

# Facility Dogs – What You Need To Know Before EmBARKing On Developing Your Own Program

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*Teddy, Safe Harbor Facility Dog*

## Teddy

- Benefits of a Facility Dog
- First Facility Dog at a CAC in the State of WI
- 1 of 218 Facility Dogs in the US
- English Black Lab
- Bred, trained, and graduated from Duo Assistance Dogs out of St. Louis, MO
- National Parks Litter
- Turning 3 years old in October
- Raised by a puppy raiser from 8 weeks to 18 months
- Teddy's roles

## What is a Facility Dog?

- Bred, selected, and trained to be a professional working dog
- Graduate from an accredited Assistance Dogs International (ADI) organization
- 80% of a dog's temperament is due to their genetic makeup
- Handler is a professional working at the facility
- Secondary handler

## Concerns Regarding Use of Therapy Dogs

- Pets with special training that passed a disposition test
- No testing for child interaction
- Handled by volunteers
- Always attached by leash
- Handlers can be subpoenaed
- Liability insurance only if the handler is a volunteer and the dog is attached by leash
- Limited to two hours of work per day
- If signs of stress are observed, the dog must immediately be removed, which can interrupt a forensic interview or testimony

## Creating a Facility Dog Program

- Do your research
- Choose the handler
- Choose the schools you will apply to
- Create a budget
- Create a job description for the dog
- Obtain buy-in from stakeholders
- Write a protocol for your dog, if necessary
- Train staff and community partners prior to dogs arrival

## Common Concerns

- Allergies to dogs
- Fear of dogs
- Cultural issues

## Caring For Your Facility Dog

- Daily exercise
- Daily training
- Regular grooming: teeth, nails, brushing
- Veterinary care
- Obtaining sponsorships

## Office Rules

- Dog must be “invisible” while working
- Only handlers can give commands
- No food/treats while working
- Designated social interaction

## Preparing Your Office

- Window Cling
- Trading Cards
- Coloring Book
- Notes to the Facility Dog

## Contact Information

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