

# Therapy Dogs Today: Their Gifts, Our Obligation, 2nd Edition



Therapy dogs have become increasingly popular in recent years, and for good reason. These dogs provide a wealth of benefits to people of all ages, from children to the elderly. They can help to reduce stress, improve mood, and even promote healing.

## Therapy Dogs Today - Their Gifts, Our Obligation - 2nd Edition by Kris Butler

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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In this article, we will explore the many gifts that therapy dogs have to offer. We will also discuss our obligation to these amazing animals, and how we can ensure that they continue to provide their valuable services for years to come.

## **The Gifts of Therapy Dogs**

Therapy dogs provide a wide range of benefits to people of all ages. Some of the most common benefits include:

\* **Reducing stress:** Spending time with a therapy dog can help to reduce stress levels. This is because dogs have a calming effect on humans. They can help to lower blood pressure and heart rate, and they can also help to reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol. \* **Improving mood:** Therapy dogs can also help to improve mood. This is because they can provide companionship, affection, and unconditional love. Dogs can also help to distract people from their worries and problems, and they can make them feel happier and more positive. \* **Promoting healing:** Therapy dogs can also help to promote healing. This is because they can provide emotional support and comfort to people who are sick or injured. Dogs can also help to reduce pain and anxiety, and they can speed up the healing process. \* **Other benefits:** Therapy dogs can also provide a number of other benefits,

including: \* Increasing social interaction \* Promoting physical activity \*  
Reducing loneliness \* Providing a sense of purpose

## **Our Obligation to Therapy Dogs**

Therapy dogs provide a valuable service to society. They make a real difference in the lives of many people. However, we have an obligation to these amazing animals to ensure that they are treated with respect and compassion.

Here are a few things that we can do to fulfill our obligation to therapy dogs:

\* **Be respectful:** Therapy dogs are working animals. They are not pets. When you are interacting with a therapy dog, be respectful of their space and their time. Do not pet them without asking permission, and do not try to play with them. \* **Be responsible:** If you are interested in becoming a therapy dog handler, be sure to do your research and find a reputable organization. You will need to be able to commit to training your dog and providing them with the care they need. \* **Donate:** There are many organizations that train and place therapy dogs. You can help to support these organizations by donating money or supplies.

Therapy dogs are a valuable asset to our society. They provide a wealth of benefits to people of all ages. We have an obligation to these amazing animals to ensure that they are treated with respect and compassion.

By being respectful, responsible, and supportive, we can help to ensure that therapy dogs continue to provide their valuable services for years to come.



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