



Welcome to Gold Country Love on a Leash! Our creed is simple - to use our 4-legged, furry friends to bring some sunshine and a smile to someone who needs it, whether it be an octogenarian or an eight year old.

This guidebook is to help new and prospective Gold Country Love On A Leash members obtain the most often needed information regarding the certification process and our procedures in one easily accessed place.

Introduction

Gold Country Love on a Leash (GCLOAL) is one of many local chapters across the country of the national non-profit organization called Love on a Leash (LOAL). LOAL was born in southern California in the mid 1980s to meet the need for the healing presence of animals in the lives of people in hospitals and nursing homes, and it quickly grew to a national level organization. GCLOAL became an active local chapter of LOAL in January of 2013, and has been growing ever since. Our territory is currently Placer and Nevada Counties, California, but is expanding in membership and geography.

LOAL is the umbrella organization that bestows the Therapy Dog certificate. GCLOAL is the local chapter which helps its members achieve certification and placement in a volunteer setting. In practise and in our guide we always refer to our chapter as “Gold Country Love on a Leash” or “GCLOAL” to distinguish us as local and not as national or other chapters.

The most complete source of information about the over-all program is LOAL’s website, www.loveonaleash.org . The site details pet therapy and the certification process. It also has all the forms and applications your need as you progress through your certification journey. It is highly recommended that you read the LOAL website very well - www.loveonaleash.org . This Members Guide is meant to cover more GCLOAL-related topics.

The Certification Process in General

LOAL has several requirements for certification. Your dog must be at least 1 year old. You and your dog must then pass LOAL’s **Control Evaluation (CE)**, an eval of obedience and temperament, administered by a licensed dog trainer. Then you and your dog must put in **ten (10) hours of Supervised Visits**, in a real therapeutic setting, under the tutelage of an

experienced GCLOAL member, who then evaluates you. If you pass, you apply to LOAL to be certified as a therapy pet team. The CE, the Supervised Visits Evaluation and the Supervised Visit Log are in the **Application Packet for Dogs** at:

[Love on a Leash Applications Page](#)

GCLOAL's Process

GCLOAL follows LOAL's certification process, though the process has some slight modifications. By the time a prospective member reads this Guide Book, s/he has already taken and passed the CE as administered by a professional dog trainer with whom we have partnered, and is now ready to begin the Supervised Visits. The LOAL overview of the process is in the document called **LOAL Guidelines** at:

[Love on a Leash Forms](#)

Supervised Visits

LOAL's second requirement for certification is **ten (10) hours of Supervised Visits** under an experienced GCLOAL member. At least five of your ten Supervised Visits must be under one Supervisor (for a variety of reasons, it is possible that some of the other 5 Supervised Visits may be under other Supervisors). The Supervisor who observes you for five or more of your Supervised Visits is the one who fills out your **Supervised Visit Evaluation**. The CE, the Supervised Visits Log as well as the Supervised Visit Evaluation are in the **Application Packet for Dogs** at:

[Love on a Leash Applications Page](#)

*Note - Each of your 10 Supervised Visits must be signed off by your GCLOAL Supervisor (see the Supervised Visits Log as found in the Application Packet for Dogs). The Supervised Visits Log is LOAL's required log form for your first ten (10) hours.

GCLOAL Facility Coordinators

GCLOAL is geographically stretched along Nevada and Placer Counties, covering a long area. We regularly visit facilities of many types from Auburn to Roseville and points further west. We primarily visit facilities with senior citizens, either in Assisted Living or perhaps Memory Care, or Skilled Nursing care centers. We are making inroads to other settings such as hospitals and more reading assistance, and members will be notified when volunteer positions become more available.

In order to coordinate the scheduling of Supervised Visits in the facilities we visit, GCLOAL uses a system of “**Facility Coordinators**”. These FCs are experienced GCLOAL members. They are the primary contact with the facility's activities staff, act as Visit Captains, and as Supervisors for Supervised Visits. We currently have two FCs for the Auburn area and two for the Roseville area. When a new person passes her CE, she is introduced to the FCs, and she and the FC work together to find the best location and time for their Supervised Visits. This introduction to the FC may be facilitated by GLOAL’s Chapter Leader or by the trainer who administered the CE.

Your FC is your primary contact between you and the facility. For example, if you will be absent, notify your FC, not the facility directly. Your FC is your primary contact within GCLOAL, but you may contact the current Chapter Leader directly at any time at GoldCountryLOAL@gmail.com.

Applying for Certification

When you have finished all the requirements and have assembled all the necessary documents and they are completed and signed, follow the instructions as found in LOAL’s **Application Packet for Dogs**, located at www.loveonaleash.org , mail in the application, the appropriate fees and photos to LOAL to the address in Oceanside, CA shown on the application. It is recommended that you either copy or scan your application before you mail, just in case. It can take up to 8 weeks for a response.

***Local chapter dues** of a \$20.00 donation are also due at this time, payable by check or money order to GCLOAL, and mailed to:

Gold Country Love on a Leash
% Jon Eudy
400 Washington Irving Drive
Colfax, CA, 95713.

******Participation in a local chapter is voluntary.

The Online Visit Log

GCLOAL members log all their visits on our Online Visit Log found on our website at www.goldcountryloveonaleash.org/log , via their computer, tablet or smartphone. This includes the ten Supervised Visits and the ThD/AKC Visits after those. Logging visits online is mandatory for GCLOAL members. The Instructions for logging your visits are available here on the Members page. It’s essential to read this:

Instructions for the Online Visit Log

**Note - Online logging is a GCLOAL specific system - LOAL (national) does not use or maintain the system.*

After You Are Certified - Advanced Certification Degrees

First of all, congratulations! Supervised Visits are over and you are a full-fledged Therapy Dog team. Time to shift to a new type of Visits - the **ThD/AKC Visits**.

**You will no longer log your online visits as “Supervised Visits”. Begin logging visits as “ThD/AKC Visits” and select one Specialty for your ThD.*

***You will no longer be using the paper Supervised Visit Log, and will no longer need to collect a GCLOAL Supervisor’s signature. See logging info.*

LOAL bestows the Advanced Degree Certificate of **ThD** to certified members who complete an additional fifty (50) hours of visits after initial certification, in a single specialty/category.

The **American Kennel Club (AKC)**, with whom LOAL partners, bestows **Therapy Dog Titles** in levels based on accumulated hours of visits after initial LOAL certification. LOAL and the AKC have their own applications and procedures, which sometimes change, so it’s best to go straight to the sources for the details and applications:

See LOAL’s [Love on a Leash Member Forms Page](#) to find the LOAL Advanced Therapy Dog Degrees application with detailed information about their ThD program.

See the AKC’s [American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Program](#) for their application and detailed information about their Therapy Dog Title program.

**Note - By arrangement between GCLOAL, LOAL, and the AKC, our Online Logging system satisfies all of their specific logging/reporting needs in one document (the Therapy Pet Advanced Visit Log), which is used for both applications.*

When you Reach a Milestone for an Advanced Certificate

When you reach a milestone for an Advanced Certificate, whether it be for 50 hours for LOAL’s ThD or one of the AKC Title levels, notify the Administrator at GoldCountryLOAL@gmail.com . S/he will email you proof of your hours in the form of the **Therapy Pet Advanced Visit Log**. This Log also allows you to select the Advanced Certificate for which you are applying. You will also be emailed the directions on how to use this proof of hours. You can view and download example copies of these documents from the Members Page::

Example of the Therapy Pet Advanced Visit Log

Instructions for the Therapy Pet Advanced Visit Log

When you receive your Therapy Pet Advance Visit Log, follow the instructions in the emailed documents to fill it out. Next, following the instructions for the particular organization to which you are applying, assemble the appropriate documents, forms, applications, and fees as required, and mail to the desired organization(s).

Other GCLOAL Information

Meet Your Board:

Jon J. Chapter Leader GoldCountryLOAL@gmail.com
Kat H. Facility Coordinator - Auburn area
Susan C. Facility Coordinator - Auburn area
Yvonne T. Facility Coordinator - Roseville area
Desiree R. Facility Coordinator - Roseville area
Dave J. Treasurer

Annual Renewals

LOAL requires that its members renew their certificates every year. The renewal application is on LOAL's [Member Forms Page](#). You may now renew online as well. If your pet passes away, you may renew as an Associate Member until/if you become a full member again by going through the certification process with another dog.

GCLOAL local chapter dues for the year are due at the same time you renew your LOL certificate. Dues are a \$20 donation which may be tax deductible. Make checks or money orders to GCLOAL and mail to

Gold Country Love on a Leash
% Jon Eudy
400 Washington Irving Drive
Colfax, CA, 95713

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This Member Guide is meant for our GCLOAL members. It is subject to change, so check back periodically at www.goldcountryloveonaleash.org/members.

Periodically check LOAL's website at www.loveonaleash.org as well.

Members are welcome to offer input to improve the Member Guide. It is for our members, so let the administrator at GoldCountryloal@gmail.com to offer suggestions.

