

# Velma 'Pets As Therapy' Training School

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ABN: 77 710 417 269



**"Enriching the lives of people and pets by bringing them together safely and respectfully for mutual benefits"**

## **Prerequisite quiz to taking the Velma's Pets As Therapy Foundation Certificate Course**

### **Am I and my pet suitable to train for Pets As Therapy and are we likely to enjoy it?**

This is a brief self-assessment quiz that we've designed using our 20+ years experience of training pets and their handlers that are often therapists, teachers, managers, carers, doctors, nurses, counsellors, ministers, volunteers; and people wanting to take a pet to work.

This quiz offers important questions and requires answers to help you to decide if you and your pet are suitable and would enjoy offering a Pets As Therapy service.

## Am I likely to be suitable for Pets As Therapy and will I enjoy it?

<p>Are you aged 18 plus?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Yes You are suitable. There are certain health care facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes, that require pet handlers to be aged 18+. Some accept under 18 years of age when accompanied by a fully trained adult. Children aged under 18 can also sometimes affect the Pet Therapy insurance.</p>		<p>No There are certain health care facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes, that require pet handlers to be aged 18+. Some accept under 18 years of age when accompanied by a fully trained adult. Children aged under 18 can also sometimes affect the Pet Therapy insurance. Therefore, you may be suitable depending on the circumstances.</p>
<p>I truly enjoy putting smiles onto faces and joy in hearts; and making a significant difference in people's lives for the better.</p>	<p>Yes / Some- times / No</p>	<p>Yes You are likely to find this personally, deeply rewarding</p>	<p>Sometimes This may not be for you. Re-consider your motives for this work and maybe consider something else.</p>	<p>No This may not be for you. Re-consider your motives for this work and maybe consider something else.</p>

I wish to start, enhance or develop a Pets As Therapy program or business at my location, or as a business or charity; or I wish to take my pet to work with me to enhance my work and / or the environment.	Yes / No	Yes This is for you.		No What else did you have in mind? Email us and talk to us about your intentions.
I am able, capable, willing and happy to study to learn new professional, health and safety, risk assessment, insurance and legal aspects, pet training, and pet handling skills. (Volunteers are required to operate at professional standards due to being likely to work with vulnerable people).	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes This is for you. Initially it takes a good amount of study, practice and learning of new skills.	Sometimes This may not be for you. This requires specific skills and if you can't commit for what ever reason, then maybe you should re-consider this work.	Sometimes This may not be for you. This requires specific skills and if you can't commit for what ever reason, then maybe you should re-consider this work.
After training, I will be capable and happy to risk assess and instruct clients / patients / residents / staff / all people, in health and safety, risk management and safe pet interaction instructions.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes This is for you. Confidently giving clear, precise and safe instructions to everyone coming into contact with the pet is essential.	Sometimes Not all people feel comfortable giving assertive instructions to others, even when they have been trained to do so. Being assertive and giving clear	No Not all people feel comfortable giving assertive instructions to others, even when they have been trained to do so. Being assertive and giving clear instructions is an essential part of safe Pets As Therapy. If you

			instructions is an essential part of safe Pets As Therapy. If you don't feel comfortable with this, this it is not for you.	don't feel comfortable with this, this it is not for you.
I enjoy and am confident talking with people from all walks of life.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes This is for you. When a pet is with you, you will be approached by a variety of adults and children at the location, including managers, staff, visitors, etc., and getting to and from the location.	Sometimes This may not be for you if you don't enjoy and feel confident talking with a variety of people. Your confidence and enjoyment levels will be obvious to others, and is essential for keeping the pet and everyone safe.	Sometimes This may not be for you if you don't enjoy and feel confident talking with a variety of people. Your confidence and enjoyment levels will be obvious to others, and is essential for keeping the pet and everyone safe.
I have a deep respect and truly enjoy being in the company of the species of pet I intend to operate with; and looking forward to developing a deeper bond with my/the pet.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes This is for you. Respecting the pet and developing a deep loving and trusting mutual bond is essential for presenting good, safe, beneficial and enjoyable Pets As Therapy.	Sometimes This is not for you. We've attempted to train people in the past that did not have a respect and fondness of the animal and it just doesn't work. The animal picks up on this, and it	No This is not for you. We've attempted to train people in the past that did not have a respect and fondness of the animal and it just doesn't work. The animal picks up on this, and it significantly affects the Pets As Therapy being presentation in a negative

			significantly affects the Pets As Therapy being presentation in a negative manner. People also pick up on the lack of bond between the pet handler and the pet and this can cause concern with clients.	manner. People also pick up on the lack of bond between the pet handler and the pet and this can cause concern with clients.
I have a current driving licence and an appropriate vehicle that can transport my pet to and from a location safely and comfortably.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes This is for you. It's essential to not rely on anyone else for transporting the pet and to have an appropriate vehicle for the animal to arrive at the location feeling comfortable, safe and happy.		No This is not for you unless you are able to legally drive and have an appropriate vehicle. It's essential to not rely on anyone else for transporting the pet and to have an appropriate vehicle for the animal to arrive at the location feeling comfortable and safe.

## **Add up your “yesses” and “no’s”**

### **All “yesses”**

You are highly likely to be suitable and will enjoy Pets As Therapy

### **Any “sometimes” or “no’s”**

You may be unsuitable and / or may not enjoy it. Consider our comments to each item and contemplate if you can turn those “sometimes” and “no” answers into yesses. If you can't, then it's likely you are unsuitable.

# Is my pet suitable for Pets As Therapy and will s/he enjoy it?

A suitable pet is essential. Without a suitable pet, there can be no Pets As Therapy therefore, we have given detailed comments to each of your answers.

There is no score at the end we've given our assessment comments to your answers for you to decide.

This quiz is to inform and educate you on issues that we believe are essential to offering safe, beneficial and enjoyable Pets As Therapy / Animal Assisted Therapy.

Are you the legal owner of this pet?	Yes or No	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>It's not essential to be the legal owner of the pet as long as you have permission from the owner and the pet is included on yours or the location's insurance. It's essential for you and your pet to be insured.</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>It's not essential to be the legal owner of the pet as long as you have permission from the owner and the pet is included on yours or the location's insurance. It's essential for you and your pet to be insured.</p>
My pet's species has been banned in my work place, health care facility, public building, location, state, country.	Yes / No	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>It's likely you'll need to consider a different pet. Check with your local authorities and the location you intend to visit with the pet. If the pet has been banned the pet is likely not</p>		<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Good. Double check with your local authorities and the location you intend to visit with the pet. If the pet has been banned the pet is likely not covered by the insurance, and being</p>

		covered by the insurance, and being insured is essential.		insured is essential.
My pet is healthy. Does not experience ongoing discomfort or pain, or body sensitivities. Can walk a reasonable distance, and climb stairs easy, willingly and without any discomfort or pain.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes  This is important. It's essential that the pet is fit and healthy without pain.	Sometimes  It's likely this pet is not suitable. If the pet has a chronic illness that causes discomfort or pain; or discomfort walking or climbing stairs, the pet cannot offer therapy.	No  It's likely this pet is not suitable. If the pet has a chronic illness that causes discomfort or pain; or discomfort walking or climbing stairs, the pet cannot offer therapy.
When my pet is away from our home, my pet is confident around strangers; and clearly enjoys gentle touching from respectful strangers.	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes  The pet is likely to be suitable. It's essential that the pet enjoys interaction from gentle and respectful strangers.  Our courses teach pet handlers how to instruct everyone to touch the pet gently and respectfully in a manner that all pets prefer. We never allow pets to be	Sometimes  The pet is likely to be unsuitable. When working, pets get a large amount of attention and adoration from strangers. If they are uncomfortable with this, the therapy will not be successful, and the pet will be unhappy.	Sometimes  The pet is likely to be unsuitable. When working, pets get a large amount of attention and adoration from strangers. If they are uncomfortable with this, the therapy will not be successful, and the pet will be unhappy.  The important words are gentle and respectful

		touched roughly or disrespectfully.	<p>The important words are gentle and respectful interaction. If your pet has backed off from rough interaction they may still be suitable.</p> <p>Our courses teach pet handlers how to instruct everyone to touch the pet gently and respectfully in a manner that all pets prefer. We never allow pets to be touched roughly or disrespectfully.</p>	<p>interaction. If your pet has backed off from rough interaction they may still be suitable.</p> <p>Our courses teach pet handlers how to instruct everyone to touch the pet gently and respectfully in a manner that all pets prefer. We never allow pets to be touched roughly or disrespectfully.</p>
When away from the pet's home, the pet is fearful of strangers; timid or shy around strangers; backs away from strangers; or takes time to warm up to strangers.	Yes / Sometimes / No	<p>Yes</p> <p>It's highly likely this pet is unsuitable. A pet cannot feel fearful, shyness or timidity when a stranger wants to meet them. The therapy will not be successful and the pet will be unhappy... as will the client.</p> <p>Please note: It's common for pets not to like being</p>	Sometimes	No

		<p>roughly treated, squeezed, hugged around their head and neck, touched on their face, head, ears, tail or paws, or touched by more than one person at a time, or to interact with a loud group of children or adults. Our course teaches the pet handler how to instruct others to interact with the pet in the manner that most pets enjoy and consider respectful. Consider this when answering this question. Will the pet enjoy meeting strangers when interacted with calmly, gently and respectfully?</p>	<p>Please note: It's common for pets not to like being roughly treated, squeezed, hugged around their head and neck, touched on their face, head, ears, tail or paws, or touched by more than one person at a time, or to interact with a loud group of children or adults. Our course teaches the pet handler how to instruct others to interact with the pet in the manner that most pets enjoy and consider respectful. Consider this when answering this question. Will the pet enjoy meeting strangers when interacted with calmly, gently and respectfully?</p>	

<p>Does this pet have any fears or phobias that could possibly be at the location you intend to take him/her, that might interfere with the pet's enjoyment and behaviour of Pet Therapy?</p>	<p>Yes / Sometimes / No</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If yes, is it possible to organise the location to ensure the pet does not come into contact with the source of fear or phobia?</p> <p>If the fear or phobia cannot be avoided or is even remotely likely to be present, the pet is highly likely to be unsuitable... at least for that location.</p>	<p>Sometimes</p> <p>If sometimes, is it possible to organise the location to ensure the pet does not come into contact with the source of fear or phobia?</p> <p>If the fear or phobia cannot be avoided or is even remotely likely to be present, the pet is highly likely to be unsuitable... at least for that location.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This pet is likely to be suitable.</p>
<p>Is this pet happy and confident in crowds?</p>	<p>Yes / Sometimes / No</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This pet is likely to be suitable. Most pets don't like crowds. They are usually small and crowds can be scary from the view point of their height.</p> <p>However, some cope better than others. We teach pet handlers how to control crowds for the pet to maintain their personal space, but they need</p>	<p>Sometimes</p> <p>Why only sometimes? What type of crowds does this pet feel uncomfortable with and can you, the pet handler, crowd control?</p> <p>Pets are usually small and crowds can be scary from the view point of their</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This pet is likely to be unsuitable however, Why is s/he uncomfortable? What if you can control the crowd?</p> <p>Pets are usually small and crowds can be scary from the view point of their height.</p> <p>However, some cope better than others. We teach pet</p>

		confidence to begin with.	height.  However, some cope better than others. We teach pet handlers how to control crowds for the pet to maintain their personal space, but they need confidence to begin with.	handlers how to control crowds for the pet to maintain their personal space, but they need confidence to begin with.
Is this pet happy and comfortable to get into and out of a vehicle; and to travel happily and comfortably in a vehicle without getting travel sickness?	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes  This pet is likely to be suitable. It's essential that pet's arrive at their location feeling safe, comfortable and happy.	Sometimes  If your pet gets travel sickness they are highly likely to be unsuitable.  If they are resistant to getting into and out of a vehicle - this pet is likely to be unsuitable, however, it's worth considering if the pet can be trained to feel comfortable with this.  It's essential that pet's arrive at their location feeling safe, comfortable and	No  If your pet gets travel sickness they are highly likely to be unsuitable.  If they are resistant to getting into and out of a vehicle - this pet is likely to be unsuitable, however, it's worth considering if the pet can be trained to feel comfortable with this.  It's essential that pet's arrive at their location feeling safe, comfortable and happy.  If your pet requires training to get into and out of a vehicle then we can help

			<p>happy.</p> <p>If your pet requires training to get into and out of a vehicle then we can help you with this.</p> <p>If your pet requires a trailer then it's important they are happy and comfortable getting into and out of a trailer, and traveling in a trailer.</p> <p>Most animals requiring a trailer for transport require initial training. It's essential that the training uses only "positive reinforcement" and "reward" only training methods. Pets should never be tricked, punished, pulled or pushed into a trailer or vehicle. We can offer help with this if needed.</p>	<p>you with this.</p> <p>If your pet requires a trailer then it's important they are happy and comfortable getting into and out of a trailer, and traveling in a trailer.</p> <p>Most animals requiring a trailer for transport require initial training. It's essential that the training uses only "positive reinforcement" and "reward" only training methods. Pets should never be tricked, punished, pulled or pushed into a trailer or vehicle. We can offer help with this if needed.</p>
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<p>Does this pet greet people calmly, displaying good manners, and keeping all 4 paws / hooves / feet on the ground?</p>	<p>Yes / Sometimes / No</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Some young pets are especially bouncy, and some have high energy. It's essential for pets to greet people calmly. If the pet is already doing this then the pet is likely to be suitable.</p> <p>Our courses offer pet placement for safe interaction and basic obedience training, to ensure a calm pet / client interaction, should the pet require additional training.</p>	<p><b>Sometimes</b></p> <p>This is likely to be suitable after training.</p> <p>Some pets, especially when young can be bouncy, and some have high energy. It's essential for pets to greet people calmly.</p> <p>If the pet can't do this yet, our courses teach the pet handler to train the pet in safe greeting techniques, and pet placement for safe interaction. We also teach the specific obedience and manners for Pets As Therapy. Therefore, if the pet hasn't been trained in manners as yet, the pet could be suitable after our training.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>This is likely to be suitable after training.</p> <p>Some pets, especially when young can be bouncy, and some have high energy. It's essential for pets to greet people calmly.</p> <p>If the pet can't do this yet, our courses teach the pet handler to train the pet in safe greeting techniques, and pet placement for safe interaction. We also teach the specific obedience and manners for Pets As Therapy. Therefore, if the pet hasn't been trained in manners as yet, the pet could be suitable after our training.</p>
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<p>Is this pet reliably obedience trained, has good greeting manners and calm?</p>	<p>Yes / Some- times / No</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This pet is likely to be suitable however, Pets As Therapy requires specific manners and obedience, depending on the species of animal, that could include -</p> <p>Stand and stay; Sit and stay; Lay down and stay; Go to a target mat and stay; Greet a person calmly keeping all 4 feet / paws on the ground; Stay in one place comfortably for up to 30 mins.</p> <p>Our courses offer easy to follow, step by step training for essential and required obedience specific to Pet Therapy.</p>	<p>Sometimes</p> <p>This pet is likely to be suitable as long as you are willing and able to learn the specific Pets As Therapy pet training skills to train him/her.</p> <p>Most pets, most of the time, depending on their species, will require –</p> <p>Stand and stay; Sit and stay; Lay down and stay; Go to a target mat and stay; Greet a person calmly keeping all 4 feet / paws on the ground; Stay in one place comfortably for up to 30 mins.</p> <p>Our courses offer easy to follow, step by step training for essential and required obedience specific to Pet</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This pet is likely to be suitable as long as you are willing and able to learn the specific Pets As Therapy pet training skills to train him/her.</p> <p>Most pets, most of the time, depending on their species, will require –</p> <p>Stand and stay; Sit and stay; Lay down and stay; Go to a target mat and stay; Greet a person calmly keeping all 4 feet / paws on the ground; Stay in one place comfortably for up to 30 mins.</p> <p>Our courses offer easy to follow, step by step training for essential and required obedience specific to Pet Therapy.</p>
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			Therapy.	
Does this pet walk calmly on a leash without a choke chain / check chain, or causing the pet handler to pull or push?	Yes / Sometimes / No	Yes  This pet is likely suitable. Walking beside you calmly is essential. Inside buildings space is limited and full control of the pet is important.	Sometimes  Walking beside you calmly is essential, however this is an easy skill for the pet handler to learn and we teach this in our course, so even if the pet isn't doing this yet, if you are happy and able to learn the skills we teach, this pet could be suitable.	No  Walking beside you calmly is essential, however this is an easy skill for the pet handler to learn and we teach this in our course, so even if the pet isn't doing this yet, if you are happy and able to learn the skills we teach, this pet could be suitable.

To register for our Velma's Pets As Therapy Foundation Certificate Course please send this completed quiz along with the course registration to us and we will contact you, before you pay for the course.