

HOW TO GET STARTED IN

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY (AAT):

First you will need to attend the Humane Society of Broward County's Animal Assisted Therapy Orientation, without your pet.

This training will teach you all about our Animal Assisted Therapy Program and what skill requirements both you and your pet must possess in order to be considered for our program.

After the orientation is completed, you and your pet might require further training. Training is determined by the type of program you and your pet will be participating in, and what skill sets you and your pet have or need to have in order to participate. The Manager of the AAT program will decide if you and your pet require further training before being evaluated for the program.

If further training is not required, you will be scheduled for your evaluation. The meeting, inclusive of evaluation, will take approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Evaluations are conducted at the shelter. Depending upon the populations you wish to work with additional evaluations may be needed. Volunteers must provide a copy of their veterinarian records showing all vaccinations are current at the time of the evaluation.

If you and your pet pass the evaluation, you will need to pass a multi-state felony background check before starting the program. After the background check, we will get you and your pet set up with the AAT program gear and prepared to bring unconditional love and joy to our community.

See our website for more information.



HELPING GAIN CONFIDENCE AT WAGS AND TALES



GIVING LOVE AT BROWARD HEALTH



Humane Society of Broward County Animal Assisted Therapy Program

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HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

Animal Assisted Therapy Program



TEACHING PET SAFETY



ENJOYING ATTENTION AT DANIEL CANTOR CENTER



STRESS RELIEF FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a rewarding experience for you and your companion animal. Through this program, our AAT teams visit various types of facilities with their pets. Below are some of the types of facilities we visit:

- Senior Assisted Living Facilities
- Pediatric Care Units
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Private and Public Schools
- Mental Health Facilities
- Hospice
- Local Fire and Police Departments

These are places where children, adults, and seniors are in need of the unconditional love and affection that a pet can offer. We have worked with over 100 different facilities in our community and have many facilities that are waiting for an AAT team to visit. As the list of facilities grows, so does our need for qualified AAT handlers and their pets.

If you are interested in getting more information about our AAT program please contact therapy@hsbroward.com.

Baseline Program Criteria:

You and your companion animal must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be considered for this program:

- Handlers must be at least 18 years old
- Handlers must have owned their pet for a minimum of one year
- Pets must be one year or older
- Pets must be spayed or neutered
- Pets must be current on vaccinations
- Pets must be non-aggressive in all situations towards humans and other animals
- Pets must be interested in people
- Pets must be well behaved with mastery of basic cues