



Assistance & Facility Dogs

**Mental Health &
Canine Support**



Meet the PAWS Team



Paws With A Cause

- Mission: Transform lives and strengthen communities through partnerships with custom-trained working dogs.
- Founded in 1979
- National organization headquartered in Wayland, MI
- Total Active Teams: 406 teams (323 AD, 83 FD) in 30 states
- First AAS Dog placed in 2016, VANDY at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital





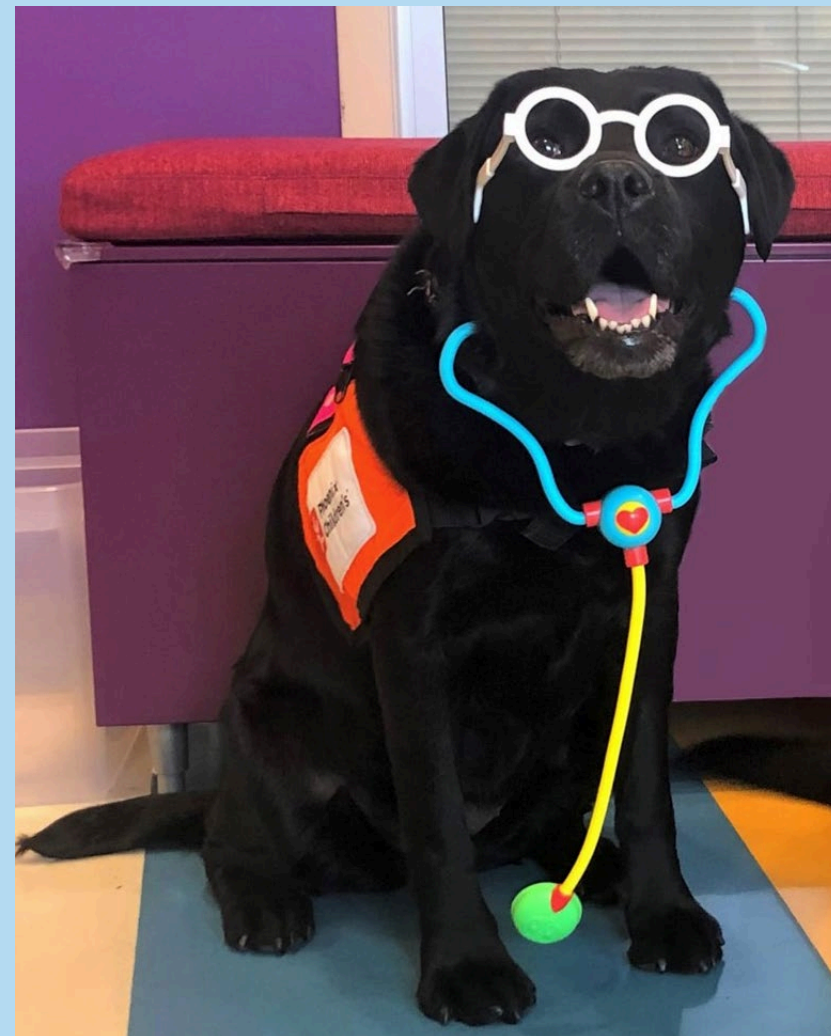
Animal Assisted Services

Animal assisted services are structured or unstructured, goal-oriented interventions that intentionally incorporate animals into health education and human service fields. Led by trained professionals or volunteers, these services aim to enhance human, physical, social, emotional or cognitive well-being while using animal welfare



Animal Assisted Services

- Facility Dog Program
 - Schools & Universities
 - Community Organizations
 - Hospitals
 - Courtrooms & Advocacy Centers
- Visiting PAWS Dog Program
- Partnership Placements



Physical Health Benefits of Dogs

- Lowers blood pressure and improves cardiovascular health.
- Reduces the amount of medications some people need.
- Breathing slows in those who are anxious.
- Releases many hormones such as Phenylethylamine which has the same effect as chocolate.
- Diminishes overall physical pain.



Mental Health Benefits of Dogs

- Lowers anxiety and helps people relax.
- Provides comfort.
- Reduces loneliness.
- Increases mental stimulation.
- Can provide an escape or happy distraction.
- Can act as catalysts in the therapy process.





- Over 90% of healthcare staff reported a positive shift in their mood after just 20 minutes with a facility dog
- Working with a facility dog is associated with a higher perceived personal accomplishment and a lower intention to quit
- Staff experienced decreased physical symptoms of stress, including lower heart rate and reduced muscular tension, following interactions
- 85% of participants felt a 20-minute interaction would have a positive impact on the remainder of their day





- A study in Children's Health Care reported that over 65% of staff felt that the presence of a facility dog increased their job satisfaction, while almost 80% said it helped them release stress
- A study found that just 5 minutes with a dog can produce stress reduction in healthcare workers equivalent to 20 minutes of quiet rest



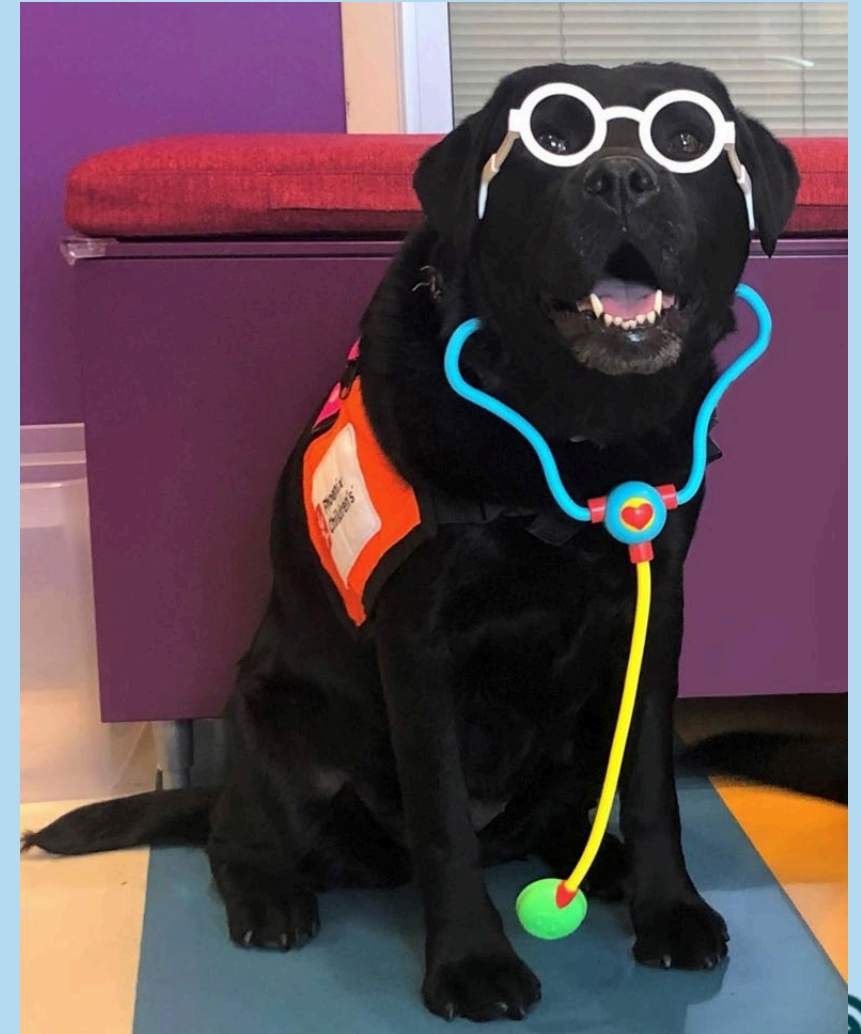
PAWS Facility Dogs

- Long-term commitment
- Works great for:
 - Emergency Response Offices
 - Hospitals
 - Community Organizations
 - Health Care Facilities
 - Child Advocacy Centers
 - More
- Relieve stress, promote wellness, build community, easy & flexible



Visiting PAWS Dogs

- Short-term commitment
- Works great for:
 - Emergency Response Offices
 - Hospitals
 - Community Organizations
 - More
- 40-mile radius of PAWS HQ in Wayland
- Relieve stress, promote wellness, build community, easy & flexible



PAWS Testimonials

- “I’ve heard on several occasions that Visiting PAWS is the best thing we’ve done for employee retention.”
– Varnum LLP
- “Wicker has truly helped heal our hearts, and I can’t imagine life without him.”
– Jenny & Wicker



Sources

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Questions?

