



*Caring Canine*  
*Pet Therapy*

## *Guidelines as a CHI St. Joseph Health Volunteer*

- *Complete required visit documentation log at the end of each visit*
- *Communicate schedule changes with Volunteer Services*
- *Maintain professional relationship with staff and patients*
- *Must be able to explain pet visitation program and answer questions from patients, visitors and staff.*

## *Dog Requirements*

Healthy and free from parasites, disease, infections and illness.  
Must be at least 1 year old and has lived with owner for at least 6 months

Annual health updates from veterinarian

- Cost of updates are incurred by owner
- Proof of exam, required immunizations, rabies, parasite prevention and county licensure is required to be submitted to Volunteer Services

## *Dog Requirements*

Proof of passing Animal Screening (Health, Skills, Aptitude) and re-evaluation every 2 years

- Reactions toward strangers
- Reactions to loud and/or novel stimuli
- Reactions to angry voices and threatening gestures
- Reactions to being crowded
- Reactions to being patted in a vigorous manner
- Reactions to a restraining hug
- Reactions to other animals
- Ability to obey handler's commands

## *Dog Requirements*

- Clean and well groomed – bathed and/or brushed thoroughly prior to visit; nails clipped (free from sharp edges), ears clean, free of any odor, eyes clean, free from fleas/ticks, clean breath with teeth brushed
- Wear collar or harness
- On a leash no longer than 4 feet.
- No choke collars

# *Infection Control*

Don't come in if your dog is ill. This includes:

- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Urinary or fecal incontinence
- Sneezing or coughing
- Treatment with non-topical antimicrobials or with any immunosuppressive medications
- Open wounds
- Ear infections
- Hot spots
- In heat, pregnant, or nursing

# *Infection Control*

Unit charge nurse will make you aware of any patient posing high risk for spread of contamination

Hand washing between visits is critical. All patients, visitors and healthcare workers must wash hands before and after each animal contact.

- Carry Waterless antibacterial wash with you at all times. Provided by Volunteer Services in the cabinet above the sign-in computer in Auxiliary room.

# *Infection Control*

- If patient wishes for the dog to get on the bed, the owner must place an impermeable barrier on the bed. The owner must dispose of the barrier after the visit.
- No visiting animal should come in contact with any discharge from a patient.
- Volunteers shall clean up after their dog, both inside and outside the facility. If inside, please also contact environmental services to sanitize area.



# *Restricted Areas*

- Food Service Areas
- Clean linen storage
- Immune-compromised patients
- Elevators for staff/patient use
- Rooms with the following items posted:
  - No Visitors
  - Masks or gowns required
  - Isolation