

CONSENT FOR THERAPY WITH LEENA

Introduction:

Leena is a Canine Good Citizen certified by the American Kennel Club. She is used in therapy with Mary Elizabeth “Emmy” Clausen, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Animal assisted therapies can be a source of comfort, while also increasing the therapeutic alliance.

Policies and Procedures:

1. Just like individual clients, Leena has rights. She has the right to not interact with others, to rest as needed, to walk around the room when she needs a break, and to drink water.
2. Leena will have her bed as a place for her to rest. If the therapist determines that she needs a break, she may rest and not be disturbed.
3. Leena is to be treated gently. She should never be hit, yanked, or ever to be made purposefully uncomfortable.
4. Only the therapist will give Leena commandments, unless otherwise agreed upon by the client and therapist.
5. If Leena becomes irritated, fatigued, or ill, the therapist can remove her from the therapeutic setting at any time.

Risks of Treatment:

1. Animals, like humans, can carry sicknesses. The therapist will do everything in her power to make sure Leena does not come to the session sick. This includes keeping her vaccines and veterinary appointments current.
2. Leena can lick and nibble as a means of affection and/or communication. It is the responsibility of the client and/or their guardian to notify the therapist if the client does not prefer licking behaviors.
3. Dogs carry natural dander. Although Leena is well groomed, allergies can occur. If the client has any known reactions to dogs, allergies to dander or pet hair, or any other allergic or physiological responses to animals, this is the responsibility of the client and/or guardians to notify the therapist and to not engage in animal therapies.
4. Animals have natural defenses. Although the risk is low, dogs can become upset and injure.
5. Dogs read and use body language to communicate. Furthermore, Leena is part boxer and a major trait of this breed is to lean into people. If she begins to lean on a client, often times it results in them feeling loved and bonded, but it can be dangerous to small children or people who are caught off guard.
6. Although Leena is extremely friendly and loves people, there is no guarantee that she will bond to every client.

Your signature serves as your acceptance of these rules and risks. By signing, you agree to accept full responsibility in the event that the animal harms the client in any way during the course of treatment and/or if outcomes of treatment with Leena are unfavorable.

Signature: _____ Date: _____