



# Tufts PAWS for People

**Tufts PAWS for People (PAWS) is a service-oriented volunteer program of multi-species teams trained to provide therapy animal support to people in need.**



*"The animals provide a beacon of light and hope for our stressed healthcare teams."*

—Eric Richman, MSW, LISCW, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

**PAWS** was launched in 2004 as a formal collaboration between Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and Pet Partners® Therapy Animal Program. Renamed Tufts PAWS for People in 2009, our teams provide stress relief and wellness sessions in a wide variety of settings, including libraries, public schools, corporate offices, elder care facilities, hospice centers, and mental health care facilities.

**PAWS** mentors its new therapy animal teams beginning their volunteer visitations and the organizations initiating therapy animal visitation programs.

**PAWS** programs actively involve participants, facility coordinators, and educators to provide high-quality, effective human-animal interactions.



## PAWS Facts

- PAWS is a non-profit organization supported by the Center for Animals and Public Policy, grants, and donations
- PAWS is an official Community Partner of Pet Partners® Therapy Animal Program and has a research relationship with Tufts Initiative for Human-Animal Interaction (TIHAI)
- PAWS facilitates opportunities for volunteer team handlers ages 10 and up
- Nine species are eligible for Pet Partners® therapy team evaluation and membership

Interested in learning more about PAWS, hosting a visit, or becoming a corporate sponsor?  
[hai.tufts.edu/paws](http://hai.tufts.edu/paws)



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