



Planning Ahead: Costs Associated with volunteering as a K9 c.a.r.e.s. Canine Assisted Therapy Dog Team

K9 c.a.r.e.s. volunteer members are known for their high standards, and their dedication and commitment to the facilities they choose to visit. Regardless of the frequency of their visits, both the clients and the staff of the facilities we serve look forward to our member's visits. Quite often the therapy dog visits are the highlight of their day for volunteers, the individuals served and the facility staff. For teams that visit with children in literacy programs, children often count the days until their next visit. Our teams not only provide tremendously positive experiences for the people they serve, they also provide healing that only canines can give.

In addition to the commitment of your time to become a K9 c.a.r.e.s. volunteer member, there are other costs involved with becoming a registered therapy dog team. Here are some items to consider when planning ahead for your budget:

- Training to prepare your dog for becoming a therapy dog team is important if working with your dog in public is new to you. It is the Handler's responsibility to have their dog trained to the standards required to pass a Delta Society Evaluation. If you are not sure how much training your dog might need, you might want to consider an optional AKC Canine Good Citizen® training class (\$ Varies).
- Delta Society Pet Partners Workshop training through K9 c.a.r.e.s. (\$190.00). The workshop fee includes one complimentary Evaluation.
- Veterinarian cost for providing your dog's health screening as required by Delta Society. A professional cleaning of your dog's teeth may be needed as determined during the health screening.
- Grooming/Bathing on a regular basis to maintain cleanliness standards.
- Delta Society Membership fee, bi-annually (\$90.00, includes two years of liability insurance).
- Transportation cost to and from the facility and K9 c.a.r.e.s. events and continuing education sessions.
- Additional equipment you may want to purchase. Leads, collars, special toys, books (\$ Varies).
- K9 c.a.r.e.s. Membership fees (To join: \$25.00 membership fee (Includes K9 c.a.r.e.s. ID badge and a background check), \$35 for a K9 c.a.r.e.s. vest for your dog (required), \$15.00 for additional dogs. After the first year, the renewal fees are \$25.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family and/or multiple dogs.
- Delta Society Pet Partners Bi-Annual Renewal Evaluations, through K9 c.a.r.e.s. (K9 c.a.r.e.s. members evaluations are \$25.00, \$30.00 for non-members).

*This list is an estimate of approximate costs. Additional costs may be incurred on a case by case basis.