



St. John Ambulance

Therapy Dog Services Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the Therapy Dog team need from us?

A: Depending on the nature of our visit, water and a chair would be great. If we are going to be moving about, having water available would be appreciated.

Q: What do your Therapy Dog teams do?

A: Our Therapy Dog teams often draw people towards them where guests visit and pet the dog. If they don't draw a crowd, our teams will roam around and engage with participants.

Q: Why can Therapy Dog teams only work 90-minute shifts?

A: This is a standard that SJA has implemented nationally. We have been running this program for a long time and in our experience, visits are very stimulating and can be an exhausting job for dogs. The time limit ensures the safety and wellbeing of all participants (dogs included), which is always our top priority.

Q: Why do multiple teams have to be kept 6' apart?

A: Dogs get curious about other dogs. We want to make sure they are focusing their attention on your guests and are not distracted by other therapy dogs.

Q: How many Therapy Dog teams do I need for my event?

A: The size of your venue and the number of participants will determine the amount of Therapy Dog teams you request. A large room of 200 people (for example) would benefit from having 4 teams there at a time. A smaller room with 50 people would benefit from 2 teams.

Q. How much does this service cost?

A: The cost is \$50.00 per Therapy Dog Team (one dog and handler) per visit.

Q: How is payment processed?

A: St. John Ambulance (SJA) will ask you to fill out a "Customer Application Form" once your event has been approved. After your event has taken place, you will receive an invoice from SJA. If you are paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to St. John Ambulance and send it to 1 St. John Ambulance Way, Winnipeg, MB R3G 3H5 (please reference the invoice number and "Therapy Dog Program" in the memo). If you are paying by credit card, please call our main line at 204-784-7000 and have the invoice number ready.

Q: How far in advance should I request Therapy Dogs?

A: Please provide your event request at least 3, but preferably 4 weeks in advance of the event date to allow enough time for scheduling.

Q: What if no Therapy Dog teams are available?

A: We do our best to accommodate all requests, but our teams generously volunteer their time and we cannot guarantee that we will always have a team available.

Q: How will we identify a Therapy Dog team?

A: Our teams will be wearing easily identifiable uniforms. The handler will be wearing a black and red SJA polo shirt with an ID tag. The dog will be wearing a red SJA bandana.

NOTE: Any potential media presence should be pre-approved by SJA staff.