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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A Magical Bond

He has an important job, an engaging personality, soulful eyes and sense of smell so strong that not only can he smell the chocolate chip cookie you ate in the cafeteria at lunch, but also each of the ingredients used in the cookie! Who is this mysterious being?

If you guessed a therapy dog, you guessed right!

Clayton is an eleven-year-old Labrador retriever who spends days working as a therapy dog. He is one half of a Pet Partner team, along with his human handler. Before Clayton begins his work, providing therapy to sick children in hospitals, he undergoes a strict grooming regime. Clayton is bathed, and brushed, and his ears are cleaned and his nails trimmed. His partner puts a green vest on him. Only registered therapy dogs are entitled to wear the special green-colored vest, which tells the world that Clayton is a member of a registered Delta Society Pet Partner therapy team.

Today, Clayton will work with Johnny, a 12-year-old boy who has just had surgery to remove his appendix. Johnny is in a lot of pain since the operation, and it's Clayton's mission today to get Johnny up out of bed and walking, so he will heal faster. The nurses at the hospital are happy to see the team arrive; Clayton makes their job easier and the pediatric unit at the hospital is more fun when there is a dog visiting. The nurses introduce Johnny to Clayton and his human partner, Greer. "Would you like to take Clayton for a walk?" Johnny's nurse asks. Johnny is eager to walk through the halls holding Clayton's leash. Before he knows it, Johnny is up, out of bed, and walking—and well on his way to healing. This is an example of Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT). Animal-assisted therapy animals can provide therapy and even help children improve his or her reading skills.

Although Clayton is a therapy dog, did you know that cats, too, can provide therapy? If you've ever experienced the warmth of a cat, curled up in your lap purring, you know just how special a feeling that is. Therapy cats are popular in extended care facilities, where older people who need assistance with their day-to-day activities may live. Petting



or brushing a cat can make the sometimes lonely elderly residents feel happy. If the cat curls up, purring and snoozing in their laps, all the better!

Even horses can provide therapy. Cathy is a Special Olympian. When she's up in the saddle astride Xerox, a large grey horse, she feels on top of the world. Xerox will follow her commands to "halt" and "walk on" and even to "trot on." But Xerox is specially trained for Cathy. Cathy can not walk on her own and she needs to be lifted into the saddle to ride. Xerox senses this, and stays perfectly still for Cathy. They are a wonderful team! Xerox is a therapy horse at One Step a Time Therapeutic Riding Center in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and has twice been named State Horse of the Year.

There are two different types of animal-assisted interactions. The first one already described is Animal-Assisted Therapy and the other is Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA). In animal-assisted activities the animals are still trained and certified as therapy animals, but the activities they participate in with people are not part of a therapeutic program. Many types of animals can be trained for therapy work. Hamsters, pigs, and any domestic (not wild) animal who has the right temperament and personality has the potential to be a therapy animal. A committed human partner who will train with them and look after their needs is a must. With understanding and patience, you and your pet can learn a lot from one another and also bring great joy and help to people who need it. There's an almost magical bond between people and their pets. It's called the human-animal bond and it is a wonderful and beneficial thing to be able to share with others.



Animals Helping People

HOOPH

For the Delmar family of Staten Island, NY, riding horses and helping others is indeed a family affair. Kelly, 10, a fifth grader, has spent most of her life helping her mom run a very unique Equine (horse)

Assisted-Therapy program called HOOPH, which stands for Helping Others Overcome Physical Handicaps. In a big outdoor field right near a beautiful beach, Kelly and her mom, Megan, can be seen working hard, to help children and adults with many different physical challenges feel whole, special and in control. While riding on the back of Pearl, Kelly's very own chestnut pony, a child who has never walked can experience the thrill of trotting across the grass and tossing a basketball into a hoop! "I love when kids are on the horses and we trot," Kelly says. "They get so excited because it's their first time! I lead the horses and help make the riders comfortable, too." Kelly's mom runs this very popular and important program completely as a volunteer. Asked about what she wants to do when she grows up, Kelly replies, "I want to be just like my mom, helping others and working with horses."



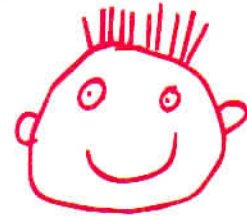
NANCY & CALLIE

Callie is an adorable apricot colored poodle who wears cute little bows in her softly curled fur. But this pampered pooch doesn't spend her days sitting around looking pretty, she is hard at work helping children improve their reading skills and visiting elderly, and often lonely, nursing home residents. Callie is a registered therapy dog, and has been trained, along with Nancy, her human partner, to help children in libraries, schools and hospitals. Callie loves working with kids and seeing them smile and feel happy. When Callie joined Nancy's family as a puppy, it was obvious she was special. During long walks in the park, Callie would happily greet people, allow them to pet her and even sit quietly on the laps of people in wheelchairs. One of Callie's favorite ways to cheer people up is to dance around on her hind legs! Nancy knew this was special behavior, so she had Callie trained and evaluated for pet therapy work. Callie is a natural! One young girl has been with Callie and Nancy at her local library every week. They've just finished a full year of reading books together, and the girl's reading skills have really improved. "Volunteering with Callie has changed my life," says Nancy. We're sure Callie has changed a lot of lives, too!



You Think You Know The Answer?

YOU'VE READ THE ARTICLE, NOW ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND SEE HOW MANY YOU ANSWER CORRECTLY!



What do you know about Animal-Assisted Therapy?

Which animal can be a member of a Pet Partner Team?

- Hamster  Cat  Horse  Dog 
- All of the above

A therapy animal may: 

- 1) Visit in a hospital 2) Visit in an extended care facility 3) Visit in a school
- 4) All of the above

What sign would tell you that an animal might be great at animal-assisted therapy?

- They like to run.
- They have a loud voice.
- They are calm and well-trained.
- They live with a big family.

What does Animal-Assisted Therapy mean?

- An animal is part of a treatment plan.
- The person and animal team receives therapy.
- The animal team is trained to help people.
- None of the above

What does Animal-Assisted Activity mean?

- The animals help you play a game.
- Animals are used to help people with special needs.
- It is a special test the animal and his or her handler must pass.
- None of the above.

WORD SCRAMBLE

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THE WORD?

READ THE SENTENCES BELOW.
UNSCRAMBLE EACH OF THE WORDS AND SPELL THEM CORRECTLY.

1. Animals may also be used in the classroom for Animal-Assisted **SEITIVITCA**.

2. There are two different types of animal-assisted **INTIONECARETINS**.

3. Animal-Assisted **REHTYPA** can provide therapy.

4. Animal-Assisted therapy animals can help children improve
his or her **NEGARDI** skills.

5. Only **DERETSIGER** therapy animals are entitled to wear the
special green-colored vest.

6. Xerox is a therapy horse at One Step a Time **AREHTCITUEP** Riding Center in
Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

7. Hamsters, pigs, and any domestic (not wild) animal who has the right **TNEMARPEMET**
and **SONYLITAERP** has the potential to be a therapy animal.

8. Clayton is a member of a registered **ATLED YEITOC**s Pet Partner therapy team.

9. Even **RHOESS** can provide therapy.

10. Petting or brushing a **TCA** can make elderly residents feel happy.

Answers 1. activities; 2. interactions; 3. therapy; 4. reading; 5. registered;
6. therapeutic; 7. temperament and personality; 8. delta society; 9. horses; 10. cat