

## Applicant Requirements

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Happy Tails Visitation Program. Before you begin the application process by submitting your waitlist request form, please carefully review the requirements listed below.



## Handler Applicant Requirements

- Due to the multiple demands of handling a dog and interacting with patients and families, handlers must be at least 18-years-old.
- Handler applicants must be willing to complete the process to become an Aultman Hospital volunteer including a personal interview, criminal background check, tuberculosis screening, physician signed form, receiving an annual flu shot and the purchase of Happy Tails polo and dog scarf.
- Handlers must agree to undergo the handler and dog screening process.
- Handlers and their dogs must be willing to commit to two visits per month for a minimum of one year.
- Handlers must agree to adhere to all requirements and guidelines of Aultman Hospital's Happy Tails Dog Visitation Program. This includes agreeing to bathe and groom the dog within 24 hours of each visit.
- Handlers must have an ability to work in a busy, complex hospital environment, be team-oriented and have strong communication skills.

## Dog Applicant Requirements

- Dogs must be 1 year of age or older and have lived with owner for minimum of 6 months.
- Dogs must be owned by the handler who will be participating in visits.
- Dogs must be evaluated by Pet Partner's certified evaluators.
- Before participating in the Happy Tails program, dogs must be in good physical health (as determined by a licensed veterinarian) and must be vaccinated against rabies and DHPP (distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parinfluenza).
- Dogs must have swabs from volunteer office in order to have their vet complete a fecal and throat swab.