

# OUR PROGRAMS

## Paws With Love to Share

The certified dogs and cats in this program are a welcome sight in nursing homes, retirement residences, hospitals and day-away programs. In communities across Canada, from coast to coast, more than 600 volunteers share their dogs and cats and bring smiles to senior's faces every week. Words can't express the joy, happiness and gratitude expressed by the staff and those who we visit. A simple concept of sharing reaps huge rewards.

## Paws-Abilities

Therapeutic Paws of Canada offers the Paws-Abilities program for people of all ages to explore the full "paws-ability" to reach their goals. TPOC believes in bringing the fun and joy back into tasks that may be incredibly difficult. Our teams work with those dealing with mental, physical, emotional, and trauma induced disabilities. We tailor our program to the individual needs of the person. Some visits focus on social interaction, some on physical motivation in physiotherapy, and some on attentiveness and calming. Simply having a pet therapy team present takes the focus off the task at hand and redirects it to the interaction between the person and the pet. No matter the goal, the outcomes are always positive and bring the fun factor into the challenge of the person's regular therapy.

## Paws to Read®

The **Paws To Read®** program is offered to primary schools and libraries free of charge. In the PTR® program, children read to a Child Certified evaluated pet in a relaxed atmosphere. Children can be hurtful and may ridicule those that have difficulty reading. Reading with a dog/cat helps to improve a child's self-confidence and desire to read. The dog/cat is non-judgmental. Teachers and parents have commented that there is a significant increase in the reading abilities of a child that has participated in the Paws to Read® program.



## Paws for Comfort

Therapeutic Paws of Canada volunteers also offer the **Paws for Comfort** program. This program has been designed for dogs/cats and their handlers who want to participate in visitation at fire stations, EMS facilities, shelters, hospices, disaster sites, grief/loss support, school crisis support and wherever there is a need. The dog/cat, accompanied by their handler, is there expressly to offer emotional support.

## PAWS Room

Secondary schools, colleges and universities are offered the **PAWS** Room program. TPOC volunteers visit many secondary schools, colleges and universities through the PAWS Room program. The presence of a therapy pet helps reduce the student's stress levels during exam time and reduces feelings of loneliness for family, friends and the family pet while living away from home.

## Support Pets

The Support Pet program is designed to accommodate specific requests on behalf of clients from organizations such as Victim Witness Assistance Program, Victim Services Assistance Programs, Canadian courts, and Police Agencies. The Support Pet is accompanied by its handler and is there expressly to offer emotional support either in an interview room setting, or at times in the courtroom during proceedings. The Support Pet and their handler will offer emotional support only to the victim or witness. Due to the difficult subject matter that may be heard during interviews and testimonies, this program is not for every TPOC volunteer. Participants in the Support Pet program must be Child Certified.