary School
Havre De Grace Library
Helen Kate Furness Free Library
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
John M. Clayton Elementary School
Kennett Library
Kent County Public Library
Kirkwood Library
Kuumba Academy Charter School
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy
Linden Hill Elementary School

Lynnewood School
Maclary Elementary School
Media-Upper Providence Free Library
Milton Library
New Castle Library
NCCL School
Newark Library
North East Branch Library
North Star Elementary School
North Wilmington Library
Parkesburg Free Library
Phillip C. Showell Elementary School
Primos Library Branch Of Upper Darby
Rachel Kohl Community Library
Radnor Middle School
Route 9 Library & Innovation Center
Seaford District Library
Selbyville Library
Shortlidge Academy
South Coastal Library
Springfield Township Library
St. Agnes School
Swarthmore Public Library

Pre-K PAWS (a subsidiary of PAWS for Reading)

An educational program designed specifically for our earliest learners focusing on pre-reading and pre-math skills.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX; PAWS for Reading, Pre-K PAWS Training*

School Sites:

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

Great New Beginnings Early Childhood Learning Center – Bear

Great New Beginnings Early Childhood Learning Center - Middletown

St. Mark's Pre-Kindergarten

UD Laboratory Preschool

PAWS by Special Request

Requirements: *Varies*

PAWS by Special Request is a service PAWS offers to people who wish to request personalized one-on-one visits for a loved one. People are invited to contact PAWS for this service when they think a visit with a loving PAWS pet and caring PAWS human would be good for someone they care about. Some of the visits we have done within this program have included individual work with children who have autism, spending time with a father on hospice care, sitting with patients receiving chemotherapy, and visiting with a woman with worsening Alzheimer's helping her recall her youth and good times with her dog.

Pet Emergency Response Therapy Teams

A brand new program designed in conjunction with DEMA (Delaware Emergency Management Agency), PERTT volunteers will visit with those displaced by a natural disaster (flood, fire, etc.) into a temporary shelter. Our teams will be on call to visit these folks to ease their anxiety while displaced.

Requirements: *Advanced Level STEX; PAWS member for at least six months;
DEMA Training*