

# Joining LOVING ANIMALS PROVIDING SMILES (LAPS) is now as easy as **A-B-C**



**A**ttend our **7-week** team training program. Your dog must be dog-friendly and already have solid, basic obedience skills. You will:

- Develop skills necessary for successful animal-assisted therapy work
- Learn about safety and healthcare issues
- Discover how to help your pet be a happy and effective partner
- Practice with healthcare equipment and many types of distractions
- Receive assessment for working with children, teens and elder populations
- Practice your team skills in the real world on a field trip

**B**e evaluated to the standard set by the Delta Society/Pet Partners Program plus certain exercises LAPS adds to the Pet Partners test.

**C**ommit to established LAPS therapy programs serving clients year-round.

After successfully completing a 3-month mentored probationary period, you and your pet will be welcomed into full, active team membership in LAPS.

## We are a one-of-a-kind organization.



LAPS has always set a very high standard for our teams. We believe that having well-trained, highly-skilled teams benefits clients in many ways that other programs cannot. By maintaining the highest standards of safety, training and teamwork, LAPS Therapy Teams provide interactive programs unlike anything else offered in our area. We value our volunteers and their pets for the service they give to our clients and to our group.

For information about LAPS therapy programs and more about membership in our organization, please visit our website: [www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org](http://www.lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org)

### START TODAY:

- Call our office (707-265-6642) ASAP to reserve a spot in the session starting **March 3, 2012**. Class size is limited. Saturday classes are held at Napa Valley Dog Training Club from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- Complete and submit a Volunteer Application, along with a copy of pet's current vaccination records and class payment **by Feb 25th**. Download Application PDF from our website (from homepage, click "About Us → Steps to Join → Volunteer Application"). Class fees listed on next page.
- Teams are expected to attend all training classes. As the weeks progress, lessons build on those learned in earlier weeks. Each week you will learn new skills.
- Each student will receive a binder with extensive class materials and helpful information.
- You will need to complete the Pet Partners Home Study Course online at [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org) prior to the Team Evaluation.
- The Pet Partners/LAPS Team Evaluation will be held on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at Napa Valley Dog Training Club. Test cost is included in the class fee.

*"Bringing acceptance, laughter and love into the lives of others."*





# LOVING ANIMALS PROVIDING SMILES

ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY TEAM HANDLING SKILLS CLASS Mar 3 – Apr 7, 2012

PET PARTNERS/LAPS TEAM EVALUATION Apr 15

NEW TEAM ORIENTATION Apr 21 // CAPERS TEAM TRAINING Apr 28

LAPS has developed this extensive, multi-week training class in order to bring teams into volunteer service with our organization. We keep the class numbers small so that each participant gets individualized attention and plenty of hands-on practice.

If space permits, we invite teams to take our class even if they do not intend to pursue LAPS membership. We firmly believe all teams need these foundation skills to increase the overall safety and effectiveness that teams bring to their volunteer service, wherever they may be.

If you wish to enroll, but are not able to join LAPS, please be honest with us when you apply for the class. We require the Volunteer Application and pet vaccination records from all class participants. You should write in Section III of the Application that you are taking the class as a “non-LAPS team.”

## **ITEMS TO REMEMBER:**

- Your dog must be dog-friendly and possess solid basic obedience skills. At a minimum, your dog must reliably demonstrate Canine Good Citizen-level skills: sit, down, stay, walking politely on-leash, accepting petting from a stranger, and “leave it.”
- This is not a “one size fits all” class. Our goal is to give you the tools to help your dog be a successful therapy partner. You will be an active participant in finding the best way to communicate with your dog, read his/her body language, recognize stress, and, above all, be as honest about your dog’s behavior and comfort level as your dog will be with you. This is not for everyone and every dog, but when it works for both of you, it results in a highly rewarding volunteer activity and allows you to provide the highest quality of client service with your pet at your side.
- **We must receive your Application, pet vaccination record, and payment by February 25<sup>th</sup> at our P.O. Box 6596, Napa, CA 94581.**
- You are expected to attend all class sessions: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7. The Pet Partners/LAPS Team Evaluation will be on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. New team orientation will be on Saturday, April 21st. CAPERS (“Children and Pets Enjoy Reading Success”) team training/practice will be on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CLASS FEE:** 1<sup>st</sup> LAPS pet: \$70; 2<sup>nd</sup> LAPS pet: \$40; Non-LAPS team \$110.

LAPS teams will donate time & resources to our group that non-LAPS teams will not, therefore we offer LAPS teams a lower class fee. 1<sup>st</sup> time teams receive LAPS materials that 2<sup>nd</sup> pet teams do not. Teams wanting to brush-up on skills will pay a drop-in fee per session: LAPS teams \$5; Pet Partners-registered/non-LAPS teams \$20