

Information on Pet Partners® Evaluations with Tufts Paws for People

Seeking a Pet Partners® evaluation?

Refer to the Pet Partners® or Tufts Paws for People websites for a schedule of evaluation dates. Sign up on the Pet Partners® website for an evaluation as soon as possible as evaluation day schedules fill quickly! Keep in mind that you must first complete the Pet Partners® Therapy Animal Handler Course (**for the handler only**) before being evaluated. The workshop can be completed on-line or you can register for a live workshop. The dates these workshops will be held, as well as registration information, is also available on the Pet Partners® or Tufts Paws for People websites.

Seeking a renewal evaluation?

Teams in need of a renewal evaluation may do that evaluation as early as 6 months ahead of time without changing their Pet Partners® next expiration date (month will remain the same). Remember that the results of a renewal evaluation are current regardless of the expiration date of your previous evaluation (i.e., if you do not pass, your registration status is “not ready” until you pass an evaluation).

Want to see what an evaluation is like?

Contact us to sign up to volunteer at an evaluation! Volunteering is a great way to see what the evaluators are looking for in each exercise, and you can learn skills that you can practice before doing your own evaluation.

Where are the evaluations held?

Tufts Paws for People holds Pet Partners® evaluations at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, located on Westboro Road in Grafton, MA.

Preparing for an evaluation?

You should prepare for the evaluation as though you were going on an actual visit with your pet. This includes your animal’s grooming requirements (i.e., bathing, nail trimming, and ear cleaning, etc.). Remember to interact with the evaluator and volunteers as though they were part of a real facility. We strongly recommend that you review the exercises for the evaluation which can be found on the Pet Partners® website, and practice them ahead of time so you are as relaxed as possible going into your own evaluation.

What do I bring to an evaluation?

You will need to bring proof of rabies vaccination in the form of either a vaccination or rabies certificate with a valid expiration date on it. You will also need a completed handler's questionnaire which can be downloaded from the Pet Partners® website. **Pet Partners® will not permit us to do your evaluation without both of these documents, so please do not forget them.** You should also bring a soft brush appropriate for visiting for the "appearance and grooming" exercise, and food treats for the "offer a treat" exercise. Keep in mind that for all other exercises in the evaluation, no treats may be used, and you may not carry any treats, food, or toys with you during the evaluation.

Important Reminders

Do not forget your proof of rabies in the form of either a vaccination or rabies certificate with a valid expiration date on it and the completed handler's questionnaire. Remember that just like a visit, the evaluation starts as soon as you arrive on the premises, so please keep Pet Partners® policies in mind at all times (participants seen acting inappropriately on the grounds can be given a ‘not ready status’ based on those acts, even if not during an evaluation).