

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG
AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE CHENNY TROUPE
THERAPY DOG CERTIFICATION TEST**

- You **must** have verbal control over your dog. This means that your dog will respond to your voice commands (come, sit, stay, heel, down) without the necessity of using the leash, training aids or body language to encourage the required behavior. You must be upright when giving commands.
- Your dog **must** be at least one year old.
- Your dog **must** have completed at least a six-week obedience class or equivalent private training **OR** you (the handler) **must** have completed an obedience class with another dog sometime in the past ten years.
- Attendance at both sessions is **required** to complete the certification process. If you do not come to the practice session, you **MAY NOT** attend the test session.
- Your paperwork, including Animal Certificate of Health, reservation form and check and volunteer application must be received in the office by **the Thursday prior to your chosen practice date**. For the health of everyone, no dog will be admitted to the practice session if his/her Animal Certificate of Health has not been received.
- Please bring the enclosed copy of the test with you to the practice session. The leader of the session may provide you with insights and suggestions that you will want to keep note of on the test form.
- At the practice session, you may use any training method or training aids you normally use. At the test session, you may **not** use training aids of any sort (collar, food, clicker, etc.). You may only use your voice to guide your dog through the exercises.
- You are required to use a 6-foot lead at both sessions; no flexi-leads are permitted at either session. You must use a buckle collar at the test session.
- Only dogs that are registered for the practice and test are allowed in the room. Please **do not** bring other dogs or other pets.
- Please bring a water bowl for your dog. You may bring a mat for your dog to use during the sit-stay and down-stay, but be sure it is one that he/she is familiar with.
- Aggression toward other dogs who are testing or toward people at either of the sessions will result in an automatic failure. If your dog behaves aggressively at either session, Chenny Troupe reserves the right to immediately dismiss your dog from the session and he/she will not be permitted to complete the certification procedure at that time. Your dog may retest at another session if the problem has been corrected.
- Use your judgment - if your dog has an open wound, is in heat or just isn't feeling well, don't come! We test each quarter, and your registration fee and paper work will carry over to the next session. Your dog won't perform at the level you expect if he or she isn't well.
- We offer the practice session so that you and your dog can become familiar with the site of the test, the other dogs testing and the test itself. Use the session to evaluate your dog and his/her performance in light of what he/she will be expected to do in the sessions, and later, in therapy work. It is a terrific tool for getting your dog ready to take the test.
- The practice session is a great time to ask your questions, clarify concerns and be sure that you understand what is expected. Please do not hesitate to call the office or your trainer before or after the practice session. The office may refer you to the practice session leader for assistance.
- It is a Pass/Fail test. This means that your dog must successfully complete all of the required exercises on the test in order to become a Chenny Troupe certified therapy dog.
- Our test is a hard one, but if your dog is well prepared, he/she will make you proud!