

WMTD Prescreen Information & FAQs

Please review the following information carefully before your prescreen. Failure to meet these requirements may result in your prescreen being canceled or rescheduled.

Required Equipment

Your dog **must** wear an approved collar or harness and be attached to an approved leash during the prescreen. **No exceptions.**

Acceptable Collars, Harnesses & Leashes

- Well-fitted buckle collars
- Quick-release or snap-closure collars
- Body harnesses made of leather or fabric
- All-fabric martingale collars
- Head halters (such as Gentle Leader®, Promise®, Snoot Loop®, or Halti®)
- Premier Gentle Leader Easy Walk® Harness
- Halti® Harness
- Freedom Harness
- Sense-ation® Harness
- Sense-ible® Harness
- Fabric or leather leashes **6 feet or shorter**

Unacceptable Equipment

The following are **not permitted**:

- Metal collars or metal harnesses
- Martingale collars with metal links
- Slip collars of any kind
- Pinch or prong collars
- Spike collars
- Electronic or spray collars
- "No-pull" harnesses other than those listed above
- Leashes containing metal chain
- Retractable (Flexi) leashes

Required Documents

You **must** bring the following documents with you. If you do not have them, you **will not** be able to participate in the prescreen.

1. Written permission to register and visit with the animal if the handler is **not** the dog's owner (if applicable).
2. Copies of your dog's veterinary records showing current:
 - Bordetella
 - DHLPP
 - Rabies
 - Negative fecal test
 - Veterinary health certificate showing vaccination dates and expiration dates

Please note: Collar tags are **not** accepted as proof of vaccination.

Additional Information

Handler Requirements

- If the dog has not lived in your home for the past six months, you must have been the dog's primary handler for at least the last six months.

Your Dog's Health

Your dog **cannot** be evaluated if they:

- Have an infection, open sore, wound, or stitches
- Are ill or injured
- Are taking antibiotics
- Are experiencing pain or discomfort

Grooming & Appearance

Your dog must arrive clean and well-groomed.

The prescreen simulates an actual therapy dog visit, so handlers should also dress appropriately. Please avoid casual attire such as sandals, cutoff shirts, or cutoff shorts.

Female Dogs

If your dog is in heat, your evaluation will be rescheduled to the end of the testing session to ensure a fair evaluation for teams with male dogs.

Disability Accommodations

If you or your dog require accommodations due to a disability, please discuss them with the evaluator before the prescreen begins.

Leash Requirement

All dogs must remain on leash and under the handler's control while on the testing grounds unless they are safely crated.

During the Evaluation

The prescreen is designed to simulate situations commonly encountered during therapy visits. Be prepared to actively participate in role-playing scenarios with the evaluator and assistants. Your ability to communicate with and advocate for your dog is an important part of the evaluation.

Treats are not permitted during the prescreen.

Dogs Participating in Bite Work

Dogs that participate in Schutzhund bite work are not eligible to participate in WMTD therapy dog programs.

Your Evaluation Begins Upon Arrival

Your evaluation begins **the moment you and your dog arrive on the property** and ends only when you leave.

If your dog displays a behavior that is scored as **Not Ready** at any point before, during, or after the formal prescreen exercises, the team may receive a Not Ready score. If this behavior occurs before the evaluation begins, you may not be evaluated that day.

Examples of Not Ready behaviors include:

- Jumping on people or other animals
- Mouthing the handler or others
- Pulling excessively on the leash
- Rolling completely onto the back (exposing the belly submissively) while being petted

- Eliminating anywhere other than the designated outdoor relief area
- Repeated stress signals, including continual barking, whining, howling, or excessive licking

Your Dog's Welfare

Your dog's safety and well-being are always the top priority. During the evaluation, your dog will never be intentionally hurt, frightened, or placed in a dangerous situation.

If you are uncomfortable with or uncertain about any part of the evaluation, please let the evaluator know. You are encouraged to advocate for your dog at all times.