

The Leonberger Club of America Therapy Dog Program recognizes Leonbergers and their owners for the time that is needed to commit to this activity.



To apply for the LCA's Therapy Award Certificate fill out the registration form below:

www.leonbergerclubofamerica.us/vl

Below: Kepler & Katia Simmons have made more than 300+ visits. They are in the LCA's Leonberger Hall of Fame for Service-Therapy.



John McRae and Coach were one of the founding partners for the LCA Therapy program. Coach made many people happy with her hospital visits.



Credit for the Cartoon of "Super Leo" goes to artist Britt Spencer and the Washingtonian magazine.

Below: Sadie and Lee Schenk go to schools to give comfort to students. Photo credit to the Chicago Tribune.

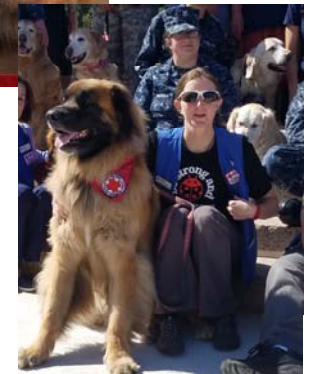


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Therapy dogs doing new tricks at north suburban high schools

Leonberger Club of America Therapy Dogs



Peggy Walker and Quinn



Aslan & Jen O'Keefe at the annual Blessing of the Animals at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Chaplains bless all the therapy and service dogs present: Red Cross, facility dogs and any emotional support animal.



Leonberger Club of America



Above: Juma with Kate Hladky visit high schools and hospitals.

Leonbergers are known for their gentle nature and loving hearts, which make them ideal therapy dogs. Their large size lends itself to heads gently placed in laps or on beds for the sick, a strong back for a child to lean against while learning to read or for a person learning to walk again after an accident.

Below: Burton and Pamela Isaacson bring smiles to the faces of the elderly.



"Quinn changed my life. Two years ago, I was at the hospital for the first time with my husband, who had been diagnosed with cancer. I was sitting in the waiting room by myself, terrified. You brought Quinn to visit with me and he sat on my lap and I hugged him and suddenly I knew that everything was going to be okay and a great sense of peace came over me." Patient at a city hospital



Leonbergers have been used as therapy dogs in just about every situation where a dog would be a good therapist.

From schools to hospitals, nursing homes to colleges, disasters to celebrations – Leonbergers participate and bring love, acceptance and understanding with their calm presence.

Above: Klaus and Julie Brenneman visit students at an elementary school.



How does a Leonberger become a therapy dog? A therapy dog must:

- have basic obedience and usually pass a Canine Good Citizen test
- be comfortable around adults and children alike
- be comfortable with other dogs
- be willing to move in and around hospital equipment
- be comfortable in chaotic situations including flashing lights and blaring noises
- be able to adjust to panic and fear in the people he's working with.



Obi-Wan & Ira Van Order on the way to a funeral to give comfort to a family that lost someone special.

When the Leo is comfortable with all of the training, the handler has the Leonberger tested with one of the many accredited groups that sponsor therapy dogs. After passing the test, the Leo is ready to start therapy work. The Leonberger Club of America has set up a Therapy Dog Mentor List to help individuals get acquainted with therapy work. For more information about the therapy program and mentor list, contact the Therapy Award Administrator:

therapydogs@leonbergerclubofamerica.com