



How to Become a Pet Hug Pack® (PHP) Volunteer

Basic Animal Requirements:

- Must be at least one year old
 - Must be spayed or neutered
 - May not eliminate indoors during evaluation or on visits
 - Must be comfortable traveling in a car, in new environments, and around groups at events and/or facilities.
 - Animals with ongoing medical conditions may be considered for the program as long as the visits do not aggravate the condition.
 - Animals taking medications such as antibiotics, antifungals or immunosuppressants (steroid and chemotherapy medications) will not be able to participate until treatment is completed.
 - Any significant change in health requires a re-assessment by the Pet Hug Pack coordinator.
 - Animals must be current on vaccinations:
 - Dogs-
 - Required: DHPP/Rabies
 - Recommended: Bordetella
 - Cats-
 - Required: Rabies, FVRCP
 - Recommended: FeLV
- Other animals-Rabies and other vaccines as recommended by veterinarian.*

Dog Specific Requirements: (Many of these must be demonstrated on the Canine Good Citizen test).

- Dogs must be able to walk on a loose leash using accepted equipment (flat collar, martingale collar, or harness and non-retractable leash). No prong, slip chain, or electronic collars.
- Dogs should demonstrate good manners when greeting people (e.g. no jumping, pulling, licking, drooling, or body slamming).
- Dogs must be interested in visiting with new people, not just tolerate them (e.g. dog adores all people and wants to approach every stranger, leans in or makes eye contact).
- We encourage positive reinforcement-based techniques--*we discourage the use of aversive training and equipment, especially when used to inhibit aggressive, reactive or rude behaviors.*

- Demonstrate good basic obedience skills and pass the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test. In addition to this test, animals should walk on a loose leash, and respond reliably to common commands such as “sit,” “down,” “stay,” “come,” and “leave it.”
- Cannot have a history of aggressive/reactive responses to people or other dogs (growling, biting, or lunging).
- May not be a working service dog

Cat Specific Requirements:

- Cats must be harness and leash trained.
- Cats must enjoy visiting with various people in novel environments, not just at home. This includes consistently positive reactions to and soliciting of continued handling and petting.
- Cannot be sensitive to or over-stimulated by touch, or respond to petting with teeth or claws.
- We encourage positive reinforcement-based training techniques and discourage the use of corrections or aversive equipment, including spray bottles and noisemakers.

Basic Handler Requirements:

- Must be 18 years old
- Animals must have been in the handler’s home for a minimum of six months
- Handlers must be able to identify their animals signals of stress/discomfort (know when they are fatigued, stressed, worried, or overstimulated).
- must pass live scan fingerprinting
- Must demonstrate proactive handling, such as cueing or redirecting using a calm voice and encouraging and reassuring animal as needed.
 - Good leash handling- does not get pulled by dog or drop the leash at any time.
- Advocate for the safety and well-being of their animal at all times

How to get started in Pet Hug Pack:

1. Submit Application for program:
https://www.arflife.org/files/pdf/Pet_Hug_Pack_Application_2018.pdf
2. Pet Hug Pack Coordinator will contact you to set up a meeting.
 - a. Coordinator will meet with you and your animal at ARF for an initial assessment (about 30 minutes)
 - b. During the meeting-Coordinator will assess the animals comfort in new environments, reaction to handling, and interaction with new people, as well as the handler's ability to detect stress signals and ability to demonstrate proactive handling.
 - i. Dogs must be on a flat collar, martingale collar, or harness and leash.
 - ii. Cats must be on harness and leash.
 - iii. Any animal that eliminates during the evaluation will be automatically disqualified. Elimination includes "marking."
 - iv. Handlers must be able to control animal at all times and demonstrate good communication with animal.
3. Dogs must have pass the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen test or hold a CGC certificate earned in the past 24 months (CGC test components, attached)
 - a. Test can be administered at ARF or another AKC approved organization (Fee for test at ARF is \$50).
 - b. To schedule your test please email ARF's dog training coordinator at DogTraining@arflife.org
 - c. ARF offers a 6-week training course for the CGC test for an additional fee.
 - d. ARF's website lists current dates, prices, and registration information for the Canine Good Citizen Test Prep class or register online at www.arflife.org/sports-and-specialty/wa/cgc

After you pass the Pet Hug Pack assessment and Canine Good Citizen:

1. Attend ARF's Volunteer Orientation. Volunteer Orientation is scheduled through our Volunteer Services Department. Please check our website for upcoming sessions-
<https://www.arflife.org/adult-volunteer>
2. Live Scan Fingerprinting
3. Attend Pet Hug Pack information session

If you are interested in joining Pet Hug Pack, please contact the coordinator directly at pethugpack@arflife.org or 925-296-3176.

If admitted to the Pet Hug Pack you will receive:

- Pet Hug Pack volunteer manual.
 - Pet Hug Pack vest (cost: \$45.00 fee) for your animal, required for all PHP activities (visits, outreach events, etc.).
 - Pet Hug Pack Polo (cost: \$20.00 fee) for you, required for all PHP activities (visits, outreach events, etc.).
- A list of visiting opportunities, which include:
 - All Ears Reading[®] - reading program for children.
 - To learn more about this program, please visit <https://www.arflife.org/all-ears-reading>
 - ARF Outreach Events - educating the public about ARF's adoption and community programs.
 - Humane Education - working alongside ARF's Humane Education staff to visit local schools to promote the humane treatment of animals and responsible pet care techniques.
 - Facility Visits - visiting patients at local hospitals, assisted-living, skilled nursing, adult and child day care, memory care, acute care, and rehab facilities.
- ARF asks for one activity a month from PHP teams. An activity may be a facility visit, humane education, an outreach event, or one session of All Ears Reading[®].
- Handlers with more than one pet on the team are to take only one pet to a visit, event, or reading program.

The American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Test Components

Accepting a friendly stranger

- Test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
- Evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog.
- Evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries.
- Dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.
- Dog must not break position or try to go to the evaluator.

Sitting politely for petting

- Test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.
- To begin the exercise the dog is sitting at the handler's side.
- Evaluator pets the dog on the head and body.
- Dog may stand in place as it is petted.
- Dog must not show shyness or resentment.

Appearance and grooming

- Test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined by someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner.
- Evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed.
- Dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert).
- Handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog.
- Evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot.
- Not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination.

Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

- Test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog.
- Dog may be on either side of the handler.
- Dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction.
- Dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops.
- Evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands.
- There will be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end.
- Handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

Walking through a crowd

- Test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.
- Dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three).
- Dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness or resentment.
- Dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

Sit and down on command and Staying in place

- Test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and stay.
- Dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay.
- Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20 feet long.
- Handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down.
- Evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands.
- Handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace.
- Dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog.
- Dog may be released from the front or the side.

Coming when called

- Test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.
- Handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog.
- Handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come.

Reaction to another dog

- Test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.
- Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.
- The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other.
- Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

Reaction to distraction

- Test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations.
- Evaluator will select and present two distractions (dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane).
- Dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark.

Supervised separation

- Test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.
- Handler will go out of sight for three minutes.
- Dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness.
- Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g., "there, there, it's alright.")

Equipment

- All tests must be performed on leash. Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle or slip collars made of leather or fabric. Special training collars such as pinch collars, head halters, etc. are not permitted in the CGC test.
- The evaluator supplies a 20-foot lead for the test.
- Handler should bring the dog's brush or comb to the test.

Encouragement

- Handlers may use praise and encouragement throughout the test.
- Handler may pet the dog between exercises.
- Food and treats are not permitted during testing, nor is the use of toys, squeaky toys, etc. to get the dog to do something.

Failures – Dismissals

- Any dog that eliminates during testing must be marked failed.
- The only exception to this rule is that elimination is allowable in Separation Test, but only when Separation Test is held outdoors.
- Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, attacks, or attempts to attack a person or another dog is not a good citizen and must be dismissed from the test.