



Pawsitively Transformational Health and Wellness, Inc

Pets and Helping Dogs Wellness Program Service Dog Program Description and Estimate

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I. Scope of Services

Pawsitively Transformational Health and Wellness, Inc (PAWS) recognizes that human and canine wellness are inextricably linked. Pets and Helping Dogs (PHD) is a **Wellness Program** of PAWS www.pawsitivelytransformational.com Wellness Programs do not bill insurance and thus the client is responsible for payment unless the client has a funding source. Wellness Programs provide holistic health-related services in support of mental health but are not mental health therapy services. The scope of the PHD Wellness Program is to provide canine-related education, consultation, and dog training services.

PAWS bills insurance for mental health therapy, another of its services. **Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT)** is mental health therapy. It is possible for a client to participate in mental health therapy sessions as well as in Wellness Program sessions: these occur separately and are billed separately.

1.1 The scope of the PHD Wellness Program is:

1. *Education:*

- a. Canine engagement training: building healthy connection and communication.
- b. Canine level of excitement regulation and focus.
- c. Canine obedience training.
- d. Canine loose-lead walking skills.
- e. Canine behavioral rehabilitation (as needed).
- f. Socialization of the dog to appropriate environments.
- g. Socialization of the dog to the presence of other dogs.
- h. Socialization of the dog to the presence of humans.
- i. Canine training on Service Dog work and tasks.
- j. Human education on healthy canine in-home structure.
- k. Human education on standards for ethical dog training and handling.
- l. Human education on rights and responsibilities of dog guardianship.
- m. Human education on rights and responsibilities of Helping Dog teams (Service Dog, Emotional Support Dog, and Therapy Dog teams), as appropriate.

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2. *Assessment:* PHD will assess and document skills and knowledge attained by the client and the enrolled dog and will provide a documentation packet at program graduation.

II. Credentials

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Nathaniel Lukas Redekopp, PhD, NCC, LPCC, CPDT-KA is the PHD Instructor. His PhD is in Spanish. He is a certified professional dog trainer through the Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT): www.ccpdt.org Nathaniel has provided dog training services since 2015 and apprenticed for two years. He is a CGC (Canine Good Citizen) Evaluator certified through the AKC (American Kennel Club).

Nathaniel is also a licensed professional mental health therapist (LPCC) in the state of New Mexico, with specialties including Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT), integrative mental health, and trauma/PTSD. Nathaniel's professional experience before becoming a therapist included work in civil rights investigation and education, as well as working bilingually (English/Spanish) as a university-level instructor.

Additionally, Nathaniel is a person who has utilized a Service Dog in support of his own health and wellness for over 10 years. He has extensive professional and personal experience and knowledge on training, living with, traveling with, and utilizing a Service Dog in New Mexico and other states.

III. Pre-requisites

Before Service Dog-specific skills will be taught to the client and enrolled dog, the dog and handler must pass our Novice Level Course. Novice Level requirements include passing the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluation or the program-equivalent skills assessment.

IV. Tuition

The estimates below are for Service Dog Program tuition costs after the enrolled dog has passed Novice Level.

The PHD Service Dog Program is a monthly tuition service. The client may choose between two, three, or four hours of service per month. Session typically occurs in Alamogordo, New Mexico (service area). Videocall format is available for out-of-town clients: these clients travel to

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Alamogordo periodically for assessment or instruction as arranged with the instructor. If session is scheduled to take place outside of the service area to accomplish learning objectives, there is a travel fee.

A monthly subscription of the appropriate type to the **Learning Portal** is required to maintain enrollment. The Learning Portal is our online homework and resource center. It has text and video to aid clients in their practice between sessions:

<https://www.pawsitivelytransformational.com/phd>

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Graduation requirements for the PHD Service Dog Program are standardized, defined, and competency based. They are based on practical, legal, and professional best-practice standards. The Service Dog Program consists of three levels: Tan Level, Red Level, and Blue Level. Requirements for passing each level are described in the Learning Portal. Program graduation occurs upon successful completion of Blue Level. Graduates receive a robust documentation packet. They will have learned a practical and ethical skillset for maintaining the dog's training to legal standards and for training another Service Dog just for themselves when the need arises. Registration of the dog with PHD is renewed yearly: while not required, renewal of registration is recommended as it documents that the client has maintained the training.

Some teams (client and dog) graduate earlier than the estimated time, and some take longer. The program length of 9 months identified in this document is for dog who has already passed the Novice Course, who is an adult (2 years old or older), who enters the program with average amount of socialization and leash training, who has no behaviors in need of rehabilitation, who receives four hours of service per month, and who makes average progress through the curriculum.

Progress toward graduation is individual to the team-in-training: the estimated program length here is not a guarantee of length, since graduation requirements are competency-based. It is possible that at any stage of the program, the PHD Instructor may determine that the team is not capable of or not likely of fulfilling graduation requirements.

The rate of progress toward graduation is affected by factors including:

1. the age, temperament and prior socialization of the enrolled dog
2. the needs of the client (handler of the enrolled dog)
3. how much the dog needs to know to function appropriately as a Service Dog for the client's unique needs
4. the amount of practice done between sessions

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5. how consistently the client and all those who care for and interact with the dog follow instructions

Gear is purchased from PHD. There is a buyback program for the Service Dog in-Training vest and mat for each program level. The charges for the vests/mats below are deposits. Upon the return of a vest/mat, a certain amount is credited back to the client's account according to policy posted in the Learning Portal: the amount depends on the condition of the gear.

Program Option 1

This estimate is for four hours of service per month. Two of the sessions per month are PHD Wellness Program sessions. The other two sessions are AAT (Animal-Assisted) therapy group sessions held at the Pawsitively Transformational office. Videocall format is not available for AAT therapy group session. Typically, clients use their healthcare insurance to pay for AAT.

Benefits of AAT therapy group include:

1. Education on human coping skills that can be done with a Service Dog. Client practices in context with their dog and gets interactive feedback.
2. The dog receives additional opportunities for socialization to a variety of humans and other canines.
3. The dog receives additional opportunities to learn and practice work/tasks and skills in context.

Cost Estimate

Description	Cost
Monthly tuition of \$159.90 for 2 hours of Wellness Program service per month, for 9 months	\$1439.10
Monthly Learning Portal subscription of \$19.95, for 9 months	\$134.55
Two AAT Therapy Group sessions per month. This estimate assumes client's insurance pays fully.	\$0
6-foot British slip lead	\$19.95
15-foot long line lead	\$24.95
PHD standard lead	\$19.95

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Program-specific nose halter	\$34.95
Vest/Mat Deposit – Tan Level	\$99.90
Vest/Mat Deposit – Red Level	\$99.90
Vest/Mat Deposit – Blue Level	\$99.90
Service Dog In-Training ID	\$34.95
Graduate Service Dog ID	\$34.95
Graduation packet	\$74.95

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Total cost: \$2,118.00 (tax not included)

Program Option 2

All four monthly hours of service are PHD Wellness Program sessions.

Description	Cost
Monthly tuition of \$319.80 for 4 hours of service per month, for 9 months	\$2878.20
Monthly Learning Portal subscription of \$19.95, for 9 months	\$179.95
6-foot British slip lead	\$19.95
15-foot long line lead	\$24.95
PHD standard lead	\$19.95
Program-specific nose halter	\$34.95
Vest/Mat Deposit – Tan Level	\$99.90
Vest/Mat Deposit – Red Level	\$99.90
Vest/Mat Deposit – Blue Level	\$99.90
In training ID	\$34.95
Graduate ID	\$34.95
Graduation packet	\$74.95

Total cost: \$3,602.50 (tax not included)

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