



GUIDELINES FOR PET OWNERS WHEN BRINGING PETS TO VISIT

We recognize the therapeutic benefits to our patients and residents of pet visits and want to facilitate such visits. However, in order to ensure proper infection prevention and control, as well as to protect others who, for health or other reasons, should not be in contact with animals, the following guidelines must be maintained by the pet owners or pet visiting privileges will be curtailed or suspended.

- 1 Only cats and dogs are permitted to visit.
- 2 Animals may visit only during regular visiting hours.
- 3 Animals are permitted to visit in patient rooms only. Animals may not be brought into public spaces, except while being transported to a patient room, nor brought to public events or activities.
- 4 To reduce the risk of infection, proper hand hygiene must be practiced (wash hands or use an alcohol based rub product) before and after handling the animal. Human contact should be limited to the relevant patient and visitor during the visit (i.e., no other patients or staff should touch the animal).
- 5 Owners are responsible to ensure that the animal is:
 - fully immunized (all vaccinations up to date)
 - clean
 - housebroken
 - free of disease (particularly of diarrhea, worms and fleas)
 - obedient, good tempered and predictable
 - quiet
 - leashed or caged at all times, with a muzzle as necessary
 - exercised before the visit
- 6 Owners must stay with the animal at all times, and are responsible to immediately clean any animal waste should an incident occur. (Staff in the area will provide supplies for the clean up and disinfection of the soiled area.)
- 7 Owners must report any scratch or injury made by the pet to a patient, resident, staff, volunteer or other visitor during the visit.
- 8 Owners will be held responsible for the animal's actions while on our property, including any injury or damage that animal may cause.
- 9 Owners whose pet presents a threat to health or whose behaviour does not conform with our guidelines will be asked to leave with the animal immediately, and may not be permitted to return, as determined by our staff.
- 10 Visits may be restricted during an outbreak situation (information will be posted).

