

# Pet Therapy Program

Renown Health has acknowledged the healing power of animals in the healthcare setting since 1997. Our volunteer handlers and their registered, insured therapy dogs are warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by patients, employees, families and visitors throughout our facilities. Working as partners with our nurses, pet therapy teams are helping to fulfill Renown's mission of making a genuine difference in the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve.

## **What is a Therapy Dog Program?**

Through Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI) and Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), it is our goal to enhance the patient experience, reduce recovery time and shorten a hospital stay.

Here are just a few of the benefits of AAI and AAT:

- petting a dog lowers blood pressure and heart rate by relieving anxiety
- helps in pain management
- eases feelings of depression, loneliness, boredom and isolation
- stimulates communication
- encourages physical activity

Renown has many opportunities for volunteers to share themselves and their special animals at the following locations:

- Renown Regional Medical Center
- Renown South Meadows Medical Center
- Renown Rehabilitation Hospital
- Renown Skilled Nursing

***See the next page for steps to join the program***

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## Steps to Join the Program

### Handlers will need the following:

- Application
- Interview with Volunteer Services team
- Background check
- Medical clearance
- Mandatory orientation

### Dogs will need the following:

- Health records and health statement including vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian, dated within the past year.
- Certificate and membership as a therapy dog by Renown-approved accreditation organization, such as Alliance of Therapy Dogs
- Certificate of Canine Good Citizenship exam (CGC)
- Red therapy dog vest

### For more information and to get the process started, please call:

Katie Campos, Volunteer Services, 775-982-4755

Wendy Peukert, Volunteer Services, 775-982-7124



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