

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICE TRAINED FACILITY DOGS

The Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District supports the use of social service trained facility dogs by teachers or other qualified school personnel ("Owner") for the benefit of students subject to the conditions of this policy.

A "Social Service Trained Facility Dog", often referred to narrowly as a "therapy dog", is a dog that has been individually trained and certified to work with its owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school district students. For the purposes of this policy, Social Service Trained Facility Dogs are not "service animals" as defined within the American with Disabilities Act.

Social Service Trained Facility Dogs are personal property of the teacher or employee and are not owned by the school district.

Social Service Trained Facility Dog Standards and Procedures

The following requirements must be satisfied before a Social Service Trained Facility Dog will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

A. *Requests:*

All individuals who wish to bring a Social Service Trained Facility Dog for the benefit of students to District property must submit a written application to the superintendent or his/her designee. A copy of the application is attached. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different Social Service Trained Facility Dog will be used.

B. *Training and Certification:*

The Owner must submit certification of AKC Good Citizen Title or Therapy Certification from one of the following AKC recognized organizations:

- Alliance of Therapy Dogs (formerly Therapy Dogs, Inc.)
- Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs
- Love on a Leash
- Pet Partners (previously Delta Society)
- Therapy Dogs Incorporated (TD Inc.) – new name is Alliance of Therapy Dogs

- Therapy Dogs International

C. *Health and Vaccination:*

The Social Service Trained Facility Dog must be clean, well groomed, in good health, housebroken, and immunized against disease common to dogs including rabies. The Owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the Social Service Trained Facility Dog's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

D. *Control:*

A Social Service Trained Facility Dog must be under the control of the Owner through the use of a leash or other tether unless the use of a leash or other tether would interfere with the Social Service Trained Facility Dog's safe, effective performance of its services for students such as might be the case in a closed controlled environment such as a classroom or office.

The Social Service Trained Facility Dog must not disrupt the educational process by barking, seeking attention, or engaging in any other disruptive behavior.

E. *Identification:*

The Social Service Trained Facility Dog must have appropriate identification clearly indicating that it is a Social Service Trained Facility Dog.

F. *Health and Safety:*

The Social Service Trained Facility Dog must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school.

G. *Supervision and Care of Social Service Trained Facility Dog s:*

The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the Social Service Trained Facility Dog , including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a District building or on district property. The District is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a Social Service Trained Facility Dog .

H. *Authorized Area(s):*

The Owner shall only allow the Social Service Trained Facility Dog to be in areas in District buildings or on District property that are authorized by District administrators.

I. *Exclusion or Removal from School:*

A Social Service Trained Facility Dog can be excluded from a District building or District property if a District Administrator determines any of the following:

1. The Owner does not have control of the Social Service Trained Facility Dog ;
2. The Social Service Trained Facility Dog is not housebroken
3. The Social Service Trained Facility Dog presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the District building or on district property; or
4. The Social Service Trained Facility Dog's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the Social Service Trained Facility Dog from the District building or District property immediately upon such determination.

Allergic Reactions

If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a Social Service Trained Facility Dog is permitted, suffers an allergic reaction to the Social Service Trained Facility Dog , the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

Damages to School Property and Injuries

The owner of the Social Service Trained Facility Dog is solely responsible and liable for any damage to a district building or District property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

Adoption Date 7/6/22