



BP Educational Consultation

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Pets.tv

Episode #1213B

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Featured Pets: **Therapy Dogs**

General Synopsis for Episode #1213B

In this episode of Pets.tv viewers are introduced to **therapy dogs** that listen to children read. The show features BARK, a volunteer reading program in Los Angeles. The program is designed for therapy dogs to listen to beginning readers and/or children who are struggling to read. They also support second language learners and students who read using sign language. This one on one support, in a pressure free environment helps children feel comfortable and safe and they are not afraid to make mistakes. The therapy dogs read with students once a week for 8 weeks. Studies have shown that student's reading skills have improved 12 - 20% and their love of reading. The audience learns the criteria and evaluation process for a dog to become a certified therapy dog. Young viewers meet dog lover Roxanne, owner of Abby a certified therapy dog. Roxanne shares that Abby's calm, consistent personality makes her a perfect volunteer therapy dog. Abby knows when it is time to work and when it is time to play. When she puts on her BARK scarf, she knows she is going to work with kids.

Observation and Conclusion

Episode #1213B exposes young viewers to the responsibility and important work that therapy dogs provide and how volunteers are selected for this supportive program. This episode of Pets.tv delivers an educational and informational message that supports current social, intellectual and emotional aspects of children ages 13 and up. Attributes and advice emphasized by guests instill a grounded balance of priorities, commitment, and perseverance children can apply to their lives.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed.

Educational Consultant