Get Involved!

Visit! Become a Tufts Paws for People team member and visit with your own animal.

Volunteer! We always need volunteers without pets to help with a variety of tasks including:

- Workshops and evaluations
- Mentoring new teams
- Educational events
- Marketing/public relations
- Administrative assistance

Donate! Our volunteer group is non-profit. Your monetary gifts help us continue to train and mentor new teams, grow our programs, and match our teams with various opportunities. Please donate through: https://hai.tufts.edu/paws/

Contact Us:
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Tufts Paws for People is a volunteer group at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, and is a Massachusetts Community Partner of the national Pet Partners® program (petpartners.org).
What is Tufts Paws for People?

Tufts Paws for People is a New England organization head-quartered in Massachusetts and associated with Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Tufts Paws for People provides education, evaluation, and mentorship for individuals looking to visit with their pets. We also help facilities start animal-assisted intervention programs. Our teams work in a variety of settings to provide safe and effective animal visitations.

Tufts Paws for People offers animal-assisted interventions in diverse settings, including:

- Adolescent Homes
- Cancer Centers
- Corporate Wellness Events
- Crisis Support
- Hospice Care
- Libraries and Literacy Programs
- Psychiatric Centers
- Public and Private K-12 Schools
- Women’s Shelters
- Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers
- University/College Stress Relief/Wellness

Connection with Pet Partners®

Tufts Paws for People members are registered Pet Partners® teams, well-trained and prepared to provide effective and safe animal visitations.

TRAINING: Handlers complete an 8-hour workshop provided by licensed Pet Partners® instructors. The workshop is available in-person and on-line.

EVALUATION: All handlers must pass a rigorous Pet Partners® evaluation with their animal every two years. Evaluations are conducted locally.

LIABILITY: All registered Pet Partners® teams are provided with liability insurance when visiting with their animal.

MENTORSHIP: New teams are mentored by experienced Tufts Paws for People members during their initial visits.

HEALTH: All Tufts Paws for People animals are required to have:

- Annual veterinary examination
- Current rabies vaccination
- Annual parasite testing
- Grooming within 24 hours of each visit
- No raw meat diet
- Proper photo ID and knowledge of facility policies and procedures