



# PetPalsNC

Supporting Pet-Assisted Activities and Therapy in Schools  
Since 2007  
[www.petpalsnc.org](http://www.petpalsnc.org)

## **PetPalsNC Volunteer Agreement**

PetPalsNC could not exist without its volunteers, both people and pets, and the success of the program depends on the relationship that exists among the students, school staff, pets, and handlers. To help build and maintain a relationship of mutual respect and trust, you will comply with the following guidelines—

### I. Certification and Insurance Coverage:

- Ensure that your registration is updated in accordance with your certifying organization's (the organization through which you and your pet were trained and certified) requirements.
- When you renew, send registration updates/proof of insurance to the PetPals Executive Director as soon as possible.
- If your liability insurance lapses for any reason, do not visit any schools.
- Remain in compliance with all rules of the certifying organization at all times to ensure liability coverage for any incidents or accidents.

### II. Incidents/Accidents:

- Most incidents between pets and students are accidental, so please take all precautions to protect the students and your pet.
  - For example, avoid crowds around your dog, be aware of the impact of squealing children on the playground, watch out for students who try to approach with a pencil/pen in hand.
- Report any accident, however insignificant, to the PetPals School Liaison and to the PetPals Executive Director as soon as possible.
- Report incidents to your certifying organization in accordance with their reporting policies.
- PetPalsNC will not be held responsible for any harm caused by incidents involving your pet. You, your certifying organization, and your insurance provider will be liable.

### III. Comply with School Rules:

- Wear your Pet Pals badge (and other identification) at all times when on school grounds.
- Follow all policies/practices regarding visitors that are set by the district and/or specific school site.
- Dress appropriately.

### IV. Pet Appearance and Comportment:

- Your pet should be readily identifiable as a therapy pet. Please use the PetPalsNC bandana or the bandana/vest of your pet therapy certifying organization.
- Follow the appearance guidelines of your Pet Therapy organization. Pets should be well groomed at all times (e.g., clean, pleasant smelling, brushed if shedding, nails clipped and smoothed).
- Ask the School Liaison about areas to walk your pet for breaks. Pick up any deposits and dispose of them in an outdoor trash container.

V. Medical/Health Concerns:

- Do not visit if you or your pet has a transmittable condition.
- Do not visit if your pet has a condition that is painful or that could otherwise alter behavior.
- Follow guidelines from the state, your veterinarian, and your organization regarding necessary vaccines and medical exams for your pet.

VI. Confidentiality:

- Information specific to a student or classroom must not be shared outside the school in any manner.
- Report any concerns about a student immediately to his/her teacher or to the PetPals School Liaison.

VII. Professionalism and Scope of Volunteering:

- Your role is to facilitate the relationship between your pet and the students, staff, and school.
- Pet-assisted therapy and activities is not the same as mentoring. You will be working closely with students, but your responsibility to them ends when you leave the session. It is sometimes emotionally difficult to work with a student that is troubled or who appears in need. If you have concerns, you should report them, and you should trust the professionals in the school to do their jobs.
- You should not have contact with a student outside of school unless you obtain permission from the student's parent/guardian. Neither PetPalsNC nor the school has the responsibility or authority to supervise a mentoring relationship.
- If you find work with a particular student to be unpleasant or difficult, please discuss the matter with the PetPals School Liaison.
- Report any inappropriate or uncomfortable situations involving students or staff to the PetPals School Liaison and to the PetPals Executive Director.

VIII. Photos:

- Media releases signed by parents/guardians are for school use only.
- If you wish to use student photographs for your own purposes, you must obtain a signed contract on your own from a student's parent. This is known as a "model release" and information can be found online.

I have read the standards above and agree to follow them at all times when providing pet-assisted therapy and activities as a volunteer for PetPalsNC, Inc.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_