

# Therapy Dog Program

A guide for every Handler & School District



## Introduction

Ugly Dog Daycare & Training is the largest training facility in the State of Michigan with over 3,000 training dogs filtering through the business per year. Fred Saber, owner and head trainer, brings over 30 years of experience to the table. In addition to therapy dogs for school districts, Fred places dogs into private medical clinics and even provides service dogs for individuals with mental or physical handicaps throughout the United States.



The training duration for a therapy dog can last anywhere from **8-15 months** with a **\$10,000 training fee**. While in training, therapy dogs start with a special education classroom of 5-7 children and work all the way up to an assembly. These dogs are not just taken to an extreme obedient level but desensitized to all types of distractions. This includes socialization not only in the local school districts, but also restaurants, stores, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. Once a therapy dog has been tested and approved for departure, we incorporate the billet family and/or primary handler into a training consultation. After two weeks of the dog being at the school district, our trainers host a seminar at the school to train secondary handlers and staff members.



## INSURANCE

Insurance is provided for the dog under the school district. Typically, this is no additional cost. The district will just need to let their insurance company know they are bringing dogs into the school and/or add a rider to the existing policy.

## CERTIFICATION

Ugly Dog will certify the dog through The United States Dog Registry (USDR) at the end of the training duration. The fee for the certification is **\$208** which comes with both electronic and physical copies of all documentation.

~Certificate & ID Card

~Therapy Dog Tag & Vest

~Therapy Dog Collar & Lead



## HOW LONG IS THE CAREER OF A SCHOOL THERAPY DOG?

Dogs are typically ready to retire between the age of 10-12 years old.

## **DISTRICTS UGLY DOG SERVICES IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN:**

Ann Arbor Schools  
Battle Creek Public Schools  
Birmingham Public Schools  
Brighton Area Schools  
Comstock Public Schools  
Davison Schools  
Detroit Public Schools  
Farmington Public Schools  
Fenton Schools  
Flushing Community Schools  
Genesee School District  
Holly Area Schools  
Howell Public Schools  
Lake Fenton Community Schools  
Lake Orion Community Schools  
Lamphere Public Schools  
Millington Junior/Senior High School  
Montrose Community Schools  
Newaygo County Resa  
Oxford Community Schools  
Pinckney Community Schools  
Portage Public Schools  
Public Schools of Petoskey  
St. Patrick School  
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools



## **The Puppy Process!**

Ugly Dog works directly with reputable AKC labrador breeders in the state of Michigan. As well as Goldendoodle breeders throughout Ohio and Georgia. These puppies are handled daily by young children and well socialized before their arrival at Ugly Dog between the age of 8-12 weeks old. The purchase cost of a puppy is **\$1,550** unless the district provides us with a puppy of their own.

Vaccinations and routine health checks will be continued while in the care of Ugly Dog. All veterinary fees will be reimbursed and paid for by the school district at the end of the training duration.

## **What are the Benefits?**

Therapy dogs aid in the emotional, social, and cognitive development of students. It is proven that these interactions decrease anxiety and help to build confidence that way students can excel in any program. Many school therapy dogs act as a judgement free zone and bring a sense of calm to any classroom. While building a bond with a therapy dog, students may feel more inclined to work on their interpersonal skills with teachers and other students.

