



# ***K-9 BUDDIES, INC.***

***Helping Dogs Help People***

## **The Handler Class:**

The Handler orientation class is step #1 on the path to certification. It's free and lasts about 90 minutes to 2 hours depending on the number of questions during the Q&A period. Seats at these classes are always limited so you must reserve a seat in advance. The facilities that loan us their meeting rooms must adhere to strict rules as to how many people can occupy the room.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR DOG TO THIS MEETING!** (service or guide dogs are okay)

We suggest you bring paper and pen to take some notes as you will be given a lot of information such as:

- ✓ An introduction to Animal Therapy and its different forms
- ✓ The pre requisites for certification
- ✓ A discussion about the upcoming evaluation (step 2) including what to expect and how to prepare
- ✓ A review of the trial visits (step 3)
- ✓ Costs associated with getting certified as a therapy dog team
- ✓ What to expect while on visits
- ✓ Benefits of sharing your dog and your time with others
- ✓ Your responsibilities as a therapy dog handler and how to be a safe handler
- ✓ How to read your dog's body language including the most subtle communications
- ✓ How to prepare your dog for unusual situations
- ✓ Stress management for your dog (and you) while on visits
- ✓ A review of legalities and insurance
- ✓ A question and answer period

By the end of this meeting you should have enough information to decide if this is for you and if you want to proceed on to steps two and three. If you elect to proceed, an evaluation will be scheduled for you and your dog.

***www.k9buddies.org***