

## Guidelines for Visitation of Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) Dogs

### PROCEDURES:

#### **A. AAA/AAT VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**

- 1) AAA/AAT volunteers must be registered with Therapy Dogs International or as Pet Partners with Delta Society and, as such, agree to the Policies and Procedures for Registered Pet Partners.
- 2) Handler teams are covered by Delta Society's and Therapy Dogs International, Inc. commercial general liability insurance.
- 3) As Delta/Therapy Dogs International-registered teams handlers will have specific training and pass rigorous screening from Delta/ Therapy Dogs International -licensed instructors and evaluators and veterinarians. Re-testing every two years ensures program quality and consistency.
- 4) Current documentation of volunteer TDI and/or Delta registration and animal credentials shall be maintained in the Volunteer Services Office.
- 5) Volunteers must fulfill all requirements for this facility's volunteer program as follows:
  - Complete/submit volunteer application to the Volunteer Services Office.
  - Preliminary interview with dog.
  - Handler will be required to attend a minimum of one shadow with an existing team (handler) and be observed three times by an existing team.
  - Attend a mandatory two-hour orientation program.
  - Complete and sign a volunteer "Confidentiality Agreement".
  - Wear a picture ID badge issued by this facility while performing service. Have a mandatory TB test, follow-up test, and required annual tests in future.
  - Wear approved volunteer garb, i.e., blue jacket and ID badge at all times.
  - Wear closed-toe rubber-soled shoes (no sandals).
  - Sign in and out as designated and record volunteer hours served.
  - Abide by the policies outlined in the volunteer handbook.
  - Supply volunteer services manager with results of yearly veterinary check-ups, including vaccinations.
  - Complete required visit documentation at end of visits completed in the departments.
  - Maintain a professional and cooperative relationship with staff, patients and other team members.
  - Participate in required monthly visits.
  - Remain current with Pet Partner Delta Society or Therapy Dog International registration.
- 6) Volunteers will read and become familiar with the AAA/AAT Protocol as outlined by this facility.
- 7) Volunteers are required to shadow a current pet volunteer for one visit before beginning their individual volunteer service with their animal.
- 8) Volunteers must be able to explain the program and answer any questions from patients or visitors after orientation provided by the department and Volunteer Services.
- 9) Handlers will carry and use a pet hair lint remover and will place a towel/sheet on a bed before an animal is placed on a bed and then place the towel/sheet in the laundry hamper.
- 10) Handlers will utilize a waterless based hand gel after seeing each patient and insure anyone touching the animal also uses hand gel. This will be provided by the hospital.

#### **B. ANIMAL SCREENING (Health, Skills and Aptitude)**

- 1) Animals must be Delta Society-registered Pet Partners or certified with Therapy Dog International with current registration. This facility has chosen to limit visits to the following types of dogs: no or low shed dogs, fewer than 100 lbs.
- 2) The handler teams will have completed specific training and passed rigorous screening from Delta or Therapy Dog International-licensed evaluators.
- 3) Animals must pass thorough examination by a veterinarian prior to registration.

- 4) Animals must be kept on a strict vaccination and parasite prevention schedule, administered and documented by a licensed veterinarian.
- 5) Animals must be clean and well groomed. They shall be bathed and/or thoroughly brushed 24 hours prior to a visit, nails clipped, ears clean and free of any odor, eyes clean and have clean breath with teeth brushed.
- 6) Dogs shall wear a nylon, cloth or leather buckle collar, or harness. Dogs may also wear a front-clip harness (consists of nylon webbing, plastic or metal buckles and a metal ring in the front). No pinch or choke collars will be permitted.
- 7) Dogs shall be on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length, shall always remain with the handler and shall be under control at all times. No retractable leashes. Double leashing is required for walking with dogs in therapy situations.
- 8) Animals must wear a CHW badge to provide identification as a therapy volunteer.
- 9) All dogs must be walked prior to arriving at the hospital to minimize clean-up on premises. Owners are responsible for their animals.
- 10) A veterinarian must certify yearly that the animal is healthy; free of infection, contagious disease, or dermatological problems; immunizations are current and that the animal is free of parasites such as fleas ticks, lice or worms. Animal health documentation shall be kept in the volunteer's personnel file.

