



**CHI St. Joseph  
Health**

# *Caring Canine*

## *Pet Therapy*

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

- *Complete required visit documentation log at the end of each visit*
- *Record your time at the time clock or time sheet*
- *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

All Caring Canine Volunteers must also be members of *Aggieland Pets With A Purpose (APWAP)*. <http://apwap.org>

- You will need to read through the APWAP handbook to review and understand all the requirements necessary to volunteer with CHI St. Joseph
  - **Handbook Link:**  
<http://apwap.org/docs/APWAP%20Prospective%20Member%20Handbook%202015.pdf>

APWAP will ensure that all requirements for your canine are met before you can begin volunteering with CHI St. Joseph.

## *Dog Requirements-Pg. 3 APWAP Handbook*

Your pet must:

- Be at least one year old
- Enjoy and seek interaction with people, yet be polite enough to give people their space.
- Be generally non-aggressive towards people and other animals
- Tolerate accidental pulling of fur, ears, tail
- Not be too startled by sudden loud noises such as banging equipment or shouting
- Know basic obedience commands preferably at the CGC level.
- Be bathed and thoroughly brushed within 24 hrs. prior to visiting
- Follow the vaccination and veterinary care rules made by APWAP
- Pass the APWAP Temperament Test

### TEMPERAMENT TESTING:

*Temperament testing is done at least once each quarter. All persons wanting to test an animal must first complete two visits without their animal. The dates of the temperament tests are listed on our website under the calendar section. Dates are subject to change.*

## **Canine Vaccination Requirements:**

- ✓ Rabies - annually/triennially
- ✓ Bordetella - every six months
- ✓ DHPP (without leptospirosis) - annually or triennially as determined by your veterinarian
- ✓ Leptospirosis (or titer) - annually
- ✓ Corona - as determined by your veterinarian

## *Dog Requirements-Pg. 4 APWAP Handbook*

- All animals must have a yearly physical and veterinary screening that includes a stool sample and heartworm test. It is the volunteer's responsibility to make sure this is completed and must be turned in January of each year.
- You must accept full responsibility for your animal's action and must be in complete control of the animal at all times.
- All animals must remain on a leash at all times when in a facility. Exceptions only apply when retrieving during therapy, doing tricks, dancing routines, etc.
- No animals are allowed to visit until they have passed the APWAP temperament test.
- All dogs and cats must be at least 1 year of age at the time of the temperament test. Vaccinated puppies up to 6 month or 25 lbs. (whichever comes first) are allowed to visit but must be carried at all times.
- Females may not visit while in heat.
- If there are any open wounds, sores, hot spots, or scabs not fully healed on your animal, you must cancel your visit.
- Dogs must be bathed within 24 hours prior to visiting. This includes checking eyes, ears, breath, and nails. All long-haired dogs must be brushed immediately prior to visiting.
- All nails must be trimmed and filed.

## *Dog Requirements-Pg. 5 APWAP Handbook*

- All animals must be free of fleas/ticks prior to all visits.
- After any major event in an animals life (i.e. whelping, surgery, accident, etc.) they must be re-tested prior to any therapy or visits.
- Dogs must wear proper identification recognizing them as an APWAP member.
- Volunteer teams must follow all hospital/therapy setting protocols.
- Recognize stress in your animal and remove from the situation. Remember, you are your animal's advocate.
- While visiting in a hospital, good hand washing techniques/ or sanitation are recommended between each patient.
- If there is any aggressive behavior (or perceived aggressive behavior) shown by your pet during the visit (including growling, snapping, biting), or any scratches or other perceived accidents, you must leave the facility after informing the group and facility. The volunteer is also required to report this information on an incident or accident report form and provide this to the APWAP team within 24 hours. If not completed, disciplinary action may be taken.
- The volunteer is responsible for clean up after their animal and notify environmental services at the facility if the animal defecates, urinates or vomits on the floor. The volunteer is also required to report this information on an incident or accident report form and provide this to the APWAP team within 24 hours. If not completed, disciplinary action may be taken.
- Do not visit if your animal is ill.

# *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 at the Information Desk in the Regional Hospital.

# *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