

**THERAPY DOGS INCORPORATED RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**Part III**  
**2011 POLICIES**

**Failure to adhere to the Therapy Dogs Inc. Governing Member Guidelines, Policies or Code of Ethics will jeopardize your membership in Therapy Dogs Inc.**

**I. Use of Therapy Dogs Inc. Materials**

All materials representing Therapy Dogs Inc. (TDInc.), which include the title, artwork, and logo, are registered and/or copyrighted, and may not be recreated or printed in any fashion in newsletters, memos or other communications, on websites, business cards, organizational brochures, official printed matter created by a local organization, clothing or specialty items without written authorization from the President of TDInc.

Any member of TDInc. who wishes to distribute or duplicate copyrighted material belonging to TDInc., or use in any manner the TDInc. name, logo or slogan, must submit their request in writing to the President of TDInc. The request will be evaluated by the Board and the requestor will be notified in writing if permission is granted.

**II. Use of Therapy Dogs Inc. 501(c)3 Tax Identification Number**

All requests to use the TDInc. 501(c)(3) Tax Identification Number (TIN) must be submitted in writing to the President. The request will be evaluated by the Board of Directors and the requestor will be notified in writing whether permission is granted.

When the TIN is used for receiving donations, TDInc. will place all donations received into the general fund unless otherwise specified by the donator.

Donations made in the name of a local group or specific member for services they have provided will be divided 50/50 between the group/member at their request. If no such request is made, TDInc. retains the entire amount of the donation and deposits it to the general fund with any other special instruction from the donator.

**III. Website and Disclaimers**

The information that is published on or collected through TDInc.'s website is public information as described in the Freedom of Information Act. The following paragraphs disclose the information gathering and dissemination practices of the TDInc. website:

**Alternative Formats and Accessibility**

Copies of portions of the TDInc. website are available in alternative format upon request.

TDInc. is committed to making its presence on the Web as accessible as possible to all. A member of the Board of Directors or the corporate office may be contacted in the case of difficulty with any portion of the TDInc. website.

### Privacy Policy

TDInc. does not collect personal information on website users in the logs kept to compile statistics. The website statistics section of this policy offers further details about the information that is collected.

### Linking to External Sites

The TDInc. website may contain links to other sites not owned by TDInc. Even though efforts are made to ensure the integrity, accuracy and usefulness of the TDInc. website, no claims are made as to the accuracy or verification of the information found on external sites.

External links to other sites do not have the endorsement of TDInc., and therefore TDInc. cannot be responsible for the privacy practices observed, or for the content of other such sites.

### Website Statistics

TDInc. uses the server log analysis tools to create periodic summary statistics of its website's usage. These statistics serve to reflect usage summaries, such as general access (number of hits received), resources accessed (most and least popular pages), visitors and demographics (IP addresses and domains), diurnal activity statistics (most/least active days), technical statistics (client errors), referrals and keywords (search engines and sites pointing to the TDInc. site), and browsers and platforms.

## **IV. Non Discrimination**

It is the policy of TDInc. to provide registration to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability. No person shall be excluded from participation, denied the benefits of membership, or be subjected to discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability. All applicants will be tested and observed under this policy.

Furthermore, TDInc. Tester/Observers (T/O's) shall not discriminate against said persons when asked to test and observe teams. Handlers will be tested and observed in a timely fashion (a test date must be offered within 3 months) and treated in such a manner as set forth in the Rules and Regulations and in the Tester/Observer Guidelines.

TDInc. registered handlers may not discriminate in any way, shape, or form against persons in regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability. Any reported discrimination shall result in loss of privileges and insurance coverage and in immediate termination of membership.

## **V. Distribution of Materials/Information During Visits**

There will be no verbal or written distribution of commercial, religious, or political materials and/or information during visits or events sponsored by Therapy Dogs Inc. Upon request, information may be provided about TDInc., local therapy dog groups, and other dog-related topics.

## **VI. Distinction of Therapy Dogs from Service Dogs**

Dogs registered with TDInc. are so named “therapy dogs” because they provide a therapeutic benefit to the general public. They are not eligible for public access rights. Service dogs are trained to give direct assistance to the disabled, allowing their owners to function independently, and are recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, which gives them public access rights.

The Board of Directors, recognizing this distinction in the mission of these two categories of working dogs, has decided not to seek approval of public access rights for TDInc. dogs. Handlers shall not misrepresent TDInc. registered dogs as service dogs unless the animal does assist the handler as defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act.

## **VII. Volunteer Dog/Handler Teams**

The purpose of TDInc. visits is to provide service in a volunteer capacity. Liability insurance coverage is provided to dog and handler teams serving in a volunteer capacity only. Teams are not covered by TDInc.’s general liability policy if the member receives pay, wages, or other financial compensation during a visit. If a member chooses to visit where he/she is working, they must do so as an unpaid volunteer.

## **VIII. Aggression/Abusive Behavior**

TDInc. has a zero-tolerance policy for any dog displaying unprovoked aggression towards humans or other dogs, and for any handler displaying menacing or abusive behavior while on a visit. In each case, the dog or team will immediately be placed on suspension to allow time to determine if their membership will be revoked.

## **IX. Breeds and Breed Specific Legislation**

TDInc. does not support any breed specific legislation. TDInc. membership is open to handlers with all breeds of dogs except wolf and wolf-hybrids, and coyote and coyote-hybrids. T/O’s are expected to test all breeds and mixed breeds without prejudice.

## **X. Non-TDInc. Animals**

No TDInc. handlers may bring any animals other than their registered therapy dogs on TDInc. visits. TDInc. teams must also maintain at least two feet from other visiting teams and from any therapy animals registered through other organizations. Handlers should

stay as far away as possible from other animals present during a TDInc. sponsored visit. If a facility has free-roaming animals or family pets that may be present during a visit, the TDInc. handler should request that they be allowed to visit in an area away from the other animals.

## **XI. Local Groups**

TDInc. only recognizes individual members and T/O's. There are no TDInc. sanctioned local groups or chapters. The TDInc. Board does not involve itself with any locally formed group issues, costs, or rules, unless the local rules conflict with TDInc. Governing Member Guidelines, Policies or Code of Ethics. Individual members are welcome to either join or not join any local group as they see fit.

The Board expects T/O's to test and observe ALL individual teams who request and are eligible for TDInc. membership. T/O's are not allowed to give priority to individuals who are only interested in joining a particular local group.

## **XII. Disaster Relief**

Any TDInc. dog/handler team which provides visits as a result of an emergency or disaster represents TDInc. and is covered by TDInc. insurance. An agency which contacts a dog/handler team requesting their services is acting merely as a liaison and is not financially liable.