



GUIDELINES FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY PET THERAPY VISIT

To ensure a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable college/university de-stress event, please consider the following recommendations for a successful visit.

1. Park in designated areas as directed by the visit coordinator. Some colleges have police forces that are strict about parking regulations. If a parking permit is needed, be sure to display it in your vehicle as directed. If you get a ticket, you may have to appeal it yourself or you may be able to appeal to college/university event coordinator for assistance. Just follow parking instructions and you should not experience any issues.
2. Arrive early enough that you can walk your dog around outside the building before entering. Give your dog an opportunity to eliminate before entering the building, and clean up if necessary.
3. Meet the event team leader and other volunteers and dogs outside the building to allow the dogs to acclimate to one another and then enter the room as a group. As a general reminder, never allow dogs to "greet" each other face-to-face, as this can be seen as a threatening gesture by some dogs. While it's important to give dogs a brief opportunity to adjust to one another's company, dogs should not interact with one another during the visit and must remain under handler control at all times. Since it's one of the PAWS policies that our dogs do not interact during visits, observe the "personal space" of the other dogs and keep yours separate from the others.
4. Temperatures may vary greatly from building to building. Dress in layers so you can be comfortable. Our pets react to extremes in temperatures, too. If the room is especially warm, try to keep your pet as quiet as possible so they don't get overheated. Dress in comfortable yet appropriate clothing. You are representing the entire PAWS of CNY organization. Clothing with holes or pants such as sweatpants are not acceptable.
5. The purpose of these visits is to provide pet therapy—not to show off dogs' tricks. This means dogs should never be permitted off leash, be given toys to fetch, demonstrate agility skills, or be asked to "shake" (which could result in a student being scratched).
6. **Jumping on students is prohibited.** Reports of dogs jumping during any visits may result in your dog being called in for a re-evaluation. Please get the okay from the visit coordinator before allowing your pet to sit on sofas or chairs.
7. If students play too roughly with your pet, don't be afraid to courteously request that they give the pet some space so he or she can rest. This includes hugging, which most dogs will not tolerate.

8. At times, there may be a large number of students all attempting to interact with your pet at the same time. Do not hesitate to ask students to take turns to ensure your dog does not become overwhelmed.
9. College visits usually last 60 to 90 minutes and pets often tired by the end of this time. If you pet is overstimulated before the end of the visit, you are free to remove him or her from the visit. You may return to the visit if you choose.
10. Your pet should remain on his or her leash at all times. Since you are responsible for your pet's behavior, you should not give the leash to anyone else at the visit. If you need to leave the visit to go to the restroom or your car, the pet should go with you.
11. Depending on the college, enrolled students may be permitted to have a service dog or emotional support animal on campus with them. These animals are not permitted to engage with our volunteers or pets. We will always communicate this in advance to the college/university event coordinator. If at any point during the event, a non-PAWS dog (or other animal) enters the event area, please notify the event coordinator and ask that they speak to the student. If the event coordinator is not present, please politely explain to the student that other animals, including service/support animals, are not permitted to attend the event.
12. College kids miss their own pets and love to see ours. They will ask questions like "How old is he?" "What kind of dog/cat is she?" "What kind of training does it take to make a therapy dog or cat?" and many others. There will probably be a lot of noise, laughter and maybe some tears.
13. After all of that, relax and have fun. Your pet will relax and have fun, too!