



Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Consent and Release of Liability

About Bailey:

Bailey is a certified Emotional Support Animal and is utilized in a variety of therapeutic settings. She is a two year old, female, German Shepherd/Golden Retriever mix who loves to be around people and other dogs! She has been working with children, teens, and adults since she was certified in 2022. Bailey is groomed regularly and goes to the veterinarian yearly for check- ups and vaccines.

****Patients who want to utilize AAT in their therapeutic sessions should be assessed by a doctor for allergies or any other medical conditions that may compromise your health if in close proximity to dogs.****

Please put a check next to the statement/s that pertains to you or your child:

1. I am afraid of dogs yes no
2. I have allergies to animals yes no
3. I have respiratory challenges yes no
4. I have a medical condition and/or am going through treatment that could compromise my health if I am in close proximity to dogs yes no

I am not aware of any ailments or medical conditions myself/my child has that would prohibit physical interaction with the dog. _____ (Initial)

Respect and Rules of the Therapy Dog:

1. The therapist will assess the patient to see if they are a good fit for AAT. If this modality is not a good fit, the therapist will discuss the reasons why and try another modality, or refer the patient elsewhere if they desire.
2. Bailey will be treated and handled gently (no hitting, pulling tail, hair, ears, yelling or any other actions that may cause her to become uncomfortable and/or jeopardize her safety). In the event such behaviors exist, Bailey will be removed immediately and future sessions with the patient will be evaluated for the safety and effectiveness of AAT for the patient.
3. Patients must wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, and/or sanitizing wipes before and after touching Bailey.
4. Bailey will always be with their handler/therapist during sessions and will never be left alone with the patient.



5. If at any time, Bailey shows signs of distress, irritation and/or fear, she will need to take a break from the session and the handler/therapist may either remove the dog from the room or the dog will go to their designated spot in the office.
6. Just like people, dogs, too, sometimes do not want to participate in an activity. In the event Bailey does not want to participate in the session, the patient will respect the dog's feelings and the therapist will utilize other modalities for that session.
7. Bailey sometimes works off leash, and patients sometimes walk her for a short time. These two events may cause Bailey to get excited. She may pull on the leash or sit or lean against your body, and because she is strong and big, it may cause a person to lose their balance. Please initial below if you DO NOT want to participate or have your child participate _____.

Risks Associated with Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT):

1. Animals, like humans, can get anxious, scared, and/or irritated, among other emotions; however their responses to these emotions are not always the same as humans. If the dog responds and/or reacts in a threatening and/or unsafe manner, the patient is to move away from the dog and the therapist will remove the dog from the room.
2. Dogs communicate their wants and needs through body language and barking, for example; they wag their tail in excitement, or brush or lean against you to show love or get your attention; there is a possibility of losing your balance and falling down. Since this is the nature of dogs, the therapist/practice cannot be held liable if such an occurrence happens.
3. Bailey will be groomed and her nails will be kept short; however, there may be a risk of getting scratched. The therapist/practice will not be liable in the event such an accident happens.
4. Licking and nibbling is a dog's way of expressing affection and/or telling you they want to play. During therapy sessions, these behaviors may occur, however the patient will never be left alone with the dog during the sessions. The therapist will make every effort to monitor the dogs behavior; however there is still a risk of the dogs licking and nibbling. Please initial below if you DO NOT want you/or your child to be licked. _____.



For Minors:

I, the parent or guardian of _____, understand and agree to the policies, procedures, and risks associated with the use of AAT in a therapeutic setting. I hereby authorize Be Inspired Counseling, LLC to provide Animal Assisted Therapy with a Certified Emotional Support Animal under the care of Jessica McPeak, LICSW. I accept full liability in the event that Bailey causes injury to my child in any way throughout the course of treatment. I am aware that this release can be revoked at any time.

Name _____ Date _____
Signature _____

For Adults:

I, _____, understand and agree to the policies, procedures, and risks associated with the use of AAT in a therapeutic setting. I hereby authorize Be Inspired Counseling, LLC to provide Animal Assisted Therapy with a Certified Emotional Support Animal under the care of Jessica McPeak, LICSW. I accept full liability in the event that Bailey causes injury to me in any way throughout the course of treatment. I am aware that this release can be revoked at any time.

Name _____ Date _____
Signature _____

Jessica McPeak, LICSW

Date