



St. Mary's
HOSPITAL
PET THERAPY PROGRAM
Compassion Unleashed



*Spirits are raised
and hope is restored thanks
to these hardworking and
lovable volunteers.*

WHAT IS A THERAPY DOG?

Therapy dogs are family pets, not service dogs like those that assist the disabled. An obedient dog that deals well with different situations and genuinely enjoys meeting people may be well on its way to becoming a therapy dog.

St. Mary's currently recognizes certification credentials from three national organizations:

 **THERAPY DOGS INC**
www.therapydogs.com

 **THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL**
www.tdi-dog.org

 **DELTA SOCIETY**
www.deltasociety.org





Dogs on Call, Inc
www.dogsoncall.org

The local Delta chapter offers 2-day certification preparation classes 3-4 times a year.

Please contact St. Mary's Hospital Volunteer Services at (608) 258-6640 if you are interested in learning more about the program.



WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS BECOME.

Since the program was started in 2004, it has grown from a single golden retriever visiting two nursing units, to:

-  16 teams, with breeds ranging from as small as a Pug to as large as a Bernese Mountain Dog
-  15 nursing units including the pediatric, cardiac, renal and stroke units, as well as the emergency room and various intensive care units
-  Handlers range from college students to retirees
-  2006 WAVE (*Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence*) Award Winner through the Wisconsin Hospital Association

Teams are allowed to set as flexible or structured a visit schedule as they wish. The program is designed to complement each volunteer's other commitments.

Teams can come:

-  As often as they wish, or as little as once a month
-  Weekdays, evenings, or weekends

Special requests for visits can be made through Volunteer Services and if a team is available and allowed on the nursing unit, a visit will be arranged.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED.

All Pet Therapy teams are required to be certified and fulfill St. Mary's volunteer orientation requirements. Certification is not as involved as many may think and often can be attained in weeks if the dog is obedient and ready.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

In 2008, St. Mary's Foundation began a scholarship program to generate additional interest in pet therapy in the Madison area. The program is intended to cover some of the additional costs incurred by pet therapy volunteers, including certification preparation classes and certification/recertification fees. Scholarship amounts are dependent on gifts to the Pet Therapy Program and the number of scholarship applications received.



*For more information
about applying for a
scholarship or making a
gift to the program,
please visit the
St. Mary's Foundation
website at
stmarysfoundation.org*

WHY THE LOVE OF A DOG?

The St. Mary's Pet Therapy program is a special way we show compassion for our patients, their families, and even hospital staff. A visit from one of our canine volunteers can help relieve the stress of the day and is a small piece of the hospital's support network. There are always smiles when these special volunteers enter a patient's room or are just seen walking the halls.



MITSY SUE
Jim Lackore
Partner
(608)258-6640

Breed: Brussels Griffon
Born: April 9, 2004
Started at St. Mary's: 2005
Favorite Toy: "Booda Bird"
Works for: Affection, Treats

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St♥Mary's HOSPITAL

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Madison, WI 53715

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www.stmarysmadison.com

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