

Therapy Dogs



Therapy dogs are dogs that are trained to give affection and comfort to people in unfortunate situations. They are often used to help people in hospitals, retirement homes, schools, and people with learning disabilities. Whether or not a dog is suitable for this line of work is based on personality rather than breed. Because therapy dogs must work with many kinds of people, such as young children or the elderly, **they** must have patience and sensitivity.

The story of the first therapy dog is very interesting. During World War II, a soldier named William Wynne found a Yorkshire Terrier dog **abandoned** on the battlefield. He became friends with the dog and named it Smoky. When Corporal Wynne became very ill and entered a hospital, his friends brought Smoky for a visit. Smoky became so popular with the other sick soldiers in the hospital that he was allowed to stay. The doctors in the hospital used Smoky to help cheer up the patients. After the war ended, he continued to work as a therapy dog in the United States.

In the 1970s, an American nurse named Elaine Smith started a program to train therapy dogs. Smith noticed how patients in hospitals seemed to recover faster when they had been around dogs. Many other doctors and nurses noticed that having animals **regularly** visit hospitals helped lower stress and blood pressure among patients. In the 1980s and 1990s, other animals also started to help the sick. Cats, birds, and rabbits have become “therapy pets” and they are now used in many hospitals around the world.

Today, therapy pets are used to help many different people with problems. For example, they help soldiers who have been **traumatized** by their combat experience. They are also used to help children with reading disabilities by providing an audience that won’t belittle **them**. Some therapy pets are used to help people **undergoing** physical therapy. For example, they work along with the patient and the doctor to help people learn to walk again after a serious injury.



1. According to the article, what are therapy dogs?
 - a) dogs that are trained to overcome their own physical disabilities dogs
 - b) dogs that are trained to provide emotional support to people in difficult situations
 - c) dogs that are trained to provide physical support to people in difficult situations
 - d) a specific breed of dog that can work with young children or the elderly

2. According to the article, which of the following characteristics is most important when considering the suitability of using a dog as a therapy dog?
 - a) its bravery
 - b) its health
 - c) its demeanor
 - d) its intelligence

3. The word “they” in paragraph 1 refers to:
 - a) children
 - b) therapy dogs
 - c) the elderly
 - d) learning disabilities

4. The word “abandoned” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
 - a) left alone
 - b) left out
 - c) let alone
 - d) let out

5. What is the subject of the second paragraph?
 - a) Therapy dogs and war
 - b) The story of the original therapy dog
 - c) The story of Corporal William Wynne
 - d) Smoky’s training to become a therapy dog

6. According to the article, which of the following benefits first inspired professionals to train and use therapy dogs?
 - a) assisting soldiers who are traumatized by war
 - b) sick and injured people recovered more quickly
 - c) providing an audience for children with reading problems
 - d) helping people learn to walk again after an injury

7. The word “regularly” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:
 - a) routinely
 - b) eternally
 - c) invariably
 - d) naturally

8. The word “traumatized” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:
- a) satisfied
 - b) tricked
 - c) shocked
 - d) treated
9. The word “them” in paragraph 4 refers to:
- a) doctors
 - b) children
 - c) an audience
 - d) therapy pets
10. The word “undergoing” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:
- a) going over
 - b) going under
 - c) going in
 - d) going through
11. According to the article, which of the following is NOT a reason that therapy dogs are used?
- a) They help traumatize soldiers who have combat experience
 - b) They can help some people recover quickly from illness
 - c) They can help alleviate depression in sick and injured people
 - d) They are a good audience and do not evaluate people with illness or disabilities
12. What can you infer about therapy dogs from the article?
- a) Overall use of therapy dogs and other animals will probably decrease in the future
 - b) They were so effective in helping people that other animals also started to be used in similar ways
 - c) Nurses and doctors were somewhat dissatisfied with the performance of therapy dogs so they decided to use other animals instead
 - d) People with disabilities have probably argued against the use of therapy pets but doctors have demanded they use them anyway
13. According to the article, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- a) Any kind of dog can become a therapy dog if it has the right qualities
 - b) Corporal William Wynne stole Smoky, the Yorkshire Terrier, from a battlefield
 - c) Smoky worked as a therapy dog during the war but soon went to the United States and retired
 - d) Elaine Smith got the idea of using therapy dogs after meeting Smoky in the 1970s

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (b) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (d) 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (a)