



STEPS TO STARTING A R.E.A.D.® PROGRAM IN YOUR SCHOOL



- 1) Schedule a R.E.A.D. presentation with the Hudson Valley Visiting Pet Program.
 - Invite interested teachers, administrators, reading specialists, PTA members, and parents.
 - In-school presentations last approximately 45 minutes.
 - Please let us know if you have a DVD player and screen.
- 2) Review the red folder of material that we will leave with you, which includes an agreement, parental permission slips, policies and procedures, etc.
- 3) Call Risa Hoag with any questions about the agreement at 845-627-3000 or send an email to risa@gmgpr.com
- 4) Schedule a site assessment.
 - Members of the HVHS Visiting Pet Program, including the available R.E.A.D. team (a human handler and a registered, tested and insured therapy dog, cat or other pet) will visit the site and review access to the building, flooring, anticipated R.E.A.D. location, etc.
- 5) To move forward, sign the agreement and send it to us by mail (HudsonValley Visiting Pets, Attn: R.E.A.D., 104 Lake Road, Valley Cottage, NY 10989) or via fax: 845-627-0915. Keep a copy for your records.
- 6) Have your school reading specialist or teachers choose 3 - 4 children to participate in the program (a single R.E.A.D. team will work with the students, one at a time, with each student having a 20 minute time slot) on a regularly scheduled (such as weekly) basis.
 - Review the program with the children and their parents.
 - Ask interested parents to sign the parental permission slips and return original permission slips to our office. Keep a copy for your records. *The program cannot start until we receive the signed agreement and signed parental permission slips.*
- 7) Choose a mutually convenient day of the week and time for students, teachers and R.E.A.D. team.
- 8) Choose a start date for the program.
- 9) Prior to the first session, have the reading specialist and/or teachers schedule a meeting with the handler to review reading scores and any concerns for each child.
- 10) Schedule monthly reviews with the handler to discuss progress, issues, etc.
- 11) After 10 weeks, evaluate the students' progress; complete the performance review that is included in the red folder and discuss the next steps.

In the Reading Education Assistance Dog® or R.E.A.D.® program, children read out loud to registered therapy animals to improve reading skills, comprehension, and self-confidence. *R.E.A.D. program activities are always provided **FREE** to schools and libraries. Donations we receive go back into the program to purchase books, stickers and other items for the children who read with our teams.*

Here is how to start a R.E.A.D. program in your school with the help of volunteers and animals from the Hudson Valley Visiting Pet Program.

Please note: if we are unable to provide you with a team that can provide an ongoing commitment right away, we may still be able to provide you with occasional R.E.A.D. programs after school or during school. We can also provide Humane Education presentations for your students.

For more information visit our website at www.HudsonValleyVisitingPets.com. Thank you for your interest in the Reading Education Assistance Dog Program! We look forward to working with you and your students.

The Hudson Valley Humane Society Visiting Pet Program is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation located in Valley Cottage, New York. It is funded entirely by donations.