

PERTH AND SMITHS FALLS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: Pet Therapy

CREATION DATE: December 30, 2015

APPROVED BY: Senior Leadership Council

Purpose

This policy is in place to ensure quality and safety to Therapy Dog Service recipients, as well as patients, visitors and staff associated with the Therapy Dog Service. Page 6 of 6 2.3.4 Accessibility - Service Animals, Pet Visitation and Therapy Dogs 1/29/2015

Policy:

Therapy dog programs bring comfort, joy and companionship and patients reap the benefits of unconditional love associated with Therapy Dogs' visits. It has been demonstrated that the petting, affection, and regular visitation of a dog can be beneficial to hospitalized patients (St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs Services Program, 2007, Delta Society, 2009). Therapy Dog Services is a regular part of the therapeutic recreation program for some areas at Quinte Health Care and is an option to patients that request this service. This request may be submitted by the patient, his/her family or substitute decision maker. Therapy dogs are not allowed in the following areas of the hospital:

- Food preparation and public food services area
- Medication storage/preparation areas
- Isolation rooms
- Intensive Care Units
- Procedure areas (operating room, labour/delivery, pre/post-op recovery areas)
- In a room where there is an immunosuppressed patient
- In a room where there are post-operative patients

Procedure

1. Provision of Therapy Dogs programs must be consistent with those same standards and guidelines as set out for Pet Visitation.
2. All dogs must have been tested for temperament and therapeutic qualities, and must be annually certified by their veterinarians as being up-to-date on all required vaccinations and in good general health. It is a requirement of the program that all dogs must be clean and thoroughly groomed before each visit.

| | |
|--|--|
| Last Reviewed Date: 03-23-2022 00:00:00 | Next Review Date: 03-23-2025 00:00:00 |
| Distribution Groups: none | Signing Authority: Chief of Staff, President and CEO, VP of Clinical Services, VP of Finance and Support Services |
| Disclaimer Message: Any printed version of this document is only accurate up to the date of printing. Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) cannot guarantee the currency or accuracy of any printed policy. Always refer to the Policies and Procedures site / PDMS for the most current version of document in effect. PSFDH accepts no responsibility for the use of this material by any person or organization not associated with PSFDH. No part of this document may be reproduced in any form for publication without permission of PSFDH. | |
| Date/Time Generated: Apr 19, 2022 14:02 | Generated By: |

3. The owner of a Therapy Dog must provide certification documents to prove that the dog has gone through one of two programs: St. John Ambulance or the Canadian Canine Association.
4. Handler must have appropriate insurance.
5. Handler needs to sign a release of responsibility form.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/oi_pets.htm
2. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2004/104_pets.html
3. Government of Ontario (2007). Accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities. Retrieved December 16, 2013 from: http://www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2011/elaws_src_regs_r11191_e.htm
4. Lefebvre, S., Golab, G., Christensen, E., Castrodale, L., Aureden, K., Bialachowski, A., Gumley et al (2008). Guidelines for animal-assisted interventions in health care facilities. American Journal of Infection Control. Retrieved February 27, 2014 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18313508>
5. Pet Partners (formerly Delta Society) (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.petpartners.org/page.aspx?pid=183>
6. Quinte Health Care (2014). Policy: Accessible Customer Service.
7. St. John Ambulance (2014). Therapy Dog Services. Retrieved from: <http://www.sja.ca/English/Community-Services/Pages/Therapy%20Dog%20Services/default.aspx>

Revision History:

January 2016
 July 2017
 March 23, 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| Last Reviewed Date: 03-23-2022 00:00:00 | Next Review Date: 03-23-2025 00:00:00 |
| Distribution Groups: none | Signing Authority: Chief of Staff, President and CEO, VP of Clinical Services, VP of Finance and Support Services |
| Disclaimer Message: Any printed version of this document is only accurate up to the date of printing. Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) cannot guarantee the currency or accuracy of any printed policy. Always refer to the Policies and Procedures site / PDMS for the most current version of document in effect. PSFDH accepts no responsibility for the use of this material by any person or organization not associated with PSFDH. No part of this document may be reproduced in any form for publication without permission of PSFDH. | |
| Date/Time Generated: Apr 19, 2022 14:02 | Generated By: |