



BUCKEYE PAWS

A therapy dog program dedicated to staff and faculty

Health care providers (HCPs) have an increased risk of stress-related disorders and burnout due to their high-stress work environment. Repeated exposure to traumatic injury and illness, human suffering and end-of-life situations can often lead to secondary trauma and moral distress. The cumulative consequences of HCP stress and burnout have been shown to negatively affect physical and mental health, which then can affect teamwork, communication and patient satisfaction.

Providing comfort and support

Buckeye Paws was founded to promote the mental and emotional health of staff and faculty at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center by providing support and comfort through highly trained, certified therapy dog-handler teams. A visit with a friendly, non-judgmental therapy dog can change the dynamics of the work environment, improve mood and decrease stress.

Our team

The Buckeye Paws team of therapy dogs supports staff and faculty across The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center by visiting employees in clinical and non-clinical work areas. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Buckeye Paws team has been a welcome relief to many, emotionally and physically.

Buckeye Paws is expanding across the Ohio State campus to offer support to students and events. Our team of 13 dogs will grow to 25 so we can reach more people.

Additionally, a group of researchers is currently studying the impact of this program to demonstrate its importance to the mental health and well-being of our staff and faculty.

Program support

Buckeye Paws Program Fund — 317037

Donations support programming, research, training, education, supplies and equipment.

For more information or to schedule a Buckeye Paws visit, visit medicine.osu.edu/buckeyepaws or email us at BuckeyePaws@osumc.edu.



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