



**Yankee Program Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**  
**7:00PM at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough MA**

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**Animal Assisted Therapy**

Speakers:

**Joel Wolff**

President, Pets & People Foundation

**Penny Shultz**

Research Associate, Dept. of Anatomy and  
Neurobiology, Boston University School of Medicine

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Dogs have shared the same ecological niche with us for about 15,000 years. This means that the same types of environmental pressures have shaped both of us. Because of this, dogs have evolved an understanding of human behavior that few other species possess.

Although dogs have performed many different types of work for us over these years, their main role has been that of companion, and at times, healer and comforter. Thus, they are the natural choice for participating in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) programs. Presently, there are over 2000 AAT programs in the USA – and the demand for AAT therapy grows yearly.

Joel Wolff and Penny Shultz will talk about the various national and local (The Pets and People Foundation) organizations which certify dogs for therapy work, a little about what it takes to become a therapy dog, as well as, some of their experiences doing therapy dog work over the past 20 years.

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