



## “Why Choose an Intermountain Therapy Animals Affiliate for Your Clientele?”

**I**ntermountain Therapy Animals is one of the largest and most successful local organizations in the United States providing animal-assisted interactions. We have a quarter-century of experience, and we enjoy an excellent reputation in the communities where we and our affiliates serve. We are committed to the very highest standards in our field of endeavor, and to thoughtful professionalism in our delivery of services.

### Why Is ITA an Excellent Choice for Your Facility’s Patients, Staff and Administrators?

- Our testing protocols for therapy animal *teams* are second to none, and they recur every two years to assure that an animal is still capable and enthusiastic about the therapy job, and a handler is maintaining appropriate skills and relationship with the partner animal.
- We require extensive training for the human end of the leash in health, safety, and dealing effectively and appropriately with various patient populations; and then mentoring until a team gains experience and confidence.
- The health, safety and wellbeing of your clients is our top priority, and thus constitutes the majority of our training.
- We encourage continuing education for our teams. Our arena of choice is fairly young, as such things are measured, and we are constantly learning new methods and techniques and benefiting from new research, all of which helps us do an ever better job for your patient/clients.
- We consider ourselves part of your facility’s team, and always welcome input from your staff and administrators. Our ongoing objective is to enhance your clients’ experiences and motivate them to participate in their essential therapies and activities.
- We are responsive to concerns and take action quickly to correct any issues or resolve any problems.
- In practical terms, we have never yet had to file a claim on our liability insurance, which points to the validity, safety and effectiveness of our training and testing procedures.

We are committed to keeping all our group and individual interactions *personal* and *present*. We encourage constant back-and-forth communication between facilities and teams, and between our headquarters staff and the organizations who affiliate with us. We don’t feel that our chosen pursuit—animal-assisted interactions of all kinds—can be learned alone, or online, or practiced without frequent discussion and consideration. Every team, every client, and thus every interaction, will be unique, and questions are always arising on how best to handle one situation or another.

All our trainings must be done in person and all our teams must belong to a local support group. We never register independent teams because we want everyone to feel invested in the quality of their colleagues and the reputation of their organization, and to share ideas and learn from one another.

We seek to constantly refine and improve our services, to be open to learning more, and to collaborate positively with the facilities and staff with whom we work. We remain eager to discover ever new ways that humans and animals can benefit one another with an underlying basis of respect, kindness and compassion.

As of 2018, there are 21 colleague groups in 17 other states whose members have chosen ITA as their “mother ship” for training and testing protocols.

Please feel welcome to ask additional questions at any time, or to request referenes.



**INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS ~ [www.therapyanimals.org](http://www.therapyanimals.org)**

4050 South 2700 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84124 (or) PO Box 17201, Salt Lake City, UT 84117 • **801.272.3439**