

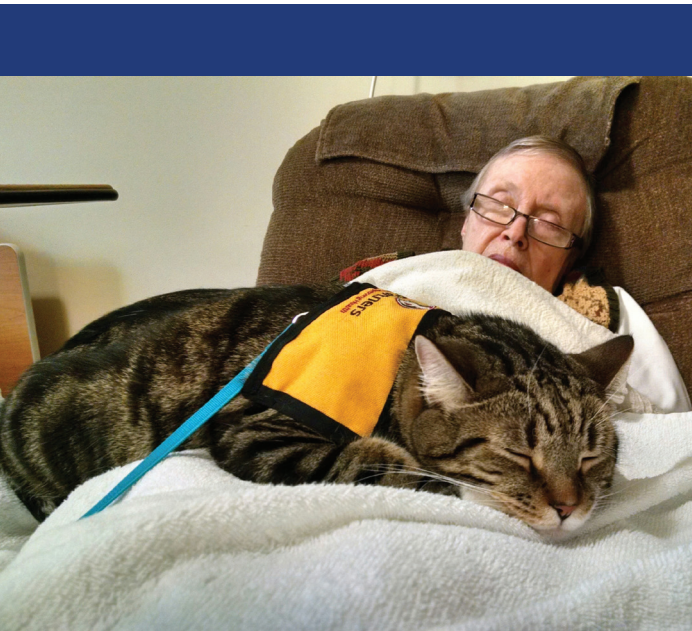
Regular visits from a pet during a time of illness can boost morale and expedite the recovery process

### Do you have a cat with an extra dose of love to give?

If your cat is friendly, well behaved and patient, you may have all the makings of an excellent therapy team.

All you need is some training and confirmation from your vet that your cat is healthy and up to date on vaccines and you and your pet can begin spreading the love.

Take the online quiz to see if your pet is right for therapy work: [www.PetPartners.com/quiz](http://www.PetPartners.com/quiz)



## Your Cat Is Too Perfect Not To Share

Volunteering for therapy work with your cat is a rewarding experience. As a therapy cat team you will:

- Share the animal you love with others
- Do more with your cat
- Give back to your community

Check to see if your cat meets the current behavior/health requirements:

[petpartners.org/volunteer](http://petpartners.org/volunteer)

Take a Handler Course to learn the responsibilities of a successful volunteer:

[petpartners.org/volunteer/become-a-handler/](http://petpartners.org/volunteer/become-a-handler/)

For more information on TICA's Therapy Cat program go to:

[www.tica.org/en/awards/therapy-cat-title-program](http://www.tica.org/en/awards/therapy-cat-title-program)

For more details on registering your feline as a therapy cat go to:

[PetPartners.org](http://PetPartners.org)



The International Cat Association  
306 E. Jackson  
Harlingen, TX, 78550  
[www.tica.org](http://www.tica.org)

## Volunteering with Your Cat TICA Therapy Cat Program



Our pets are an endless source of unconditional love...

...Why not share some of that happiness with those who need it most.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Join more than 15,000 volunteers nationwide!

Volunteering with your cat as a Therapy Team is a rewarding way to make a difference in the lives of hospital patients, nursing home residents and even neighbors who aren't as mobile as they used to be.

TICA is the first cat registry where teams of cats and owners can earn titles, certificates and badges for their feline by registering as a Therapy Cat and volunteering as a team.

Once your cat has met the requirements and is registered as a Therapy Cat by a TICA approved organization, such as Pet Partners, your team can earn 3 levels of titles based on approved visits made.

While the emphasis is on helping others, along the way you'll end up making new friends, and earn an invaluable sense of accomplishment



### How do I know if my cat is the right fit for therapy work?

Therapy cats range from household cats to pedigreed cats, but the single most important characteristic of a therapy cat is its temperament. A good therapy cat must be very friendly, patient, confident, gentle at all times, and at ease in any situation. Therapy cats must also enjoy contact with adults, as well as children, and be content with being petted and sometimes handled clumsily.

### What are the health requirements for my cat?

Since therapy cats often work with people who are ill or otherwise immune compromised, therapy cats must be up to date on vaccinations and be on a routine annual exam schedule. A screening form must be signed by your veterinarian to confirm that your cat is healthy and able to participate in the program.

### Once registered, what opportunities will my cat and I have for visits?

Therapy cats provide affection and comfort to people in retirement homes, nursing homes, hospices, schools and other human service care facilities.

Not only do they provide comfort, they can also lower blood pressure, help people feel safe and relieve loneliness and depression. Visit Pet Partners calendar of volunteering events on their website [www.PetPartners.org](http://www.PetPartners.org).

### What benefits have cats been found to offer patients?

Therapy cats have been used to help kids with developmental disorders like autism be more comfortable and have also been found to stimulate both memory and forgotten emotions in Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Other benefits have included strengthened fine muscle skills and enhanced hand-eye coordination from brushing and a decrease in blood pressure when being held.

### Can my kids go on visits with me and my cat?

Yes, the person handling the animal must be at least 10 years old. Those younger than 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have written permission to participate from their parent or guardian.

### How do I get started?

Team registration is the process you and your cat will go through to demonstrate that you are both suitable and prepared for therapy animal work. Once you and your cat have met the requirements and registered as a Therapy Cat with a TICA approved organization, such as Pet Partners, your team can begin volunteering.

