

TDI Health Record Policy

This email is being sent to clarify why your dog no longer has a current health record. Your health record was current when you renewed your TDI membership for 2010. TDI membership runs from January 1st through December 31st, but medical procedures can expire anytime throughout the year. All TDI required health procedures need to be current at all times in order for you to keep making TDI visits. It is simply not enough to have a current health record when the renewal form is sent in and processed. If any required health procedure expires, the dog is not allowed to visit as a therapy dog until the health record is updated. If you do get a notice saying a medical procedure is outdated, it does not mean that all medical procedures must be performed again. Only the expired procedure needs to be performed. Once this is done, simply have the veterinarian send in proof that the test took place. You do not need to fill out a new health record, unless the procedure you need to have done is a check-up. If you do need to have the check-up done, take the blank health record you received with your renewal packet and have the vet put the date of the test and have the vet sign the form. Have the vet fax the health record to TDI.

If you are not sure what procedure has expired, call your vet and they can pull up the dates for the last time a procedure was performed. Please do not call or email TDI to inquire about what procedure is outdated. TDI has a small staff and does not have the capacity to investigate health records for everyone who has an expired procedure. Most veterinarians send reminders when a procedure is about to expire, so you may have already been contacted by your vet. When you renew your membership, it is a good idea to make a copy of your health record. This way you can monitor all the expiration dates as they come up throughout the year. You would not be a TDI member if you did not love and care about your dog, and ultimately it is your responsibility to keep your dog healthy.

Therapy Dogs International has a responsibility to ensure that our dogs are as healthy and as well trained as possible. TDI holds its members to high standards, and that is why the organization is so highly regarded by the people we serve. We also have a responsibility to the people we visit, as many of these people are more susceptible to diseases which your dog could possibly bring in to a facility. A person can catch rabies from a dog through just a scratch. In this scenario TDI would be liable if the dog was allowed to visit with an outdated health record. This is a very dangerous practice and cannot continue. Therapy Dogs International is committed to providing as safe an atmosphere as possible, for both the people we visit and the dogs themselves. There can be no compromise on this issue because it is of the utmost importance. TDI rules clearly state that dogs with any expired health procedure will not be allowed to visit again until that procedure has taken place. It is in the best interest of everyone involved that this policy continues to be enforced moving forward.

Summary

- *If the rabies, fecal, or heartworm procedures have expired, go to your vet and have just the expired procedure done. Once the procedure is done, have the vet fax us proof of the test. Now that your health record is current again, you may resume TDI visits.*
- *If the check-up is expired, go to your vet and have a check-up performed. Have the vet fill in the date of the check-up on the blank health form and then have the vet sign it. Have the vet fax this health record to us. Now that your health record is current again, you may resume TDI visits.*
- *The core vaccinations only have to be performed once as they do not expire.*