



Enriching lives through animal companionship

Pets as Therapy
South Africa



The Therapy Dog's Bill of Rights

As a therapy dog, I have the right to an animal guardian who:

- Obtains my consent to participate in the work.
- Provides positive training and gentle guidance to help me understand what I am supposed to do.
- Is considerate of my perception of the world.
- Helps me adapt to the new environment.
- Guides the client, staff, and visitors to interact with me appropriately.
- Focuses on me, as much as the client, staff and visitors.
- Pays attention to my non-verbal cues and responds effectively.
- Takes action to reduce my stress.
- Supports me during interactions with others.
- Protects me from over-work.
- Gives me ways to relax after sessions.
- Provides a well-rounded life with nutritious food, medical care, physical and intellectual exercise, social time, and activities beyond work.
- Respects my desire to retire from work when I think it is time.