






## Beginning Therapy Dog Class

Seven Wednesday evenings, September 7 – October 19, 2011, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Come *without your dog* to the first class, and plan to spend *two hours* having more fun than you've had in a long time!

**Prerequisites:** Dog must be at least 10 months old and work well on a flat collar or harness. Dogs must know how to walk on a loose leash and stay in a quiet stand, sit, or lie down *before* taking this class. (In other words, this class is about applying basic obedience/manners skills to a therapy environment; it does not teach basic manners.) Aggressive or reactive dogs are not invited.

This seven-week class focuses on skills dogs and handlers need in order to work well together as a team while visiting healthcare facilities. I encourage clicker training in this class and allow any positively based training method.

Skills we cover include:

-  Fostering a therapeutic relationship with your dog
-  Interacting safely and effectively with people who are ill or disabled
-  Remaining safe around medical equipment (wheelchair, walker, cane)
-  Signs of dog stress and what to do about it
-  Dealing with food, "sniffables," and other common distractions

Class fee is \$150/team (includes clicker and handouts).

Maximum class size is 8 teams. This helps us provide individualized instruction. Minimum class size is 5 teams.

Class meets at Canine Co-Op, 908 Webb Street SE (off Pacific near St. Martin's University), Lacey, WA.

Bring to class: paper proof of rabies vaccination (needed only for the first class), dog bed/mat, treat bag with a *humongous* amount of tiny (pea-sized) *soft* treats, 4' leather or fabric leash. Dogs may be dressed in a halter, harness, or leather or fabric collar.

Registration deadline is September 1. To register, mail a registration form with fee to:  
Ann Howie  
5747 Red Alder Dr. NE  
Olympia, WA 98516-2142

Questions? Call **Ann Howie** at (360) **493-2586** or e-mail her at HumanAnimalSolutions@comcast.net.