

Paws for Love Policy

4-H and Under Age 18 Handlers:

Children from age 8 up to 18 may participate if they are involved in a 4-H group where the group is doing visitations as part of their 4-H community service activities, or with active adult participation. In these cases, the child must have the parent's or 4-H leader's consent AND the parent or legal guardian or 4-H leader must go through the program with the child. The adult pays ½ the cost for the workshop but must complete the Certification test independently from the child and pay the prevailing price. Children under age 16 are only allowed and certified to do group visits. No one-on-one visits are allowed even with the adult in attendance. They are certified and identified on their ID Badge as Junior Handlers.

Consideration is made with the observed maturity level and dog handling competence of the child as well as the dog breed and child to dog size ratio. Can the child physically handle the dog if force is necessary to control the dog, or is the child outweighed by the dog or cannot persist against the dog's temperament/personality? In some cases, permission to participate may be deferred for more training of the dog and child (needing more maturity or focused attention span).

Children between the age of 16 – 18 may do one-on-one visits with the adult in attendance.

When the child turns 18, they may certify on their own but must have an adult's signature to participate. They are certified as an adult.