

Therapy Dogs of Vermont (TDV) Wolf Hybrid Policy

Therapy Dogs of Vermont does not discriminate against specific breeds of dogs. However, TDV's experience and expertise in the assessment, certification, and handling of therapy animals is focused on domestic canines. Certifying other species, whether cats, horses, ferrets, or wild canine hybrid crosses is not part of our mission.

After much research and reflection, Therapy Dogs of Vermont has made the decision not to certify wolf hybrids as therapy dogs. It is TDV's responsibility to protect the safety of our dogs, handlers, and the people we visit. Since our visits are often with people dealing with compromised health, we can not ignore potential health risks.

TDV's wolf hybrid policy is based on scientific evidence, including:

- Experts in animal behavior, animal control, animal welfare, and public health have produced evidence that canine hybrids can exhibit unpredictable behavior and pose a significant threat of severe attacks on humans.
- Presently there is no rabies vaccine licensed for canine hybrids and little scientific data on the pathogenesis of rabies in these animals.
- The exact percentage of wolf in a hybrid cross is not possible to determine conclusively.

Because TDV can not provide adequate assurance of the safety of working with wolf hybrid teams, we can not extend our mission to include wolf hybrids.