

Guidelines for Visitation of Therapy Dogs

A. THERAPY DOG VOLUNTEERS

- 1) Therapy dog volunteers must be registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partners and agree to the Policies and Procedures outlined by Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partners.
- 2) Handler teams are covered by Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partner's commercial general liability insurance.
- 3) As Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partner registered teams, handlers will undergo specific training and pass rigorous screening from Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partners licensed instructors and evaluators and veterinarians. Re-testing every two years ensures program quality and consistency.
- 4) Current documentation of volunteer registration and animal credentials shall be maintained in the Volunteer Services office.
- 5) Volunteers must fulfill all requirements for this facility's volunteer program as follows:
 - Volunteer Services staff will schedule an interview with the handler and therapy dog
 - If approved, handler will complete and submit a Volunteer Services application to the Volunteer Services Department
 - Handler will attend a minimum of one shadow visit with an existing therapy dog handler and be observed by a Volunteer Services staff member
 - Complete Volunteer Services orientation
 - Complete HIPPA training
 - Complete annual safety review training
 - Comply with CW's annual flu shot requirements
 - Comply with CW's Dress Code
 - Carry out CW's Code of Conduct
 - Wear a picture ID badge and volunteer apparel issued by Volunteer Services Department while performing service
 - Sign in and out as designated and record volunteer hours served
 - Participate in a minimum of two monthly visits
 - Confirm all therapy dog visits have a consult entered in EPIC while performing service
 - Supply Volunteer Services Department with results of yearly veterinary check-ups, including vaccinations
 - Remain current with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partners registration
- 6) Volunteers will read the Volunteer Handbook and become familiar with CW's Therapy Dog Program.
- 7) Volunteers must be able to explain the program and answer any questions from patients or visitors at the time of independent visits.
- 8) Handlers will carry and use a pet hair lint remover.
- 9) Handlers will place a Chux pad or sheet on a patient's bed before a therapy dog bed visit. Chux pads or sheets will be disposed of in designated laundry hampers upon completion of therapy dog visit.
- 10) Handlers will utilize a waterless based hand gel after seeing each patient and ensure anyone touching therapy dogs also uses hand gel.

B. ANIMAL SCREENING (Health, Skills and Aptitude)

- 1) Animals must be certified with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) or Pet Partners and maintain current registration.
- 2) Therapy dogs must be no or low shed dogs.
- 3) Therapy dogs must be under 100 lbs.
- 4) Therapy dogs must be kept on a strict vaccination and parasite prevention schedule, administered and documented by a licensed veterinarian. Therapy dog health documentation shall be kept in the Volunteer Services Department.
- 5) Therapy dogs must be clean and well groomed. This includes: bathed and/or thoroughly brushed 24 hours prior to a visit, nails clipped, ears clean and free of any odor, eyes clean, brushed teeth and fresh breath.
- 6) Therapy dogs shall wear a nylon, cloth or leather buckle collar, or a front clip harness that consists of nylon webbing, plastic or metal buckles and a metal ring in the front. *No pinch or choke collars permitted.
- 7) Therapy dogs shall remain on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length. No retractable leashes. Double leashing is required for walking with dogs in therapy situations.
- 8) Therapy dogs shall always remain with the handler and shall be under control at all times.
- 9) Therapy dogs must wear a CW ID badge while performing therapy dog services at CW.
- 10) All therapy dogs must be walked prior to arriving at the hospital to minimize clean-up on premises. Owners are responsible for their therapy dog.