



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



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** of charge to schools and libraries; donations are always graciously accepted and go back into the program to purchase books, stickers and other items for the children!*

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

- 1) Schedule a R.E.A.D. presentation with the Hudson Valley Visiting Pet Program.
  - Invite library administrators, interested teachers, reading specialists, and parents.
  - The presentations usually last 30 minutes.
  - Please let us know if you have a DVD player and screen.
  - Call Risa Hoag to schedule the presentation and to ask any questions at 845-627-3000 or send an email to [risa@gmgpr.com](mailto:risa@gmgpr.com)
- 2) Review the material we will leave behind, which includes an agreement, parental permission slips, sign-up sheet, etc.
- 3) Schedule a site assessment; we may be able to do this on the same day as the presentation:
  - Members of the Hudson Valley Visiting Pet Program will visit the site and review access to the building, flooring, anticipated R.E.A.D. location, etc.
- 4) To move forward, sign the agreement and send it to us by mail (Hudson Valley 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.
- 5) Choose a mutually convenient day of the week and time for our teams to schedule a session with the children; we can arrange for one visit or several over the course of a few weeks or months.
- 6) Begin promoting the program through the library newsletter, bulletin boards, e-mail blasts, etc.
  - Have a sign-up sheet available for parents to register their children
  - Ask interested parents to sign the parental permission slips (you will return the originals to us on the day of the program). Keep a copy for your records. *No children will be allowed to read unless we receive the signed parental permission slips.*

For more information visit our website at [www.HudsonValleyVisitingPets.com](http://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 Visiting Pet Program is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation located in Valley Cottage, New York. It is funded entirely by donations.*