



K-9 BUDDIES, INC.

Helping Dogs Help People

The Trial Visits:

The third and final step for your certification is the successful completion of two trial visits to a facility. You will meet your evaluator and, most likely, some experienced teams for an actual visit to a facility. Visits are usually 45 to 60 minutes in duration.

During this visit, your evaluator will be looking for the following:

- Your ability to control your dog at all times
- Your focus on the interactions your dog has with people and other dogs
- Your interaction with residents and staff of the facility
- Your ability to read your dog's body language
- Your ability to be pro active in avoiding potentially problematic situations
- Your ability to use proper terminology and avoidance of potentially offensive words or phrases
- Your ability to break off an engagement immediately, but politely, should something make your dog uneasy
- Your focus on looking for potential hazards such as pills or other items on the floor
- Your preparation for the visit such as dog grooming, water dish, poop bag, some paper towels, etc.

As you can readily see, these visits are more about you, the handler, than your dog. By this point in the process your dog has already been determined to have the proper temperament and training so it is you who will be in the spotlight. As discussed during the handler class, it is the handler that will determine the outcome of a visit. You are the pilot in command of this flight.

These visits are scheduled with your evaluator. Once completed, and your evaluator is satisfied that you are competent as a therapy dog handler, he, or she, will notify K9B that you are eligible for certification. At this time you will be asked to provide a digital passport type photo of yourself and one of your dog for your ID cards. Shoulders up and taken against a plain, light colored background is what works.

We think you will enjoy doing your first visits with experienced teams who will shorten the learning curve for you and make you feel comfortable.

Best of luck,

The K-9 Buddies Volunteers

www.k9buddies.org