Tufts PAWS for People (PAWS) is a service-oriented volunteer program of multi-species teams trained to provide therapy animal support to people in need.

"The animals provide a beacon of light and hope for our stressed healthcare teams."

–Eric Richman, MSW, LISCW, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

PAWS was launched in 2004 as a formal collaboration between Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and Pet Partners® Therapy Animal Program. Renamed Tufts PAWS for People in 2009, our teams provide stress relief and wellness sessions in a wide variety of settings, including libraries, public schools, corporate offices, elder care facilities, hospice centers, and mental health care facilities.

PAWS mentors its new therapy animal teams beginning their volunteer visitations and the organizations initiating therapy animal visitation programs.

PAWS programs actively involve participants, facility coordinators, and educators to provide high-quality, effective human-animal interactions.

PAWS Facts

- PAWS is a non-profit organization supported by the Center for Animals and Public Policy, grants, and donations
- PAWS is an official Community Partner of Pet Partners® Therapy Animal Program and has a research relationship with Tufts Initiative for Human-Animal Interaction (TIHAI)
- PAWS facilitates opportunities for volunteer team handlers ages 10 and up
- Nine species are eligible for Pet Partners® therapy team evaluation and membership

Interested in learning more about PAWS, hosting a visit, or becoming a corporate sponsor? hai.tufts.edu/paws

Tufts PAWS for People
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