



Pet Therapy Dog vs. Facility Dog in the Legal System

	Pet Therapy Dog	Facility Dog
Who trains animal?	Owner	Professional dog trainer employed by a nonprofit accredited assistance dog organization. Accreditation is done by Assistance Dogs International (ADI).
Extent of training	Varies, but typical experience is class one night a week for 6 to 8 weeks.	Varies, but typical is supervised puppy raising and socialization by volunteer for first 14 to 18 months of life, followed by professional training for about 6 months.
Temperament testing required	Evaluation of dog lasts approximately 30 to 60 minutes on one occasion.	Extensive over several months. Dogs are excluded for any signs of aggression, excitability, excessive prey drive, lack of work ethic, etc.
National standards	None. Therapy dogs are registered by a wide array of organizations, including: Therapy Dogs International (http://www.tdi-dog.org/) Alliance of Therapy Dogs (http://www.therapydogs.com/) Pet Partners http://www.petpartners.org/	Assistance Dogs International (ADI) sets training standards for member organizations worldwide. ADI Minimum Standards and Ethics 2017
Tested for safety around children?	No	Yes. This is a required part of public access test.
Who handles animal?	Volunteer owner (who must always be connected to dog by a leash)	Legal professional with special training in handling certified facility dog.
Able to work long hours each day?	No, may not work more than 2 hours on any day according to most registering organizations.	Yes