How Can I Get More Information About TDI?

For more information please contact:

Therapy Dogs International
88 Bartley Road
Flanders, NJ 07836
Or
Tel: (973) 252-9800
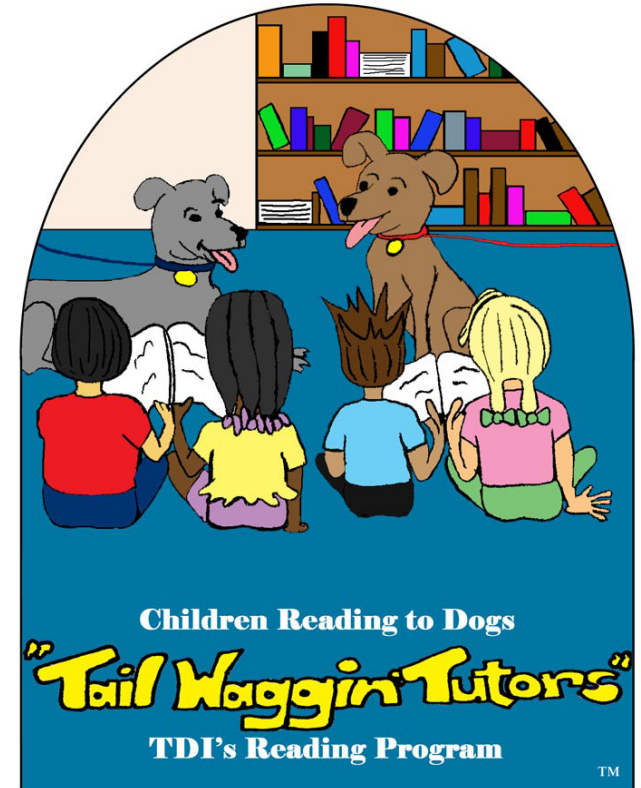Fax: (973) 252-7171
e-mail: tdi@gti.net
www.tdi-dog.org

"A Dog Will Love You Forever"

Therapy Dogs International (TDI®)
88 Bartley Road
Flanders, NJ 07836

Therapy Dogs International (TDI®)

Children Reading to Dogs

"Tail Waggin' Tutors"

TDI's Reading Program

THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL · PAWS AWHILE FOR LOVE ·

Therapy Dogs International
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Children Reading to Dogs
"Tail Waggin' Tutors"
TDI's Reading Program

What do you get when you bring children, dogs and books together?

You get happy, confident children who love to read.

Teachers, librarians, children and parents agree, it's an unbeatable combination. A phenomenal program with far-reaching benefits.

General Information about TDI

Therapy Dogs International (TDI®) is a volunteer group organized to provide qualified handlers and their Therapy Dogs for visitation in a variety of facilities and settings.

TDI's Reading Program

The "Tail Waggin' Tutors" program is one of TDI's many services. Schools and libraries have already discovered the value of Therapy Dogs. Once in school, some children might have a little trouble learning how to read. Here is where we can be of help with our wonderful Therapy Dogs. Due to increased demand, we have restructured our reading program to give our handlers, and the institutions they visit, increased support. It is so much fun for the children to read to a patient Therapy Dog. What an incentive! Children are introduced to the wonderful, magical world of books in a positive and unique way. In no time at all, the reading skills of most children will improve.

How Does the Reading Program Work?

Libraries and schools schedule reading hours for children and Therapy Dogs. Children and dogs bond together over a shared story. The child's confidence and reading skills grow in a relaxing environment. It's that simple.

Therapy Dogs give children the encouragement they need to read aloud. As Diane Mitchell, Branch Manager of Richland Public Library in Mississippi explains, "More confidence in reading could lead to improved grades and improved grades mean happy children and parents."

TDI Handler Linda Brubaker of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania notes how teachers were moved by the program. One teacher stated, "The world is truly a better place with the love of Therapy Dogs to help kids to read."

Vicki Hogan of Thomas C. Miller Elementary School reported that, "Children who once struggled to read are now improving their skills and their confidence. Children have developed a healthy appreciation for dogs and have learned how to interact with dogs in a positive supportive situation."

TDI Handler Jane Bonner received a note from a parent participating in TDI's reading program. "Thanks so much! Being able to sit next to a big, but calm dog has really helped my son get over his fears."

Bernadette Duvernoy of Hayner Public Library in Alton, Illinois recalls how wonderful the response to the reading program has been. What started with five or six kids has grown to 25 or more. Several parents commented on how much their children's reading (and desire to read) has improved. Ms. Duvernoy states, "These animals have been wonderful for our children. The children learn that the library is a fun place to visit. They learn that dogs are sweet, gentle creatures that deserve respect and kindness."

A child from Ashland Public Library says, "I like the Therapy Dogs to come to the Library because they'll sit there and listen to you read. They love it when you pet them. They're so nice and peaceful. When I grow up, I want to have a Therapy Dog."

TDI Dogs come in all shapes and sizes; real dogs with real personalities and real love to share. TDI's Reading Program is a wonderful opportunity for children to interact with and learn about dogs in a positive manner.

Schools or libraries may request Therapy Dog visits by contacting the TDI office. Facilities and handlers can then decide the specifics of their individual reading sessions.

Make a difference in a child's life.