

Working Dogs in Education

Presented by :

Raylee Davis - South Plains Service Dogs

Lisa Brown - Estacado High School

Lizabeth Burns - The REACH Program

1:00 -2:20 Working Dogs

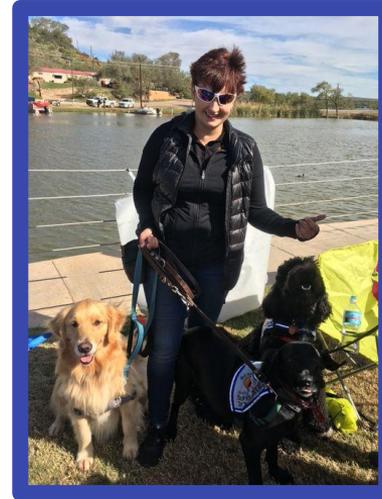
2:20-2:30 Break

2:30-3:50 Therapy Dog Programs

3:50-4:00 Questions

About Raylee

- Worked as an orthopedic nurse for 7 years
- Became interested in service dog work because of my brother
- Attended Bergin University of Canine Studies
- Earned:
 - Associates of Assistance Dog Education
 - Bachelors of Science in Cynology (Canine Studies)
- Started South Plains Service Dogs
 - Train pet, therapy, and service dogs



Types of working dogs

- Emotional Support Dogs
 - Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support
 - Do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
 - Allowed on planes
 - Allowed in housing that does not allow pets
 - Requires letter or prescription from licensed Medical or Psychiatric provider
 - Does NOT have public access rights
 - There are no specific state laws in Texas that protect emotional support animals; however, owners of ESAs are protected under the federal **Fair Housing Act**
- Skilled Companions
 - Dogs who have specific skills to mitigate a disability but do NOT have public access
 - Are allowed in housing that does not allow pets
- Therapy Dogs
 - Dogs who go with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes
 - Live with their handler
 - Work in a variety of environments
 - Can have multiple handlers
 - Does NOT have full public access rights



Types of working dogs continued

- Service Dog in Training.
 - Texas allows Service Dogs in Training full public access rights
 - Each state is different
 - Tribal lands and religious establishments are the exception
- Service Dog
 - Dog that helps mitigate a specific disability for an individual
 - Works for one person
 - Can have multiple handlers
 - Schools are NOT required to provide handlers
 - Have full public access rights
 - Tribal lands and religious establishments are the exceptions
 - Help mitigate a disability with three or more specific tasks



According to the ADA



- Beginning on March 15, 2011, only **DOGS** are recognized as service animals under titles II and III of the ADA.
- Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
- Service animals are to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is allowed to go.
- A service animal must be under the control of its handler.
 - They must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks.
 - The individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions:
 - (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability,
 - (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform.
- Staff **CANNOT** ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

According to the ADA continued



- Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals.
 - When a person who is allergic to dog dander and a person who uses a service animal must spend time in the same room or facility, for example, in a school classroom, they both should be accommodated by assigning them, if possible, to different locations within the room or different rooms in the facility.
- A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless:
 - (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it
 - (2) the dog is not housebroken.
- People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be isolated from other patrons, treated less favorably than other patrons, or charged fees that are not charged to other patrons without animals
- Staff are **NOT** required to provide care for or supervision of a service animal.

Brief history of working dogs

- War/Protection/Hunting
- Sled/Search & Rescue/Herding
- Police/Military
- Guide Dogs
- Service Dogs
- Therapy Dogs
- Environmental



Guide dogs to service dogs

- Guide Dogs began after WWI
 - Used to help blind veterans
 - First US Guide Dog Program started in 1929
- Guide Dog training is very strict
 - Very high failure rate
 - Training takes 18-24 months
- Started with German Shepherds
 - Golden retrievers and labs also used
- Dogs must be hard workers and take initiative
 - Trainers must work blind folded with the dogs



Guide dogs to service dogs continued

- Concept of Service Dogs started with Bonnie Bergin
 - Trained multiple breeds
- Mobility Dogs receive 18-24 months of training
- They can:
 - Turn on lights
 - Open fridges and doors
 - Retrieve items
 - Remove socks, shoes, jackets, etc
- Less initiative than Guide Dogs
- Dr. Bergin worked to change laws regarding public access



Types of service dogs

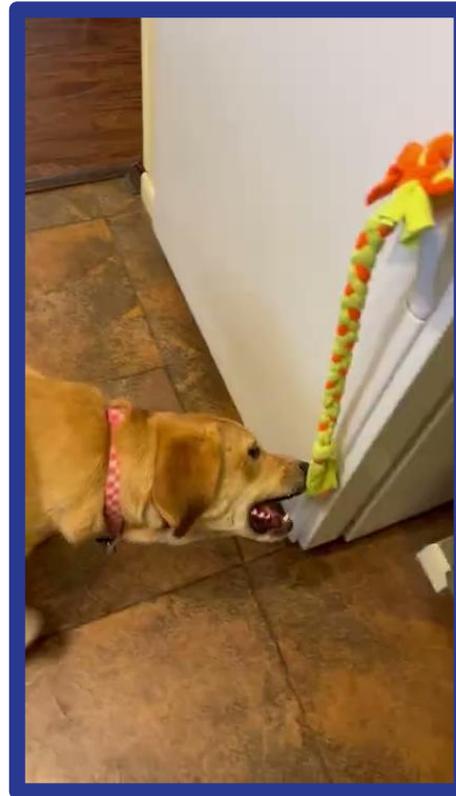


- Hearing Dogs
- Diabetic Alert Dogs
- PTSD Dogs
 - Children are being diagnosed at an earlier age due to abuse and trauma
- Autism Dogs
- Balance Dogs
- Seizure Response
- Narcolepsy Dogs
- Psychiatric Dogs
 - Anxiety and Depression diagnosis increasing



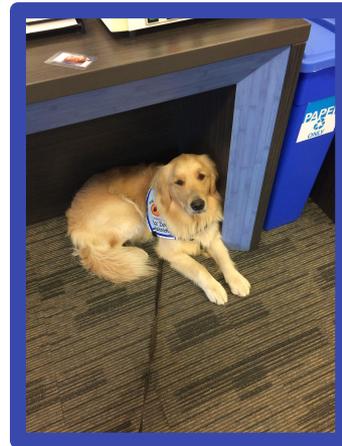
What service dogs can do.....skilled tasks

- Open and close doors
- Push elevator buttons
- Alert
 - Medical alert
 - Safety alert
 - Hearing
- Turn lights on and off
- Provide balance support
- Interrupt behaviors
 - Destructive
 - Increasing anxiety
- Decrease insomnia



What service dogs can do... skilled tasks continued

- Pull wheelchairs
- Retrieve items
- Provide balance
- Help their person get up from a fall
- Go find help
- Help with laundry
- Deep pressure therapy
- Increase personal space



What service dogs can do... Non Skilled tasks



- Provide companionship
- Decrease stress, adrenaline, and cortisol levels
- Increase endorphins
- Decrease blood pressure, heart rate, and anxiety
- Provide unconditional love
- Provide social gateway

Service Dogs in Schools

- Faculty or students may have service dog
 - Mobility dog
 - Medical alert dog
 - PTSD
 - Autism
 - Psychiatric
 - Becoming more common
- Service dog in training may be a bit of a gray area
- School is NOT required to provide handler
- Dog should not be interacting with multiple students
- Allergies are not a reason to deny someone service dog access



Reasonable expectations for service dogs in schools

- Service Dog- an unobtrusive helpmate for someone with a physical, cognitive, or mental difficulty or limitation
- Dog should be:
 - Well trained
 - Unobtrusive and quiet
 - Easily instructed by handler
 - Potty trained
- School can refuse to allow a dog if the above criteria is not met
- Common arguments against having a service dog in a classroom
 - Allergies
 - Fear of dogs
 - Distraction
- Setting clear goals and expectations for students and staff can help facilitate the dog's introduction into the school smoother



Types of therapy dogs

- Reading
- Crisis response
 - Grief counseling
- Facility
- Visitation
- Test day
- Recess
- Counseling/therapy



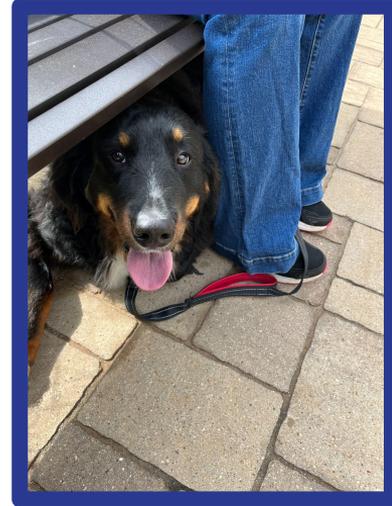
Therapy dog skills

- Provide emotional support and comfort
- Facilitate social interaction
- Deep pressure therapy
- Decrease/diffuse situations
- Interrupt behaviors
- Decrease adrenaline and cortisol levels
- Increase endorphins
- Help with behavior shaping
- Provide unconditional acceptance/love



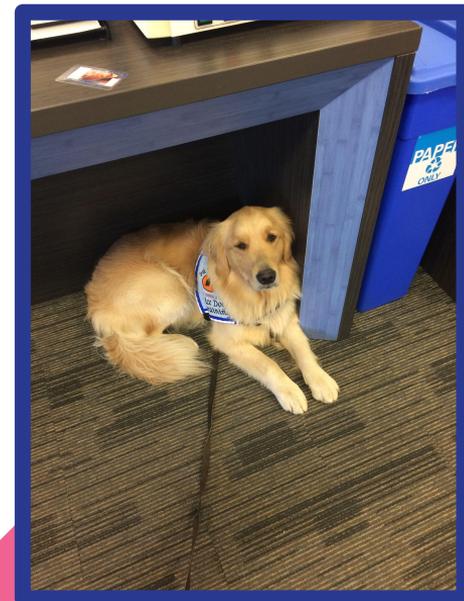
Reasonable expectations for therapy dogs in schools

- Dog should be:
 - Well trained
 - Unobtrusive and quiet when not working
 - Easily instructed by handler
 - Potty trained
 - Willing to work and interact with a variety of people
- School can refuse to allow a dog if the above criteria is not met
- Common arguments against having a therapy dog in a classroom
 - ADA does not address therapy dogs
 - Allergies
 - Fear of dogs
 - Distraction
- Setting clear goals and expectations for students and staff can help facilitate the dog's introduction into the school smoother



Training process

- EXTENSIVE
 - Service dog 1-2 years
 - Therapy dog 4-6 months
- Ongoing
 - Use it or lose it
- More skills = more training
- Start with the basics and go from there
- Consistency is very very important
 - Service dogs must be able to work in a variety of environments
 - Therapy dogs do not have to but can
 - Crisis team
 - Community events
- Work with distractions
 - Dogs
 - Sounds
 - People



Handler expectation for working dogs

- Maintain control of the dog at all times
- Should give breaks
 - Play/downtime
 - Potty
- Intercept on the dog's behalf
- Continue to practice/train with the dog
- Maintain a healthy dog
- Keep up with paperwork
 - Therapy dogs will need insurance, vaccination records, handler notes
- Follow laws and protocols
- Financially responsible for any damage done by dog



Psychiatrist/Psychologist Help - Service dog



- Can suggest when a child might benefit from a service dog
- Provided information for service dog programs in the area
- Introduce service dog protocols in a child's education plan
- Work as a mediator for the student and school staff



Psychiatrist/Psychologist - Therapy Dog



- Use the dog in counseling
 - Facilitate difficult conversation
 - Deep pressure therapy
 - Play therapy
- Identify students who would benefit from therapy dog interactions
- Introduce the use of a therapy dog in the student's education plan
- Educate faculty, staff, and parents of benefits of a child's interaction with a therapy dog

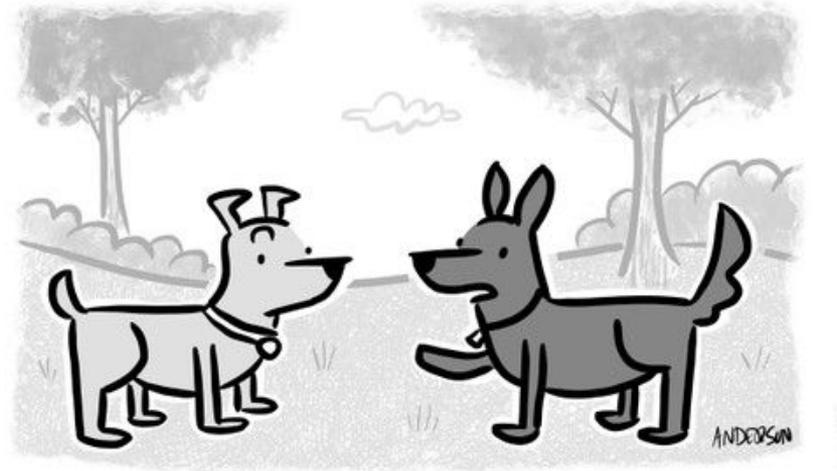


Questions



10 Minute Break

WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"OK, you're on a desert island and you can only take one - stick, frisbee, or tennis ball?"

Welcome to the best day ever

A dog's love is better
than any therapy.

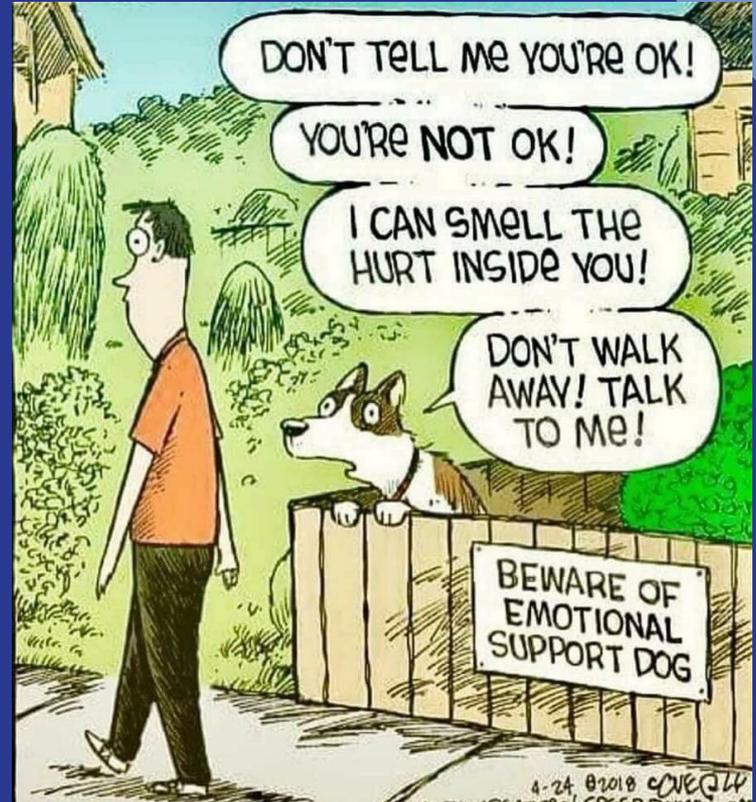


... and a lot cheaper too!

What is a therapy dog?

Everyone thinks they have the best dog. And none of them are wrong

Unknown



Meet the Team

Thor just turned 3! He is certified and excited about his job. He is a Golden Retriever who refers to himself as THE GOLDEN. Luckily he works with kids who keep his ego in check. He is a major fan of tearing up cardboard.

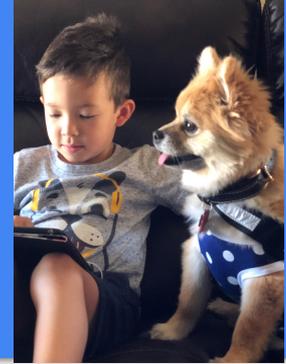


Meet the Team

Buddy is a former Service Dog turned Therapy dog! He turned 6 this past July! He is sweet, loving, and kind (unless you drive a UPS, Postal truck, FEDX, or Amazon truck)! He currently works with high school students right now, but his favorite humans are the littles! He truly turns it on for them! His obsession is balls of all kind!

Animal Assisted Activities - AAA

5 activity benefits for children



***Physical:** tactile stimulation, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulate the senses (playground activities-playing fetch, chase, walking)

***Social:** positive discussion, greater self-esteem and well being (reading with dogs)

***Cognitive:** stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing

***Emotional -Behavioral:** acceptance of others, lifts the mood provoking laughter, redirect negative behavior and anger (calm down times with the dog, one on one time and interaction)

***Environmental:** Adaptive and satisfactory social interactions (rewards for good choices, time with the dog, celebrations of success)

Animal Assisted Therapy - AAT

Animal Assisted Therapy is a goal-directed intervention in which the animal serves to help a student reach their behavior related goals. This includes learning self-regulation and empathy building.



The REACH Program utilizes Therapy Dogs to empower students to build relationships and overcome challenges.



Our Therapy Dogs and their handlers have achieved the Canine Good Citizenship Award from the American Kennel Club. They hold their certification as Therapy Dogs through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

I'm Interested... Now what? Know your why!



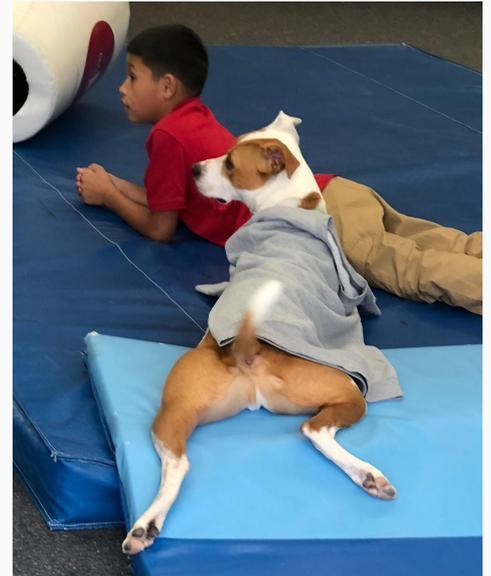
Animals can be used in a variety of ways to help improve the social and emotional climate on the school campus.

- Distraction
- Comfort
- Emotion co-regulation
- Incentive

Using animals in a Therapeutic Way.....

We focus on building bonds and trust.

The dogs are excellent in helping a student calm
and breath independently.



Benefits of using animals in a therapeutic way.....

Who doesn't feel better after rubbing a dog's soft fur??

In a 2003 study, both humans and dog oxytocin levels in the blood rose after 5 to 24 minutes of a petting session.

[Kuchinkas Susan, The Chemistry of Connection: How the Oxytocin Response Can Help You Find Trust, Intimacy, and Love p65](#)



I like what I hear... What's next?

Starting a program takes some thought. There are lots of things to consider....



Therapy dogs come in all shapes and sizes

For a school environment a medium to large size dog works well. You want to choose a dog that can be seen in a crowd.

You also need to be aware some people are allergic to dander.

Labs, Golden Retrievers, Great Danes and Goldendoodles make great therapy dogs.



IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY RAISING A PUPPY ...



SPIRITDOG
Training

Absolutely make sure that he spends a little bit of time away from you every day (eg taking a nap in a different room).

If he gets used to you being around 24/7 for weeks or months and then things go back to normal, he might show severe separation anxiety.

Even if you can be with him all the time now, practice him being by himself a little bit each day.



How do they become certified?

Our dogs are Certified with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs

- Vaccines Current/Health Certificate (able to produce upon request)
- Passed Canine Good Citizenship or Equivalent/Therapy Dog Test
- Observations on teams socialization skills
- Background Check
- Dog must be at least 1 year old
- Pay your fees

What things should I consider at school?



They go where you go!

They also need a safe space where they can rest and just be a dog!

Availability of food and water*

Potty breaks*

Signs on Doors



Staff Interactions



“Great. I get him the Discovery Dog Channel, now he wants a DVR.”

Staff Interactions

People are going to love the dogs. How much love is too much love?

- Mainly a facility dog issue
- Dogs can perseverate on one person.
- Distracts the dog from its job
- Interferes with student/client interactions
- Can promote bad habits

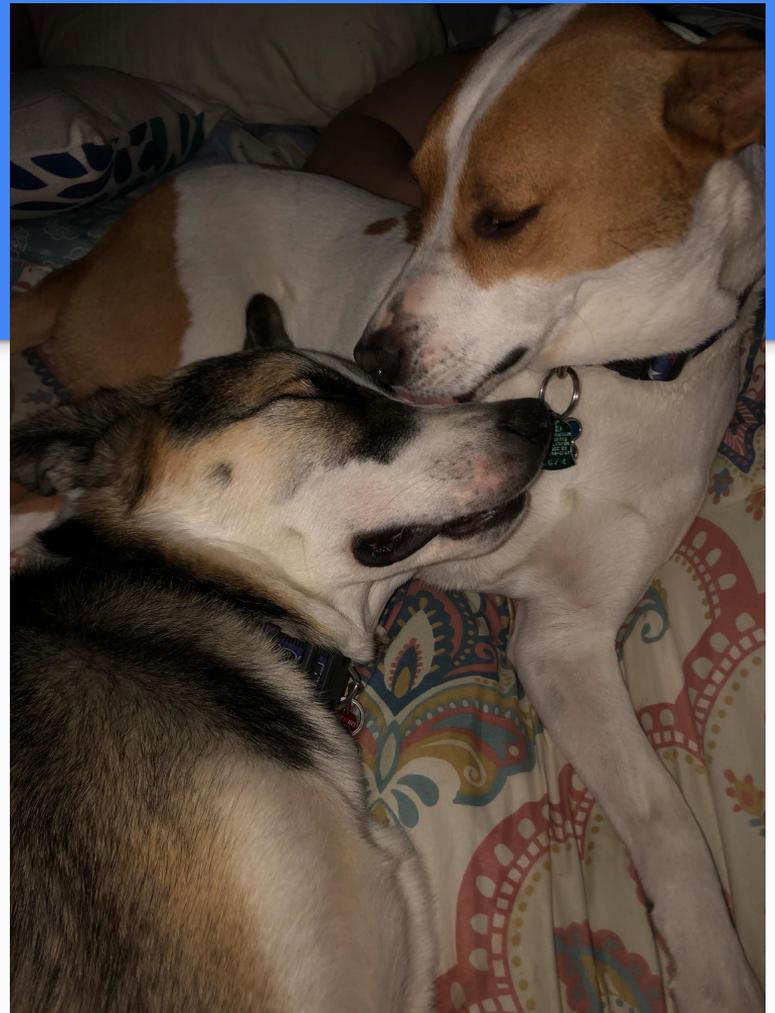
Self-Care

Having a therapy dog can be draining.

Take time to recharge your batteries!

You give a lot of yourself.... Allow others

To give back to you.



Muttley Crew

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

4:30-5:30 - Come as you can

Time to talk about needs and share

Success stories



For my mom

Crisis Intervention

Advance Preparation is the key



Animal Assisted Crisis Response - AACR

A well trained dog can help bridge the gap, establish rapport, and develop a very successful therapeutic relationship.

In other words a therapy dog can do what a crisis counselor does in less time.

Along with the dog, you could bring paper, writing tools, fidgets, etc. to aide in the support that the dog gives.

Muttley Crew Crisis Response

Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response



Andrews ISD Bus Crash



Noteworthy Utilization

SCURRY COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019

Snyder Daily News

Page 1B

A student's best friend

In the aftermath of last weekend's deadly shootings, SPD's therapy dog offered Ector County students a paw to lean on

By Steve Reagan
MDN Staff Writer

In the wake of last weekend's mass shooting in Midland and Odessa, the Snyder Police Department sent in a four-legged specialist to help comfort students struggling to cope with the tragedy.

Lexi, the department's therapy dog, along with Officer Bailey Latham, spent Tuesday at the Ector County Technical Education Center, meeting with students and offering what assistance they could during the first school day following the shootings, which left seven dead and more than 20 injured.

"While many students will

undoubtedly need additional counseling as they deal with the tragedy, having a loving dog proved to be quite helpful.

It was a mission for which Lexi is uniquely qualified.

"Of course, Lexi was a hit with the students," Latham said. "They just adored her and she brought a lot of smiles to a lot of faces. And, of course, we were glad to help."

Lexi, a border collie mix breed who was selected last year by the Snyder Police Department to be its first therapy dog, has been specially trained to help people deal with personal trauma. In the days following Saturday's

shooting, her services were especially needed.

Snyder was contacted by the therapy canine team from Lubbock Monday afternoon, asking for Latham's and Lexi's help with students in the Midland-Odessa area.

The next day, after meeting with officials at the Region 14 Educational Service Center, they teamed up with counselor Scottie Knight for the trip to the Ector County Technical Education Center, which provides technical training classes for students in the school district.

Latham and Lexi were just a part of flood of assistance being offered to students.

See Lexi, Page 3B



Snyder Police Department officer Bailey Latham (far left, front row) and the SPD's therapy dog, Lexi, are pictured with students and staff at the Ector County ISD Technical Education Center Tuesday.

Courtesy photo/Bailey Latham



Lexi with six of her new-found friends.



A dog's life: Lexi, the Snyder Police Department's therapy dog, was a hit with students when she visited the Ector County ISD Technical Education Center Tuesday.



Lexi had her photo taken by a student.

Lexi helped students cope on their first day back at school after the Odessa/Midland shootings which occurred on August 31, 2019

Odessa/Midland Mass Shooting



What makes a good crisis response dog?

Crisis response dogs are trained to handle stressful, crowded situations so that they can help people remain calm in disasters. Not all therapy dogs have the temperament to be crisis response dogs.

A good crisis response dog is:

Not afraid of strangers

Not bothered by crowds

Outgoing, but calm

Unbothered by loud noises such as crying or screaming

Unbothered by children or adults in distress

Trained and socialized

Setting up to Respond

First Response Teams - search and rescue teams are different than an AACR team.

Assess the situation- emphasis now is on handlers and therapy animals being able to provide “psychological first aid,” helping people deal with the initial shock and impact of a crisis event, and providing comfort and calm through the presence of an animal and a reliable handler.

- Identify the need
- Active Listening
- Encourage Positive Thinking

What do you want your dog to do?

This is where a trainer can help.

Nudge an arm or leg

Lean into a person's legs or shoulder

Lay across a lap

Allow for hugs

Things to watch for

Counselors risk experiencing secondary trauma or compassion fatigue when working with acute crisis populations. This refers to experiencing the client's sense of depression, anxiety, and trauma symptoms

To prevent secondary trauma or burnout, counselors may wish to consider implementing self-care strategies. This includes taking care of physical health: eating a nutritious diet, exercising regularly, and maintaining an appropriate sleep schedule. It also means taking care of one's own mental health: carving out time for leisure activities, reflection and journaling, spirituality, and spending time with loved ones.

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“I take six hour lunches and give myself a raise whenever I need more money. Those are my stress management techniques.”

The Dynamic Duo - K-9's and You

Lizabeth Burns and Thor - Lubbock ISD The REACH Program

lizabeth.burns@lubbockisd.org

Lisa Brown and Buddy- Lubbock ISD Estacado High School

lisa.brown@lubbockisd.org