

Roots to Wings, LLC



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CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a creative therapy modality that utilizes licensed and credentialed therapy animals and handlers to provide goal directed interventions to individuals of all ages. Therapy animals can be a valuable part of the treatment team. However, because Lacey is an animal and not a human, we need to be aware of the benefits and risks involved. By reading and signing below, you agree to the terms listed and release Andria Palmer, LCSW-C and Roots to Wings, LLC from liability to any illness or injury that should incur during sessions using Animal Assisted Therapy.

Policies, Procedures and Risks for Working with Animals in Therapy

1. Lacey is currently in training; meaning she has not yet been certified to do Animal Assisted Therapy. She still needs to learn some skills to pass her certification test. During her training process, and even once she is certified, you may opt to not have her a part of your session. Should you choose, she will stay in her crate for the duration of your session. Please do not feel obligated to have her participate; she loves her crate!
2. Participation in AAT is not guaranteed and will be based on Andria Palmer's assessment. Andria will assess the appropriateness of AAT in regards to treatment goals. Andria may revoke the use of AAT at any time if it is determined that the animal is at risk of being mistreated, has been mistreated by the client, if the presence of the animal is contraindicated, or if an adverse reaction by the client or animal occur.
3. Clients must disclose allergies prior to the start of treatment. Andria Palmer and Roots to Wings, LLC will not be held liable for adverse, allergic, or other physiological reactions to the presence of the animal.

4. Clients will disclose any fear of dogs before treatment commences.
5. Although Lacey is very friendly and loves people, goodness of fit between the client and animal are important in meeting treatment goals and efficacy of treatment. Due to the unpredictable nature of all animals, it is possible that the client and Lacey are not a good fit and alternative treatment methods will be considered and discussed at that time.
6. Animals have their own moods that determine their level of desire to interact with people. Lacey will be allowed to take breaks when her behavior indicates one is needed and no one but Andria Palmer may interact with her while resting. Lacey will never be forced to interact should she indicate distress or resistance.
7. Animals often use their mouths in play. Therefore, even when playing, it is possible for light biting to occur. When playing with a toy with Lacey, she may miss the toy and get your finger. When she realizes this, she releases and does not bite down, but you may still feel her teeth. Lacey is always groomed before sessions and her nails are trimmed. However, scratches may also occur. Dogs also show affection by licking. Andria will make every effort to monitor this, but the risk for light biting or contact by saliva is present. Neither Andria Palmer or Roots to Wings, LLC will be held liable by any injury related to Lacey's teeth, oral contact, or nails.
8. Lacey is current on all her vaccinations. However, risk of zoonotic disease transmission (the sharing of diseases between animals and humans) always exists. Direct contact with urine, stool, and/or blood should be avoided. Clients should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after contact with animals.
9. If sick or injured, Lacey will not be able to participate in services. Sick animals can transmit diseases or behave in unpredictable ways.
10. Dogs use their bodies to communicate and may brush against people, wag their tail, etc. This may result in falls, light bruises, or loss of balance. Andria Palmer and Roots to Wings, LLC are not held liable for injury obtained while in direct contact with Lacey.
11. Clients will never be left alone with Lacey and all accidents and injuries will be immediately disclosed to Andria Palmer, who will take proper action to obtain appropriate medical care.

Rules for Working with Lacey When in Session

1. Lacey has her own quiet space in the office where she can rest, sleep, or just take a quiet break. She should not be disturbed when she is in this area.
2. Lacey should always be treated gently. She should never be hit, have her tail or any other parts pulled, be carried or treated in any other way that is uncomfortable to her.
3. If Lacey becomes irritated, scared, or in any way acts in a negative manner, I will put her in a safe place. No other person should touch her at these times.

