



Why are There Dogs in Here?

Because....

We want our clients to have the most comfortable experience possible

Research shows that the presence of animals quiets anxious brainwaves in the posterior areas of the brain

Clients tend to open up more easily and feel calmer with a dog sitting beside them

Research also shows that dog friendly workplaces have happier, more effective employees, which is good for our clients

Dogs are the masters of genuinely showing acceptance and non-judgmental love. They teach us how lovable we are.

However,

We realize that the presence of dogs is not the answer for everyone. Your comfort is very important to us. Please tell any member of our staff if:

- **You or your child are allergic to dogs**
- **You or your child are afraid of dogs**
- **For any other reason you would prefer to not be around our support dogs**

Our clients will never have to be in session with our dogs if that is not wanted. We will also happily keep our dogs out of the lobby and hallway when we are aware of any client concern. If desired, your therapist will also help to schedule your appointment on a day or at a time during which there are no dogs, or fewer dogs present.

Please note: Our dogs are fully vaccinated, parasite free, and acclimated to being with each other. As their owners, we are confident about their behavior and personalities. Because we cannot possibly control these factors in other dogs, we unfortunately cannot allow other clients to bring their pets with them to therapy appointments, unless of course their dogs are service animals.

Get to know:

Gretl (dachshund).... *Certified Emotional Support Animal.* Gretl is a natural therapist, intuitive & engaged, although at times talkative. Passive, submissive, calm and very loving. Although she is clearly a Princess today, Gretl is an abuse & abandonment survivor and greatly loves her job assisting in work with other trauma survivors. She loves kids, but because of things that have occurred in her past, takes some time warming up to men. Please don't take it personally!

Mabel (shih tzu).... *Apprentice Support Puppy.* Mabel is a life loving puppy, and best friend of Gretl. While Gretl has been trying to teach her to be more "lady like" and "professional", Mabel has accomplished the amazing task of teaching Gretl to enjoy life and play (briefly). Mabel models a joyful approach to life, the benefits of abundant affection, and mindful enjoyment of each moment. Mabel is young and open-minded, with love for everyone.

Jackie (lab mix).... *Aspiring Certified Therapy Dog (in progress).* The largest and most submissive of our three furry therapists, Jackie is obedient, gentle, quiet, and tolerant. Having had difficult times in the past, she exhibits an endearing nervousness. At times you can catch her carefully peeking around the corner looking for her mom. Jackie really likes working with kids and teenagers. Gretl and Mabel like to venture down the hallways to find Jackie and visit.