

**ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**Part III**  
**POLICIES**

**Failure to adhere to the ATD Governing Member Guidelines, Policies, or Code of Ethics will jeopardize your membership.**

**I. Use of ATD Materials**

All materials representing ATD, 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 ATD.

Any organization or individual member of ATD who wishes to distribute or duplicate copyrighted material belonging to ATD, or to use in any manner the ATD name, logo, or slogan must submit their request in writing to the president of ATD. The request will be evaluated and the requestor will be notified in writing whether permission is granted.

Links to [www.therapydogs.com](http://www.therapydogs.com) are allowed.

You may be denied permission or asked to remove the ATD name, logo, slogan, or link at ATD's discretion.

**II. Use of ATD 501(c)(3) Tax Identification Number**

Permission to use the ATD TIN will be given only for monetary donations being made to ATD, and requests will go through the ATD office.

ATD will place all donations received into the general fund unless otherwise specified by the donor.

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

**III. Website and Disclaimers**

The information that is published on or collected through ATD'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 ATD website:

**Alternative Formats and Accessibility**

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

ATD 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 case of difficulty with any portion of the ATD website.

#### Privacy Policy

ATD 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 ATD website may contain links to other sites not owned by ATD. Even though efforts are made to ensure the integrity, accuracy, and usefulness of the 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 ATD, and therefore, ATD cannot be responsible for the privacy practices observed or for the content of other such sites.

#### Website Statistics

ATD uses 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 ATD), and browsers and platforms.

#### **IV. Social Media**

ATD does not intend to interfere with any member's private life, but publicly observable communications, actions or words are not private. Social media platforms are electronic public forums. Any posts depicting official ATD visits that are brought to ATD's attention which appear to show rules not being followed may be addressed publicly or privately by ATD.

#### **V. Endorsements**

ATD does not endorse businesses, products, or services. No unauthorized advertisements or solicitations will be allowed on the ATD website or social media platforms.

#### **VI. Non-Discrimination**

It is the policy of ATD to provide registration to all qualified persons. No person shall be excluded from participation, denied the benefits of membership, or be subjected to discrimination because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. All applicants will be tested and observed under this policy.

Furthermore, ATD Tester/Observers (T/Os) 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 three months) and treated in such a manner as set forth in the Rules and Regulations and in the Tester/Observer Guidelines.

ATD handlers may not discriminate in any way, shape or form against persons with regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or national origin. Any reported and verified discrimination shall result in termination of membership.

## **VII. 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 ATD. Upon request, information may be provided about ATD, local therapy dog groups, and other dog-related topics.

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

Dogs certified by ATD are named “therapy dogs” because they provide a therapeutic benefit to the general public. They are not eligible for public access rights.

Handlers shall not misrepresent ATD-certified dogs as service dogs unless the animal does assist the handler as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a member has a service dog, official ATD therapy dog identification should not be displayed while the service dog is not acting as a therapy dog but is working for the member in restaurants, stores, on flights, etc.

Handlers who want to take their therapy dogs into places that normally allow only service dogs MUST explain that their dogs are therapy dogs, not service dogs, AND that they do not have legal access rights like service dogs.

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

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

## **X. Aggression/Abusive Behavior**

ATD has a zero-tolerance policy for any dog displaying aggression toward humans or unprovoked aggression toward other dogs and for any handler displaying menacing or abusive behavior while on a visit. When the ATD office is notified of a bite or suspected bite incident by a dog or a crime committed by a member, the office will contact the handler, and the handler, dog and/or team will immediately be placed on suspension to allow time for the Grievance/Ethics Committee to investigate the incident.

If a dog has been deemed dangerous, aggressive, or similar designation as defined by local laws as a result of an incident and documentation verifies it, the certified dog's membership will be terminated.

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

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

### **XII. Non-ATD Therapy Dogs/Animals**

ATD handlers may not bring any animals other than their certified therapy dogs on ATD visits. Teams must remain at least 2 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 an ATD visit. If a facility has free-roaming animals or family pets that might be present during a visit, ATD handlers should request that they be allowed to visit in an area away from the other animals.

### **XIII. Local Groups**

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

The board expects T/Os to test and observe ALL individual teams who request to be and are eligible for ATD membership. T/Os are not allowed to give priority to individuals who are only interested in joining a particular local group.

### **XIV. Disaster Relief**

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