



Sunshine
ON A LEASH

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What is the minimum pet age?

Pets must be at least one year of age.

Q What is the minimum age for the human team member?

The minimum age is 10 years. Handlers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult on visits. Handlers under 14 may not be able to visit all facilities.

Q How long should the pet have lived with me?

The pet should have lived with you for a minimum of 6 months.

Q Can more than one person be certified with the same pet?

Yes. Each person must be individually evaluated with the pet, complete the Pet Partner Team Training Course, and register with Delta Society.

Q Does each person in the same family or being evaluated with the same pet have to buy a workbook?

No, workbooks may be shared but be sure to copy the forms from the workbook that need to be filled out and mailed in to Delta Society.

Q Can I be evaluated with another persons pet?

Yes. The pet must have lived with the owner for a minimum of 6 months and the owner needs to give you written permission.

Q Does my certification expire?

Yes, it is good for two years. After two years you must be re-evaluated and renew your registration with Delta Society.

Q Are dogs the only acceptable pets for Pet Partners?

No, other domestic animals are accepted, such as cats, rabbits and birds.

Q I understand a very small dog can be carried for parts of the evaluation. How small is very small?

The dog should be no more that 10" at the shoulder and approximately 10 to 15 pounds. He should be able to be easily picked up with one hand by an average person.

Q My dog had had some bite training. Can he be evaluated?

No. Delta Society's liability insurance does not cover dogs with any bite training.

Q I use a metal slip collar on my dog. Is this acceptable?

No. Acceptable collars are: buckle collars; quick-release or snap closure collars; harnesses of leather or fabric; martingales of all fabric; halters (e.g. Gentle Leader, Promise, Snoot Loop, Halti). Metal buckles, D-rings, and leash attachments on these collars, harnesses, and halters are acceptable. "no pull" harnesses, metal slip collars, metal prong or pinch collars, nylon slip collars, anti-bark collars and muzzles are not acceptable. Acceptable leashes are all leather or fabric, no more than 6 feet long. The leash should be appropriate for the size of the dog. Metal and flexi-lease are not acceptable.

Q After I complete my certification, am I on my own?

You are free to visit on your own, but an advantage of being a *Sunshine On A Leash* member is that all of the organization of the participating facilities has already been done for you. An experienced team member will guide you through your first visits until you feel comfortable. Also, some facilities do require Delta Society certification and *Sunshine On A Leash* membership for all visiting teams.

Q Do I have a choice of when I can do Pet Partner visits?

Of course. The team coordinators will set up a schedule for you based on your availability and preferences.

Q What if I'm already certified through a different organization other than the Delta Society?

You and your pet may visit, but you would be required to organize and make arrangements with the facilities yourself. To be a part of *Sunshine On A Leash*, you must be certified through the Delta Society. Also, as stated above, some facilities do require Delta Society certification and *Sunshine On A Leash* membership for all visiting teams.

Q If I do not have a pet, can I still become involved?

Good question. You may complete the Home Study Course and become certified as a human volunteer. That means that you can visit with the Pet Partner teams and help in different ways. One way to help is to be the photographer at the facility. We often take instant pictures of the pets with the patients. The patients treasure these mementos. There are, of course, other ways in which you can become involved with a pet.

Q How can I find out more information about the Delta Society?

You may visit their website at www.deltasociety.org. There you can find information about Pet Partners and other programs. Or, you can call them at (425) 226-7357.

Q Who can I contact for more information about *Sunshine On A Leash*?

The Pet Partners coordinators are Karen Frick (772) 359-9797, Karen@sunshineonaleash.org) and Maureen Parsons (561) 776-8237, maureen@sunshineonaleash.org).

Q I'm interested in signing up to be evaluated with my pet. What do I do now?

The *Sunshine On A Leash* and Delta Society websites list the evaluation dates that are scheduled throughout the year. Fill out the application form and send it with a non-refundable check payable to Maureen Parsons for \$25.00 to: Karen Frick, 3721 Community Drive, Jupiter, FL 33458. You will be called the week before the evaluation with directions and an appointment time.