

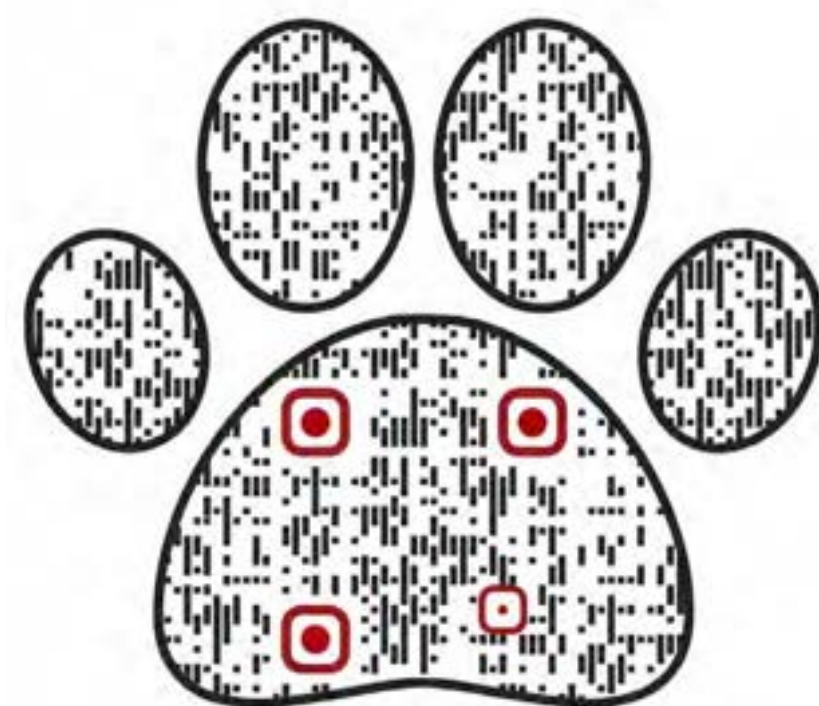
Angels for Devils at ASU: Community Impact

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Roxy's Story

Roxy is a 6-year-old Chihuahua mix. She was adopted from a shelter at 7 months old, but would not start her therapy dog journey until she was 6 years old. She started training with an obedience course in September of 2023. After 6 weeks of obedience, she started the therapy prep training course. Though Roxy was initially timid, she came out of her shell throughout her training and through positive interactions with more people. At the end of therapy prep, she took and passed the final evaluation. Finally, Roxy went through Alliance of Therapy Dogs observations to get insured. In February, she officially became an insured and registered therapy dog, making her the club's first therapy dog. Roxy began volunteering at Mirabella at ASU, Clarendale, and the Polytechnic campus.



Therapy Dogs

What is a therapy dog?

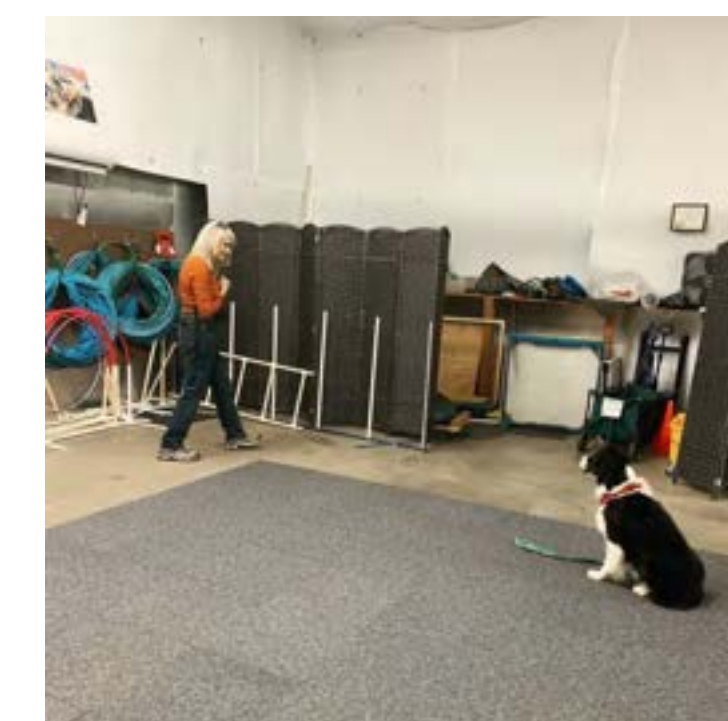
Therapy dogs are specially trained and registered dogs that provide support and comfort. They are utilized in classroom, hospital, and nursing home settings. Their presence not only alleviates stress and anxiety for students during challenging times, but also brings joy and a sense of connection to seniors, enhancing their mental well-being and quality of life.

What is the difference between a therapy dog, service dog, and emotional support animal?

Therapy dogs, emotional support dogs, and service dogs fulfill distinct roles and require different training and legal considerations. Therapy dogs are trained to provide comfort and emotional support to individuals in various settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes, but they do not have legal access rights and must work under the supervision of trained handlers. Emotional support dogs offer companionship and emotional support to individuals with emotional or psychological disabilities, but they do not require specialized training and are not granted public access rights like service dogs. Service dogs undergo rigorous training to perform specific tasks or assist individuals with disabilities, and they are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which allows them to accompany their handlers in public places and areas where pets are typically prohibited. Each type of dog plays a valuable role in supporting individuals' well-being, but their roles, training, and legal rights vary accordingly.

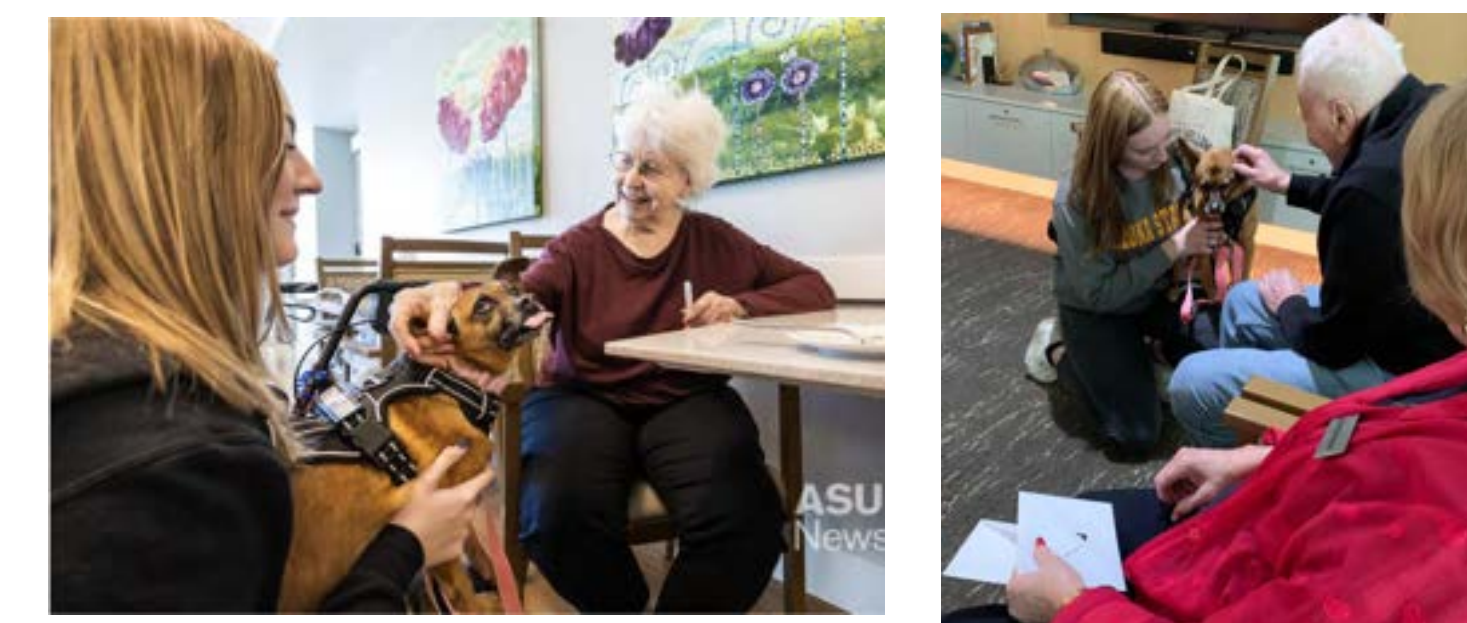
Training Therapy Dogs

Training therapy dogs is vital to ensure they can adeptly fulfill their role in providing emotional support and comfort to individuals in need. Through proper training, these dogs acquire the essential skills and behaviors to navigate diverse environments, interact calmly with different populations, and attentively respond to their handlers' cues. Comprehensive training covers basic obedience commands, socialization techniques, and positive reinforcement methods, fostering confidence and reliability in therapy dogs as they serve as compassionate companions. Consistency in training and reinforcement enables therapy dogs to maintain their proficiency over time, ensuring they can continue offering invaluable support to individuals facing various physical, emotional, or psychological challenges.



Mirabella at ASU

Angels for Devils has partnered with Mirabella at ASU, a retirement community on ASU's Tempe campus. Mirabella's mission is to create a broader community of people who are energized by learning and who are eager to stay engaged as part of a greater University-based environment. For Valentine's Day, Roxy went to visit many of the residents in the Skilled and Memory Support wings while handing out Valentine's cards made by club members. In the spring, the club hosted a Dog Breed Bingo activity for the assisted living residents with prizes, snacks, and lots of laughs. ASU Media and CISA accompanied the club for this event. They were able to take photos, like the one shown below, for Instagram and ASU news.



Clarendale of Chandler

During the spring semester, Angels for Devil's members and Roxy were able to visit the residents of Clarendale for Easter. Roxy met many of the assisted living residents who are in the memory care area of the facility. Their faces lit up when they saw her, and they continued to smile as Easter cards were passed out. Club members handmade Valentine's Day and Easter cards for all 40 of the residents, and the activities manager, Kat Krichko, was grateful for the cards, the therapy work, and the initiative. She said, "One of the residents was crying on Easter. When I handed her the card you girls made her, she was so happy and smiling—the cards and visit made the residents' day! Thank you!"



*We have blocked out the faces of the nursing home residents in order to protect their privacy.

Angels for Devils Activities

Activities involving therapy dogs in senior citizen homes often revolve around providing companionship, comfort, and joy to the residents. During these visits, Roxy engaged with seniors through various interactive sessions, including bingo games and special holiday-themed activities, like Valentine's Day celebrations. These therapy dog interactions not only bring smiles to the faces of the seniors but also create meaningful connections and alleviate feelings of loneliness or isolation. Roxy's presence fosters a warm and welcoming atmosphere, enhancing the overall well-being of the residents and leaving lasting impressions of happiness and fond memories. In addition, Angels for Devils has partnered with Poly Purrs and Changemakers to host a dog and cat toy event for shelter animals. Partnering with the tutoring center, we were able to provide ASU students with a "Paws-itive" studying event featuring Roxy.