

Congrats to Oliver and Oscar!

I couldn't be happier or more proud of my two Dachshunds, Oliver and Oscar. They passed (with flying colors, I might add!) their Delta Society Evaluations on May 21 meaning that they will now be certified as Animal Assisted Therapy dogs. This is no easy feat!

The dogs that are certified to become Delta Society Pet Partners are very special. They love to help and heal others. They are gentle and friendly. They are well-behaved and have good social skills and manners. They bring joy, comfort, healing and support to those in need. They may visit patients at hospitals and in hospice care. They may visit the elderly living in assisted living centers or in nursing and retirement homes. They may work with children in schools – helping them learn to read and socialize. They may work with special needs children and adults. My other Assisted Animal Therapy dogs have worked with autistic children and adults as well as those with Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and so on. Depending upon an animal companion's aptitude, behavior and social skills, she may even visit patients in hospital emergency rooms and on care flights to decrease fear, anxiety, stress and depression in victims or trauma or patients in need.

“Delta Society is dedicated to improving human health and comfort through interaction with service and therapy animals. ...They work tirelessly to increase awareness about the positive effects animals have on human health, to expand animals' therapeutic and service roles in health, service and education and to reduce the barriers that prevent animal involvement in everyday life. Delta Society provides specific programs to help people survive challenges and manage and improve their lives with the assistance of animals.

I have no doubt whatsoever that Oscar and Oliver will be outstanding “pet partners” and bring healing, help, hope and inspiration to many, many people in need. They are my angels and will, no doubt, be regarded as “angels” by those they serve.