

# Charlo Public School District

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## NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

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The District supports the use of therapy dogs and other therapy animals by teachers or other qualified school personnel ("Owner") for the benefit of its students, subject to the conditions of this policy.

### Therapy Animals

Therapy dogs and other therapy animals are family pets that are trained and registered or certified through therapy organizations. They are only half of the therapy team. The handler is the other half. Therapy teams enter the school by invitation or prior approval.

A therapy animal is not a service animal, and unlike a service animal, a therapy animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times. Therapy animals do not have legal rights.

### Requirements of Therapy Animals and User/Owners

Individuals with disabilities using therapy or companion animals are responsible for their animals at all times and must comply with the following requirements:

**Request:** An Owner must submit a written request to the Superintendent. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy animal will be used.

**Registration, Training and Certification:** The Owner must register the therapy animal and provide documentation of the registration, certification, and training to the Superintendent. The registration and certification must remain current at all times.

**Health and Vaccination:** The therapy animal must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized against diseases common to dogs. The Owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy animal's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

**Control:** A therapy animal must be under the control of the "Owner", at all times, through the use of a leash or other tether unless the use of a leash or other tether would interfere with the therapy animals' safe, effective performance of its work or tasks.

**Identification:** The therapy animals must wear appropriate visible identification that identifies in writing that the animal is a therapy animal.

**Behavior:** The Owner must take responsibility for the behavior of the animal in private and public places, and for due care and diligence in the use of the animal on school district property.

**Health and Safety:** The therapy animal must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at the school.

**Supervision and Care of Therapy Animals:** The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy dog, including any feeding, exercising, and clean-up while the animal is in the school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy animal.

**Authorized Areas:** The Owner shall only allow the therapy animal to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are authorized by the school administrators.

**Insurance:** The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on school property.

**Exclusion or Removal from School.** A therapy animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the therapy animal;
- (2) The therapy animal is not house broken;
- (3) The therapy animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

**Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy animal is permitted, and suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy animal, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

**Damages to School Property and Injuries:** The Owner of a therapy animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy animal.

**Therapy Animals in Training;** This policy shall also be applicable to therapy animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.