



K-9 BUDDIES, inc.

Steps to Certification:

Step One:

Interested handlers attend a 90 minute classroom training session, without their dog, at which, a description of expected scenarios, reading a dog's body language, and safety issues will be discussed. The evaluation will also be discussed and you can have any remaining questions you may have addressed during this meeting. We want you and your dog to succeed!

Step Two:

Handlers and their dogs will attend an evaluation session lasting about an hour. A Canine Good Citizen Certification is required for certification. If your dog already has a CGC you will participate in the evaluation only. If you wish to test for the CGC at the same time as the evaluation we can arrange that as we have an AKC CGC evaluator present at all evaluations. The K9B evaluation is free but if you need a CGC there is a \$20 testing fee payable directly to the AKC Evaluator.

Step Three:

Participate in two facility visits with your evaluator present. Upon successful completion of these visits the process is complete and you and your dog can be certified as a therapy dog team.

To be certified a **dog** must meet the following standards:

- ✓ Routinely respond to all basic obedience commands such as sit, stay, the recall, and walk nicely beside the handler. (Does not have to be a formal "heel")
- ✓ Respond without the constant use of treats
- ✓ Demonstrate focus on their handler
- ✓ Respond consistently, even when distractions are present
- ✓ Recover from a sudden loud noise in a timely fashion
- ✓ Be accepting of wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, etc.
- ✓ Remain calm when people make unusual motions such as staggering
- ✓ Be accepting of hugs
- ✓ Show no signs of extreme stress, agitation, or aggression with people or other dogs
- ✓ Accept treats gently

To be certified a **handler** must meet the following standards:

- ✓ Be 18 years old
- ✓ Demonstrate control of the dog at all times
- ✓ Demonstrate a calm demeanor
- ✓ Demonstrate an ability to spot potential hazards and problems
- ✓ Demonstrate an ability to read a dog's body language for signs of stress
- ✓ Demonstrate an ability to use good judgment and consider safety first
- ✓ Provide proper grooming for the dog
- ✓ Focus on the interactions of their dog without becoming distracted by other handlers or situations