

## Pet visit – Fox Valley campus



Children's Wisconsin knows pets can comfort your child. If your child will be in the hospital for more than a month, they may be able to have their pet visit. Dogs, cats and rabbits are the only pets allowed to visit. Families with visiting pets must follow these steps.

### What do we need to do at least 5 days before the visit?

- A veterinarian must complete the Pet Visit Health Certificate. Ask your nurse for this form.
- Your family must give the Pet Visit Health Certificate to the unit charge nurse or supervisor. It will be put in your child's record.
- You and the supervisor will decide when the pet will visit your child. Every visit must be scheduled.

### What do we need to do 24 hours before the visit?

- Your family must give the pet a bath.

### What should we do the day of the visit?

- Do not give your pet food and water for two hours before the visit.
- Walk your pet just before the visit. Pick up animal poop and put in trash.
- Put your pet in a carrier.
- A staff member will meet the family and pet in the lobby to escort them to your child's room.
- Your pet may be taken out of the kennel and visit for up to two hours.
  - Your child's door must be closed.
  - If your child is allowed to have your pet on the bed, ask for a towel, or sheet, or disposable cloth to put on the bed.
- Your child is the only patient that can visit with your pet.
- An adult in your family is responsible for the pet at all times. The adult must:
  - Keep the pet from licking the child's open sores, incisions or bandages. The pet should not lick any medical equipment, like tubing or machines.
  - Use a standard leash. Do not use a retractable leash.
  - Keep the pet under control to keep people and the pet safe.

### What should we do when the visit is done?

- At the end of the visit, put your pet into the carrier.
- The nurse will escort the pet and family to the lobby.
- Do not leave your pet in the car before or after the visit.

**For other health and wellness information, check out this resource:**

<https://kidshealth.org/ChildrensWi/en/parents>