



Paws'itive Teams

Thank you for your interest in our PAAT Goal Directed Therapy Dog Program. We are currently working in three facilities. Below are descriptions and requirements for each site.

However, if you aren't available for either of these programs but are still interested in consideration for our goal directed program, let us know and we will keep your application in our files for notification when we launch new sites.

We are hoping to set up sites within the next couple of years to accommodate volunteers living in other areas of San Diego (East County, central San Diego or coastal areas) and are seeking appropriate sites for those not available to volunteer weekdays.

CERTIFICATION:

1. Please note that certification with PAAT is only in effect during Paws'itive Teams sponsored activities.
2. The Paws'itive Teams liability insurance is only in effect during PT sponsored activities.
3. A Team is considered PAAT Certified after all the PAAT Required paperwork (including veterinary exam) and Site Specific Clearances have been completed. Certification will be current for 2 years (if the team meets the minimum volunteer hours and remains active with the program.)

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

ABRAXAS HIGH SCHOOL

(NOTE: Program not active during summer months)

LOCATION: Poway Unified High School District

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM: The **Transition Students** (ages 18-22) have physical and/or developmental disabilities. For this group, we work one-on-one with students selected by the special education teachers who work with us in designing the goals. The dogs are not required to know a lot of "tricks" but must be responsive to the handler and able to take direction from a secondary handler. Some of the students are working on verbal skills, trying to speak more clearly. They give the dogs commands (such as sit, down, stay, come) and are reinforced for speaking clearly once the dog responds to the command. PAAT Teams work directly under the supervision of the Special Education teachers who set the goals for each student.

TIMES AND DAYS: Tuesday afternoons, from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

SITE REQUIRED CLEARANCES: Fingerprint screening and TB test

ESCONDIDO MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT (EMTU)

LOCATION: Northeast section of Escondido

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

- EMTU is an outpatient therapy unit for physical and occupational therapy. The clients (ages 1 to 21; average age 10) come in for therapy appointments that last from 1/2 hour to an hour. There is a wide range of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, brain damage, and muscular weakness.
- The children are motivated to reach their therapy goals through interaction with the dogs, and with various 'toys' and games played with the dogs. For example, a child might be encouraged to walk across the room to give the dog a treat. Verbal skills are encouraged by having the child give the dog a command. Trunk stability is promoted by a ride in a cart pulled by the dog. Whatever skills and tricks your dog has can be incorporated into the therapy session. You will probably see other behaviors that you could teach your dog as you work with a child.
- These children and their parents are thrilled to have the dogs participate in the treatment process. The children are eager to improve their functionality in response to the dog's presence and encouragement. The therapists too are very appreciative of our program!
- PAAT teams work directly under the guidance of the Physical and Occupational Therapists who set the goals for the sessions.

TIMES AND DAYS: EMTU hours are from 7AM to 5PM, weekdays. The schedule of prospective clients and therapists will be sent to certified handlers and you can sign up for available times with individual clients and their therapists. Your first visit will be an observation visit without your dog. The team leader will accompany you to discuss how your dog might help in the therapy process.

SITE REQUIRED CLEARANCES: Background check by SD County (including basic identification paperwork with permission to do the background check); Fingerprinting (downtown San Diego); Physical Exam with drug screening and TB skin test (exam is at a industrial health clinic). Once cleared, you will also be considered San Diego County volunteers.

ACES (serving children with Autism)

(NOTE: Volunteer slots full at this time)

LOCATION: Hillcrest section of San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

ACES provides services to help individuals impacted with autism or other developmental disabilities maximize their full potential. Our suite of home, family and community services provide an on-site and off-site marriage of treatment options. As part of our commitment to community outreach, ACES frequently hosts and sponsors a wide variety of parent support groups, parent training sessions, and workshops related to autism and other developmental disorders.

TIMES AND DAYS: We are hoping to arrange sessions on either weekends or evenings, to accommodate volunteers not available weekdays.

WEBSITE: To learn more about ACES, check out their website at <http://www.acesangels.com/ourservices/>

FUTURE SITES **(pending start date Summer 2008)**

EL CAJON MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT

LOCATION: El Cajon

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

- ECMTU is an outpatient therapy unit for physical and occupational therapy. The clients (ages 1 to 21; average age 10) come in for therapy appointments that last from 1/2 hour to an hour. There is a wide range of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, brain damage, and muscular weakness.
- The children are motivated to reach their therapy goals through interaction with the dogs, and with various 'toys' and games played with the dogs. For example, a child might be encouraged to walk across the room to give the dog a treat. Verbal skills are encouraged by having the child give the dog a command. Trunk stability is promoted by a ride in a cart pulled by the dog. Whatever skills and tricks your dog has can be incorporated into the therapy session. You will probably see other behaviors that you could teach your dog as you work with a child.
- These children and their parents are thrilled to have the dogs participate in the treatment process. The children are eager to improve their functionality in response to the dog's presence and encouragement. The therapists too are very appreciative of our program!
- PAAT teams work directly under the guidance of the Physical and Occupational Therapists who set the goals for the sessions.

TIMES AND DAYS: ECMTU hours are from 7AM to 5PM, weekdays. The schedule of prospective clients and therapists will be sent to certified handlers and you can sign up for available times with individual clients and their therapists. Your first visit will be an observation visit without your dog. The team leader will accompany you to discuss how your dog might help in the therapy process.