



Liz Burke Therapy Dog Handler



My dog Rebel and I work for the town of Hopkinton, MA.

How long have you been a therapy dog handler?

I've been working as a therapy dog handler with my own dog for 2.5 years, but I've been a volunteer service dog trainer for many years.

Where do you currently work?

I work for my town: Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

How do you spend most of your time at work?

I visit the local schools (elementary, middle and high) as well as the Senior Center and the Library. Some people will read to the dog, help walk the dog (I have 2 handles on my leash) or just pet and love the dog.



Why did you choose this career?

My family and I have volunteered with service dogs for many years through an amazing organization called NEADS. I've witnessed first hand the effects of animal assisted interactions, and was inspired to train Rebel as a service dog and offer our services to the town.

LIZ'S FUN FACTS

I love the Broadway Show Hamilton! I love the soundtrack, books and anything Hamilton related! Although I don't think he had a dog...

What did you do to prepare for this career?

My dog and I are part of a Therapy Animal group, where we passed an evaluation to become a registered team. She has also passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love to see people smile when they see my dog!

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Sometimes I have to remind people (both adults and children) not to crowd the dog. There are many people excited to see Rebel but having 10 people at once swarm around her makes her skittish.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Love, consistency and training are key to a good relationship with your dog. Practice, practice, practice!



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