



Animal-Assisted Therapy Informed Consent

Healing Hearts Therapeutic Services, PLLC offers Animal-Assisted Therapy as part of some treatment services. Animals are living beings and, although they are carefully selected, trained, and monitored, their behavior can never be guaranteed to be completely predictable.

Participation Guidelines

To protect both clients and animals:

- Animal participation is **always voluntary** and at the discretion of the clinician and the animal
- Animals must be treated gently and respectfully at all times
- Animals may not be hit, grabbed, carried, or handled roughly
- A clinician will always be present during any interaction with an animal
- If an animal shows signs of stress or discomfort, the interaction will stop immediately

Potential Risks

I understand that:

- Even well-trained animals may behave unpredictably
- There is a small risk of:
 - Scratches, bites, or minor injuries
 - Allergic reactions
 - Tripping, falling, or loss of balance
- Animals may use their bodies, mouths, or movement to communicate, including during play

I understand that I must inform the clinician of **any allergies, fears, or medical concerns** prior to participating.

Important Safety Statement

Healing Hearts Therapeutic Services, PLLC agrees to use **reasonable care** in selecting, training, and supervising animals and in supervising all animal-assisted interactions.

By choosing to participate in Animal-Assisted Therapy, I acknowledge that:

- I understand the **inherent risks** of working with animals
- I voluntarily assume those risks
- This consent does **not** waive my legal rights in cases of negligence or misconduct

Consent

I consent (or consent for my minor child) to participate in Animal-Assisted Therapy sessions at Healing Hearts Therapeutic Services, PLLC.

I understand that participation is **optional** and may be stopped at any time by me or by the clinician.