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Green Acres Schedules TDI Therapy Dog Test

For Immediate Release

Saturday, June 20, 2009

Contact: Don Hanson
Green Acres Kennel Shop
945-6841

[***Bangor***]— Therapy Dogs International evaluator Don Hanson has scheduled a Therapy Dog test for the afternoon of Saturday, July 25th at Green Acres Kennel Shop. There are a maximum of twelve slots available for this test and advanced registration is required. To register, stop by Green Acres Kennel Shop or call at 945-6841. There is no rain date for this test.

TDI Therapy Dogs and their handlers, when invited, may visit hospitals, nursing homes and other places to provide people with the opportunity to interact with a furry goodwill ambassador. The simple act of stroking a dog can be very therapeutic and brings great joy to people who no longer have dogs.

It should be noted that a TDI Therapy Dog is not a service or assistance dog and does not have the same rights to access as people with disabilities and their service/assistance animals.

The TDI test will evaluate the dog and handler and how well they work together. The dog must be at least one year of age. There is no minimum age for handlers, but handlers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult on visitations and the registration form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

- TDI will not register any dog that has bitten a human being.
- TDI will not register potential applicants who have their dogs registered with any type of Therapy Dog related program or organization other than TDI.
- TDI will not test or register deaf dogs.
- TDI will not test or register dogs that are service or assistance dogs.
- All dogs must be tested on a flat buckle collar or harness.
- While the dog and handler team are evaluated during a formal test, they are also being observed by the evaluator the entire time they can be seen by the evaluator. The dog should be under the handler's control at this time as well.
- During the test, handlers are responsible for their dogs' action. They should make sure that their dog is covered by their homeowners or other liability insurance prior to the test. TDI's insurance will not cover unregistered dogs.
- Applicants who wish to visit with more than one dog at the same time must be tested by a TDI evaluator with the dogs together.

For more information on Therapy Dogs, click on the "Therapy Dog" at the Green Acres web site, www.greenacreskennel.com, visit www.tdi-dog.org or checkout the article "What Is A Therapy Dog" at http://tinyurl.com/bf6lzl