GMR THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

Global Medical Response
THERAPY DOG TEAM

GMR THERAPY DOG SERVICES

Founded in 2016, the GMR Therapy Dog team has grown from a small program of just a few therapy dogs into a national resource for GMR. Therapy dogs are integrated into local operations and provide support services to emergency responders and the communities they serve. GMR Therapy Dogs are highly trained support animals that work in conjunction with peer teams, critical incident stress responses and crisis-support resources.

In conjunction with GMR's work promoting a culture of wellness and resiliency through our GMR Life program, the GMR Therapy Dog Team complements our multiple resources.

🐾 CAREGIVER WELL-BEING

Global Medical Response has made a deliberate effort to support first responders and promote well-being. In 2020, GMR Life was established as the company's resource for wellness, resiliency and mental health support. In collaboration with other company departments, GMR Life has worked to create comprehensive support services for all GMR employees, including teams deployed to support natural disasters, acts of terrorism or any other public health emergencies. The GMR Therapy Dog Team falls under the supervision of GMR Life and is part of the comprehensive support structure available to our employees. For support tools and resources, visit **gmr.net/gmr-life**.

🐾 SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

Work in emergency medical services is incredibly rewarding. First responders have the unique ability to serve their communities by providing expert medical care in emergency and non-emergency settings. However, first responders are also at risk for increased levels of stress-injury formation due to the nature of their work. GMR recognizes that the application of support systems such as critical incident stress management, crisis care, the Employee Assistance Program and mental health resiliency training help responders maintain a healthy work-life balance.

The GMR Therapy Dog Team has a significant impact on employee wellness and engagement of staff while complementing other employee support resources. GMR Therapy Dogs are integrated into operations across the country and are available as deployable resources.

🐾 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

In addition to the incredible work that the GMR Therapy Dog Team does with GMR employees, the teams are also integrated into their local communities. It is common to see GMR Therapy Dogs at community events such as CPR trainings, toy drives, blood donation events, City Council meetings and other first responder agency events. GMR is dedicated to being good stewards in the communities we serve, and the Therapy Dog Team supports this mission, serving communities across all 50 states.
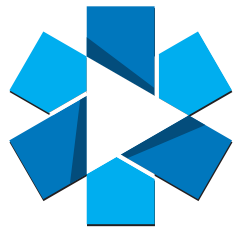
🐾 BREED SELECTION

The GMR Therapy Dog Team exclusively utilizes hypoallergenic 'doodle' breeds for the team's composition. Labradoodle, Goldendoodle and other combinations of these doodle breeds are specifically chosen for their desirable characteristics related to temperament and hypoallergenic coats.

In addition to the physical and temperamental traits, doodle breeds are highly intelligent animals and are apt learners of the advanced training required to be a support animal with GMR. Also, doodles function extremely well in the high-stress and austere environments they work in. To obtain the GMR Therapy Dog certification, these dogs must demonstrate their ability to remain obedient and calm in potentially stressful, emotional and, sometimes, chaotic environments. Our Therapy Dog handlers participate in every step of a dog's training from initial obedience through certification. Our handlers also go through CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) and ResponderStrong training prior to their Therapy Dogs being fully certified.

🐾 THERAPY DOG TEAM INFORMATION

For more information about the Therapy Dog Team and the services they provide, contact **GMRLife@gmr.net**, and be sure to follow the team on Facebook **@GMRTherapyDogs**.

Global Medical Response

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