



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
DIVISION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

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ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
HON. LESLIE ANN CELEBREZZE

COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
JAMES S. ZAK

JUDGES  
HON. DIANE M. PALOS  
HON. FRANCINE B. GOLDBERG  
HON. TONYA R. JONES  
HON. COLLEEN ANN REALI

**MEMORANDUM**

Domestic Relations Court is proud to announce that Magistrate Hochheiser will be bringing his certified therapy dog to court several times a month for the benefit of the court employees and select litigants upon request. An email will go out to all staff on days Luna will be in court.

Luna received her therapy dog certification through *Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc* and has also been certified a *Canine Good Citizen (CGC)* by the *American Kennel Club*. Luna has extensive experience with both children and adults, including the very young and the elderly.

Luna will be hanging out in Magistrate Hochheiser's office on days when she is in court. Please message Magistrate Hochheiser if you would like to come visit Luna. She is always available for pets and hugs. If you have a particular litigant who you feel would benefit from pet therapy, please message me to make arrangements in advance.

Please find the benefit of therapy dog at work below.

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Therapy dogs can help employees feel more resilient at dealing with stress and lessen their reactions to stressful situations. Employees who are healthier take fewer sick days, need lower health insurance premiums, and contribute better at the workplace than those who fall sick often or suffer chronic health issues. Overall, the introduction of a therapy dog in the workplace allows for productivity, an improvement in moral, encourages teamwork, and promotes a healthier environment in the workplace.

In a matter of minutes, petting a dog decreases cortisol levels and increases oxytocin. That translates to less stress and anxiety and improved mood. Stress level scores dropped 11 percent among workers who brought their dogs to work, according to a study by Virginia Commonwealth University. In contrast, stress levels increased 70 percent for those who did not have their pets at work.

In addition, co-workers find their workday to be more satisfying once they interact with therapy dogs. These interactions have meaningful physiological and emotional effects on employees — both of which influence attitudes toward the workplace. A study by Nationwide/HABRI shows that 9 out of 10 employees are highly bonded to their employers when pet-friendly benefits are offered.

## **LUNA BAUM-HOCHHEISER**

### **Certified Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog**

Luna is a Certified Therapy Dog who offers volunteer services consisting of pets, hugs and cuddles for office staff, patients, students, court employees and litigants. She has extensive experience with both children and adults, including the very young and the elderly. Luna was adopted in 2021 from the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter. Her exact age was unknown at the time, but she is estimated to be around three years old. Luna completed her initial obedience training at PetSmart. She then completed her intermediate and advanced training at All About Dogs of Northeast Ohio. In 2022 Luna completed her advance training and passed the Canine Good Citizen test through the nationally recognized organization American Kennel Club. Wanting to use her learned skills and natural ability, Luna completed her therapy dog training and certification in 2023.



Research has shown that the presence of a therapy animal can help people control anxiety, regulate emotional, and improve mood. Pet therapy has also been shown to improve patient/employee satisfaction, energy levels, self-esteem, as well as decrease depression. Since therapy dogs are trained to be attentive to a person's needs and offer unconditional love, they can often stabilize intense emotions.

#### **EDUCATION**

Beginner Training – PetSmart, 2021

Intermediate Training – All About Dogs of Northeast Ohio, 2022 Advanced Training – All About Dogs of Northeast Ohio, 2022 Canine Good Citizen – All American Kennel Club, 2022

Therapy Dog Certification - Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog Inc. 2023

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. St. Augustine Health Ministries

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Canine Good Citizen

Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog certification

(Current as of January 2023)