

ANIMAL THERAPY PROGRAMS

People-pet teams are required to participate in special training programs. In Portland, programs are offered by the [Oregon Humane Society](#) and [Dove Lewis Animal Assisted Therapy & Education](#). These programs prepare individuals and their animals to become registered AAT teams with the national organization Pet Partners.



In the [Little Dog Laughed Animal Assisted Therapy](#) program, volunteer dog/handler pairs help teach relationship and problem-solving skills to at-risk youth through classes in positive dog training.

[Project POOCH](#), Inc., re-homes shelter dogs, teaching youth in corrections to care for and train shelter dogs for adoption to help them develop the personal and vocational skills they need to become responsible, productive members of the community. The kennels welcome volunteer veterinarians, groomers, trainers and presenters.

Animal-assisted Therapy Programs

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of people and work with animals, consider an animal-assisted therapy program. Health professionals conduct animal-assisted programs as part of individual therapy program. For example, in equine-assisted therapy, individuals receive hands-on training in horsemanship to address various disorders and disabilities.

Depending upon your interest, experience and skills, you can participate in therapy sessions, side walk (on either side of horse and rider), or help feed, groom, brush, or clean horse's stalls. You can get involved in clerical and fundraising activities, or help at special events. You'll get training in the area of your interest.

Therapy Riding Centers that Welcome Volunteers

- [BEAT Riding Center](#): Teaches horsemanship to physically, mentally and emotionally challenged individuals. [Volunteer](#). Banks.
- [Chehalem Mountain Therapy Riding Center](#): Interactions with horses to improve the lives of persons with special needs. Camps. [Volunteer](#).
- [Forward Stride](#): Therapy and veterans' programs. [Volunteer](#).
- [Horses of Hope, An Equine Therapy experience](#). Improves lives of people with physical, emotional, and behavioral challenges through equine assisted programs. [Volunteer](#). Turner.
- [Sycamore Lane Therapeutic Riding Center](#). Therapeutic horseback riding, hippo therapy, veterans' services and equine facilitated psychotherapy to both children and adults. [Volunteer](#). Oregon City.

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