

Role	Volunteer – Therapy pets
Purpose	To bring a temporary but regular animal companionship for patients in hospital/care centres.
Base	Community hospital and Mental Health wards
Hours	2-3 hours per week
Reports to	Ward Sister
Benefits of this volunteer activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports patients to develop their health, well-being and recovery • Opportunity to gain experience as well as new skills and knowledge • Opportunity to spend time doing something you can feel proud of • Improve your confidence • Opportunity to meet new people • References will be given to volunteers about their time in their placement
Exclusions	<p>Volunteers are not expected to be involved in any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving and handling of patients • Patients personal care
Key task	<p>Visiting dogs and their owners take on a commitment to provide a service to the community by sharing their health and temperament assessed pets. Giving a therapeutic wellbeing to patients and staff during visits.</p>
Person Specification and Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet to be registered with Pets as Therapy or similar approved organisation. • Good communication skills • Able to follow instructions • Willingness to help and work to time targets • Punctual and reliable • Enthusiasm for working with people and supporting them to improve their well-being and recovery • Able to work independently and as part of a team • Comfortable working in a fast-paced environment • Commitment to uphold trust core values and NHS policies
Training and Support Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Governance • Health and Safety • Infection Prevention and Control • Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Confidentiality • Safeguarding • Equality and Diversity • Local trust induction and orientation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any other mandatory training as specific by the trust <p>An enhanced DBS is required for this role. This is processed free of charge for volunteers.</p>
COVID-19 Guidance	<p>In line with government and LPT advice volunteers must:</p> <p>All volunteers must be aware of the need to stop volunteering should they feel unwell and to follow the latest government and NHS advice for the public especially regarding COVID-19 symptoms.</p>