

Animal-Assisted Therapy Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

The Animal-Assisted Therapy Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute incorporates dogs in therapy sessions with the goal of improving patients' social, emotional, physical and/or cognitive functioning. Dogs can be used during therapy for both motivational and educational purposes.

Who We Serve

Animal-assisted therapy is offered through various programs at Kennedy Krieger. Consideration for participation in animal-assisted therapy is based on many factors, including participants' allergies, fears, preferences and treatment goals, and the Institute's infection control guidelines and regulations. Before a patient may participate in animal-assisted therapy, the patient's caregivers and medical and treatment team members must consent to the patient's participation.

Our Program

The Animal-Assisted Therapy Program provides opportunities for patients to interact with dogs during traditional therapies—including behavioral, occupational, physical, psychological, recreational and speech therapies—to work toward meeting therapy goals and improving overall functional abilities.



The dogs used in this program are screened, trained and certified by nationally-accredited organizations. The dogs will always be accompanied by a trained animal facilitator, who will help facilitate interaction and play between the patient, therapist and dog.

For more information or to ask questions about this program, please email us at AAT@KennedyKrieger.org or talk with your child's treatment team.



Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Kennedy Krieger Institute provides care that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual and personal values, beliefs and preferences. Care is free from discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, including transgender. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, seeking resources and advocating for the services and support they need. © 2019 Kennedy Krieger Institute 08/2019



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Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



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