



## DETAILED VISITATION GUIDELINES



### Members Guidelines: Rules and Regulations

In order to be eligible to work in a Rainbow program all teams are to be current with the following:

- Annual dues
- Current, annual, signed vet form
- Rabies certificate on file
- Executed Code of Ethics form on file
- Rainbow AAT Registry Test or Annual Review

If a dog, for whatever reason, does not have a Rabies vaccination, that dog is not allowed to work as a Rainbow therapy dog. There are no exceptions to this policy.

In order to maintain working team status, all therapy volunteers need to be active for eight months of the year and accumulate 22 hours of service annually.

**Rainbow reserves the right to deny, revoke or not renew membership. At the discretion of the Rainbow Board of Directors, a handler/dog team may be asked to refrain from further visits temporarily or permanently as a Rainbow team.**

### Visitation Policies

#### Grooming/ Physical Appearance/Dress code

Handlers must wear the rebranded Rainbow Therapy shirt or vest as well as a Rainbow badge while working in a program. Dogs must wear a **current** Rainbow ID tag, rabies tag and the Rainbow therapy vest. Identification worn by either the handler or dog from other therapy organizations (such as Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Pet Partners etc.) is prohibited while representing Rainbow. Rainbow dog vests, shirts, etc. may only be worn while working Rainbow programs or designated Rainbow events.

**Handler:** In order to maintain a professional appearance, handlers should be clean, neat, and presentable. Sweats, leggings or tight-fitting attire including bare midriffs, tank tops, shorts etc. are not permitted. Jeans may not be worn in a hospital program. Wear sensible, safe walking shoes such as sneakers or any other type of shoe that covers your whole foot. High heels, shoes without backs, flip flops, open-toed sandals or crocs should not be worn for health and safety reasons.



**Because many individuals are allergic or sensitive to smells,** please avoid using perfumes, colognes and other scented oils on either the handler or the dog when working a program.

Handlers who smoke should minimize their smoke exposure before entering a facility and not try and cover the smoke odor with perfumes etc.

- Your jewelry should also be kept to a minimum to make sure it does not get in the way. Dangling necklaces and/or earrings are not recommended.
- Smoking is not permitted during therapy visits. Intoxicating beverages or compromising drugs may not be consumed prior to working a program.
- Depending on the requirements of the program, handlers may also need to have a PPD skin test for tuberculosis, a flu shot, other vaccinations or demonstrate immunity to childhood diseases.

**Be sure that you are in good health and not ill on the days you will be working.** If you are sick, notify the program chair as soon as possible so that a substitute can be found.

Handlers who have fresh wounds, recent surgeries or other injuries or a condition which might make it difficult for them to handle a dog or work safely in a program may not do pet therapy until they have recovered. Such conditions include stroke, broken limbs, weakened strength or a change in mental or emotional condition.

**Dogs:** Before working a program, dogs should:

- Be bathed when necessary and thoroughly brushed prior to a program visit.
- Have clean teeth and ears, trimmed/filed nails, be free of parasites and in good general health.
- Flea collars, spray or powder may not be worn or used directly prior to a visit in a facility as they may cause reactions in the program's participants.

**Dogs with open sores or physical signs of illness** cannot work a program. Conditions that restrict a dog from working in a program include:

- Diarrhea, vomiting, sneezing, coughing, taking immunosuppressive medications and/or antibiotics, skin disease/infection, painful condition/disorders (e.g. arthritis).
- Females "in season" cannot participate in any visitation program.

If your dog sustains an injury or is not feeling well, call your program chair as soon as possible so that a substitute may be found.

**In order to participate in a program,** demonstration or presentation, an annual physical examination is required of all dogs. Certain programs may require different and more frequent examinations. If a dog develops a disability or has any health problems, the Rainbow Board of Directors or its designate will make the final determination if that dog is able to participate in a program.

## Equipment for Working Programs

- Your dog should be kept on a soft 6' lead or shorter (4' is recommended).
- Your dog should be wearing a nylon or leather collar (flat, buckle-type, non-slip or all nylon martingales are permitted). Harnesses that are allowed are those that are not correctable or head.
- Equipment that is not allowed includes retractable and chain leads as well as metal collars (slip chain, prong or electronic), correctable harnesses and head.
- **Poop bags are not allowed tied to the dog's leash, collar or harness. This is unsightly and unprofessional.**
- Designate a leash to be only used in programs.
- **A dog may never be worked off lead.**



### ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Disposable clean-up kit -- may include paper towels or baby wipes. Each member is responsible for cleaning up after his/her dog if it defecates, urinates, or vomits. This will include disposal of the waste materials in tied plastic bags outside the facility in a refuse container. The facility's housekeeping personnel should be contacted if an incident occurs on carpeting, bedding or on a participant.
- Water bowl or spray bottle.
- Treats (to be provided by handler only). You should not allow your dog to eat treats that have been supplied by someone other than yourself. Do not bring high value treats which can be a distraction to the other dogs who are working the program.
- Brush/comb for last minute grooming and therapy use.
- Extra leash (soft material).
- Therapy bag with activities.

## Role of the Rainbow AAT Team

Rainbow AAT is used by a facility as additional support to the primary therapies offered by the institution's professional staff. The Rainbow handler is the facilitator, the guide who uses the dog's therapy skills to accomplish the program's goals.

Therapy dogs can aid in improving focus, interact with those who have difficulty communicating, encourage and aid in speech functions and motivate physical activities. It is the *dog's interaction with the participants* that becomes the therapy.

Using their specialized knowledge of their dogs and their skills and directing the dogs as they interact with the participants, handlers need to take a back seat to the dogs and allow the dogs to work. Experienced therapy dogs truly understand what they are doing. They become the key to making the interpersonal relationship and the therapeutic work possible.



## Access

### Therapy dogs do not have the same access rights as service animals.

The Americans with Disabilities Act defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability. *Therapy dogs are not service dogs.* They are not allowed to accompany their handlers wherever they go. Unlike service or working dogs, a therapy dog can only go where it is invited.

Our involvement in any program is a privilege – not a right.

Since therapy dogs, registered with Rainbow, are not service dogs they are not eligible for public access. Handlers who wish to take their therapy dogs into public venues that only allow service dogs do not have legal access rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act. They must not misrepresent their Rainbow therapy dog as a service dog.

## General Visitation Guidelines

### In Facility

- You may bring only one dog into a program at a time.
- Only working Rainbow teams or those new members doing dog observations are allowed to attend a Rainbow program. Members may not bring guests to any program.
- Visits are conducted only during the days, hours, and location spelled out in the current program agreement form. No visits outside of the scheduled program are allowed.
- Teams are on duty from the time they arrive and get out of their car until they get in their car and leave.
- Turn off your cell phone and/or pager before entering the facility.
- Teams arrive 15 minutes before a program begins in order to do the mandatory Rainbow Greeting.
- Maintain a professional demeanor at all times. Never use inappropriate language.
- Teams will always follow the facility's check-in procedures and strictly adhere to all rules and regulations of each facility.
- Always start and finish on time.
- **All therapy teams must be accompanied by a representative from the facility (staff member or volunteer) at all times during the program's session.** While it is your job to control your dog, it is the staff's job to supervise the participants.
  - Sanitizing hands of handlers and participants (before and after program) **is mandatory.**
  - Always ask the participant's permission before any interaction with your dog. **They have the right of refusal.** Respect their wishes.
  - Never bring any peanut products to a therapy session (ex. peanut butter, flavored bubbles etc.)
- **You and your dog should not ingest peanut butter or peanut products 24 hours before working a program.**
- When practical, put yourself on the same level as the participant to whom you are talking.



- Never touch or make adjustments to the participant's medical, health or personal equipment Do not give food, water or assistance to any participant even if asked. Notify a staff member that help is needed.
- All sessions are to be held indoors. Outdoor sessions are not permitted unless previously authorized by the Rainbow Program Coordinator.
  - You may NOT take pictures of any participant in a Rainbow program. You may NEVER post any picture to social media that a parent or staff may have taken.

It is your job to pay total attention to your dog when on a therapy visit. Controlling the dog and protecting the dog is your twofold responsibility.

You should always protect your dog's physical and emotional well-being. Protect your dog so it is not subject to rough handling. Your dog, its protection and its needs, are your first priority. Never put yourself or your dog in a questionable or threatening situation.

Do not force your dog to interact with a participant or do something it refuses to do.



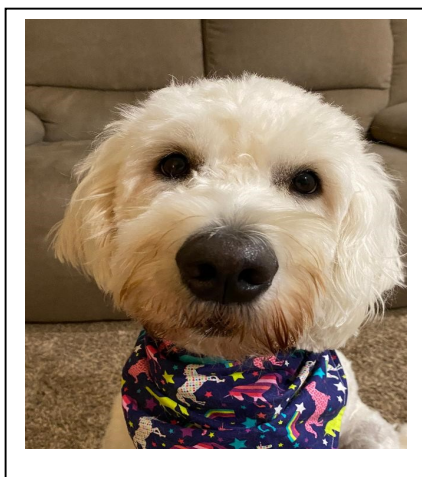
**Keep your dog by your side, leashed, and under your control: Never release its leash. Hold the lease at all times.**

**To avoid undo stress, the recommended maximum amount your dog should work is once or twice a week with days off between programs. Dogs should not work two days in a row and never in two programs in a single day.**

- Be aware of your dog overheating. Water on hand is essential for your dog's well-being. Periodically provide your dog with water.
- Always give your dog the opportunity to relieve itself before your visit, if possible off premises and never near the entrances to the facility.
- The dog should be under control, but relaxed. Teams should appear to work effortlessly. The dog should be quiet, alert and responsive. There should be no pulling on collars or leashes. Give your verbal commands quietly and in a pleasant tone of voice. Always praise your dog for its good behavior. If the dog does act up, it should be corrected in a firm but discreet manner. If need be, the dog should be removed from the situation.
- **Keep at least a three-foot working distance between your dog and any other team at all times.** Do not allow your dog to approach a participant when another dog is already there. Always be aware of where the other therapy teams are and what they are doing. Be watchful of rolling toys and loose food.
- **No barking is allowed within any facility. Dogs will be removed from the program if barking is not controlled.**
- If a team is unable to work a program, the program chair should be notified as soon as possible.

- **Never leave your dog alone or under the control of any person other than a Rainbow member.** When circumstances arise that it becomes necessary to do so, only another working Rainbow member is allowed to hold a dog's leash. **Under no circumstances,** may an untrained volunteer, an observer, facility staff member or participant in a program take control of your dog.

- Only you may pick up your dog.
- Do not place your dog onto any occupied bed, chair or wheelchair unless the participant and a facility staff member have given permission.
- Never allow your dog to jump up onto the bed, chair or wheelchair if it is occupied.
- Never tie/secure your dog to another person, equipment or furniture. An exception to this rule: when walking your dog next to a wheelchair with a participant who is unable to hold onto the leash, you may tie dog's leash to the arm of the wheelchair while you maintain control of your dog with a second leash.



- Do not allow a person to place their face up to your dog's face. This is dangerous and may cause your dog to snap or bite or cause the dog to be bitten by the participant.
- Only one individual at a time should interact with your dog.
- Always demonstrate how to safely interact with a dog by requiring the participants to ask permission before petting, having the participants stay seated and not allowing the participants to touch the dog's treats or equipment.
- Dogs should be discouraged from licking and unnecessary smelling of participants.
- Never allow your dog to drink from a public drinking fountain.

- Keep your dog next to you on the right side when walking down corridors and ask permission before entering the elevator. Be aware that there may be people present who are:
  - Afraid of dogs.
  - Allergic to dogs.
  - View dogs culturally as "unclean animals".

**A dog should be immediately removed** from a visitation if any of the following occurs:

- Improper behavior of the dog (ex. growling, fearful, excessive barking, scratching or biting).
- A participant is having an allergic response or medical emergency.
- The dog shows fatigue or stress.
- Staff member leaves room and participants are unsupervised.



## How to Avoid an Occurrence:

While working a program, use heightened awareness and be cautious in order to assure the safety of the participants and other Rainbow teams. Act with care. **Confrontations and other incidents may happen when you:**

- Do not do the Rainbow Greeting before the program begins.
- Come in after the session has started.
- Fail to follow Rainbow's rules and procedures.
- Allow the participants to run around and disrupt the therapy session. (Participants should be learning self-control and good manners at all programs.)
- Neglect to hold your dog's leash at all times.
- Become distracted and not attentive to your dog and/or the participants. ("I just turned my back to get something from my therapy bag".)
- Work your dog when it is ill or just not itself. Never assume that dogs never have a bad day.
- Work your dog too often, not allowing it to recoup between programs.
- Allow your dog to invade another dog's space. (Keep your distance.)
- Move into another team's working space.
- Throw food for your dog to catch.
- Throw a toy that will bounce or roll easily when other teams are present or send your dog to retrieve a toy in front of another team.
- Give your dog treats with another dog by its side.
- Use a tight leash.
- Let your dog go to the end of the lead.
- Permit a doggie play period during the session.



**Stay alert to your surroundings and the participants at all times. Concentrate on your job. You cannot afford to be inattentive. Do not become so comfortable in a program that you lose your focus and become careless.**

## If an Incident Occurs:

In the event of an injury to a participant, dog, employee or Rainbow member, immediately contact the facility staff supervisor, the Rainbow program chairman and Rainbow's Program Coordinator at 773.283.1129. Occurrences should be reported to the program chair and administration within 24 hours from the time of occurrence.

**Failure to adhere to the Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy guidelines, policies or code of ethics will jeopardize your continued membership in Rainbow AAT**



## Rainbow School Guidelines

Rainbow's school programs have goals set up by the teaching staff at the beginning of the school year. Our Rainbow volunteers use their therapy skills and the dog's therapy activities to accomplish these goals.

If you have not received a copy of the school's goal request, contact your Program Chair or the Rainbow Program Coordinator (Susan Burrows at 847. 312. 0525).

***In all school programs, student participation and interaction with the dog is encouraged.***

### **To provide a successful learning environment:**

- The session must start and end on time as schools usually have a very strict schedule.
- A teacher or an aide, in a supervisory role, **must remain** in the classroom at all times. If you leave the classroom to walk dogs with students in the hall, a school representative should accompany you.
- Students should be seated, at least 18" apart, in a semi-circle or a straight line. This is best done prior to the entrance of the therapy teams. Students should remain seated unless directed otherwise by the therapy team.

- Dog Safety techniques should be taught and practiced in all therapy sessions.

Information should be tailored to the participant's ability level.

- Instruct students on the procedures of "How to Pet a Dog":
  - Ask permission before petting the dog.
  - Make and extend a fist for the dog to sniff.
  - Pet the dog on side neck, behind ears, under the chin or on the back.
  - Never pet the top of a dog's head.
  - Do not put face near the dog's face or give the dog a kiss.
  - Emphasize that dogs do not like "hugs or kisses".
- **Do not work the dog off lead or allow a child to walk a dog by themselves.**
- No food should be present during the session other than the dog treats provided by the handler. Children and staff may not eat while the dog is in the room.
- Be aware that there may be items on the floor -- crayons, paper clips, rubber bands or other items that may injure a dog. Do not let your dog pick up or even sniff anything, including food that has been dropped on the floor. Keep your dog away from trash containers.



- During the session, the dog's focus needs to be on the participants. The staff should not interact with the dogs while the session is in progress.

- **Keep at least a three-foot working distance between your dog and any other team at all times.**

Do not allow your dog to approach a participant when another dog is already there. Always be aware of where the other therapy teams are and what they are doing. Be watchful of rolling toys and loose food.

- Students should not be holding anything in their hands including stuffed animals, toys etc. during the therapy session.

- Students are not allowed to operate cell phones or other electronic equipment during a session.

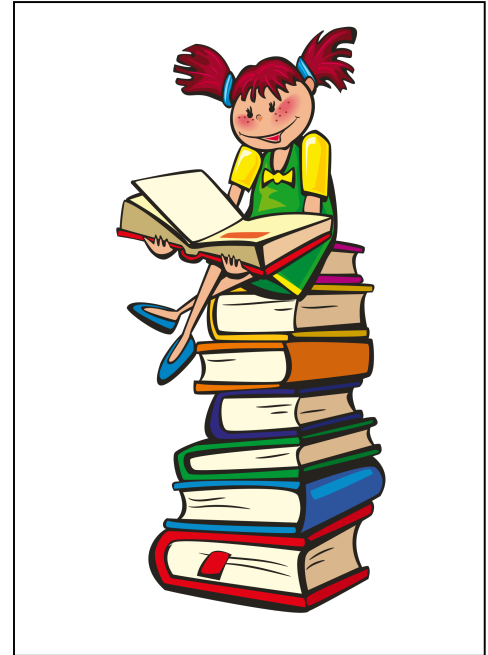
- No pets (guinea pigs, rabbits, mice, birds etc.) should be in the room when the dog is present.

- Therapy sessions are most effective when conducted in a quiet environment. While the session is in progress, keep outside conversations to a minimum (teachers talking to aides etc.).

- Always ask permission before each interaction with the dog. If a child is reluctant to do something at one time, make sure to include them when their "turn" comes up again.

- Participants should be learning self-control and good manners at all programs. They should not be allowed to run around or disrupt the therapy session. Participants who become disruptive should not be allowed to continue to participate in the session until the staff feels that they can rejoin the group.

- You are responsible for your dog and the therapy interactions. The staff is responsible for maintaining the classroom decorum.



## Read to the Dog Guidelines

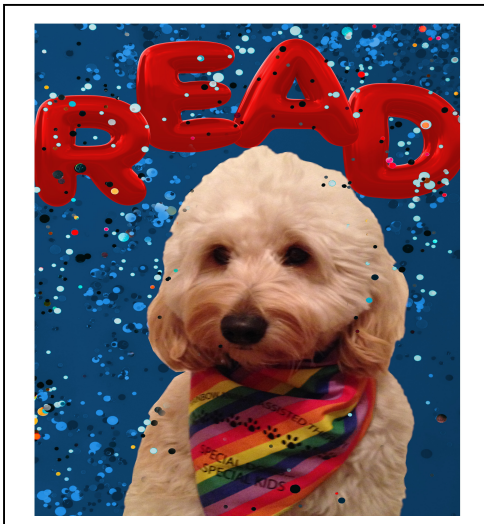
Rainbow provides Read to the Dog programs in schools, libraries and hospitals. This program provides children the opportunity to read in a positive, non-threatening environment. The goal is to improve the literacy skills of the participants as well as encourage the love of reading by partnering children with a therapy dog.

Many of the participants have difficulty reading, may be learning English as a second language, lack confidence or are self-conscious when reading aloud.



The Read to the Dog programs allows children to:

- Read in a relaxed, non-judgmental atmosphere.
- Read with no risk of embarrassment when a word is mispronounced, they read at a slow speed or lack comprehension.



## DOGS DON'T CARE ABOUT MISTAKES; THEY ARE THERE TO ENJOY THE READING!

In most Read to the Dog programs, each child is paired with a dog for a 10-15 reading session.

You should form a nurturing, friendly relationship with the readers. NEVER correct the child's reading ability. Quiet support is not the same as silent isolation. A Read to the Dog program is still a therapy program. Warm interactions with all readers are encouraged.

The handler should introduce themselves and the dog.

- You may ask if the child has a dog or other pet to put the child at ease and determine the child's comfort level with your dog.
- There should be a connection formed with the child sitting near your dog. Interactions between the dog and the child often consist of the dog lying or sitting quietly by the child's side. Casual engagement may include the dog placing its head in the child's lap or under the child's arm. Many children end up with one hand on the book and the other hand petting the dog.

Some children may be afraid of the dog and reluctant to sit next to it. If the child is fearful but wants to read to your dog, position the dog on the other side of you when you sit between the dog and the reader.

- Do NOT correct the child's reading or tell them to "sound out a word". ONLY if asked by the child, should you pronounce a word or define it without further comment.
- Because children are usually sitting on the floor at face level with the dog, do not allow your dog in close proximity to a child's face.
- Use treats judiciously. Do not give treats to the dog during the reading session. The child may give the dog a treat when the reading session is finished. Note: The treat should not be a high-valued treat such as meat or chicken which can prove distracting to both your dog and the other teams.
- Handlers should be alert to their surroundings at all times and should not participate in activities if they take attention away from their dog (such as reading or playing computer games). Your primary concern is the safety of your dog.

**YOU CANNOT PROTECT YOUR DOG IF YOU ARE ENGROSSED IN ANOTHER ACTIVITY.**

Dogs in this program should be comfortable being near children, being quiet and calm, and able to settle for extended periods of time without moving. THIS IS NOT a typical therapy program where the dog does activities or enthusiastically interacts with the children. To help create the most optimal reading environment:

- Bring a blanket or pad for your dog to make the dog feel more comfortable.
- Do not force your dog to lie or sit in a particular place. Most dogs will settle quickly when they are comfortable and not forced.
- Refrain from continually petting your dog as this puts the dog's focus on you rather than on the reader.



### **Libraries:**

*While it may be true that in our school Read to the Dog programs, many of the students have challenges while reading, every library has different reasons for developing a program of this type. It is not Rainbow's responsibility to determine the criteria for choosing the readers. Whether the participants are pre-readers who want to look at picture books or highly literate readers, **it is the facilities' choice** as to how they wish to utilize our teams. Many encourage children to read regardless of their reading ability. Our responsibility is to provide the loving, nurturing therapy dog to facilitate a welcoming reading experience.*

In some libraries, a child is brought to the dog team and dog and child are introduced to each other. Others allow each child to select a dog. This should be handled in a calm quiet manner

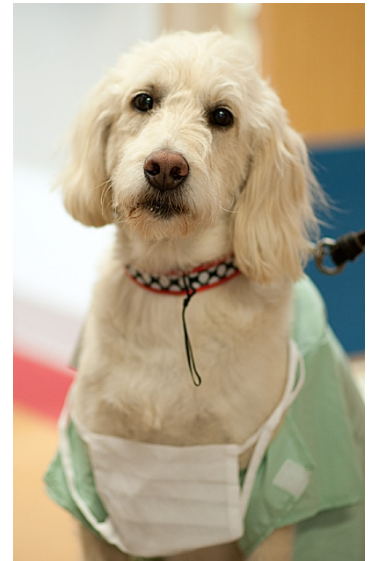
1. A staff member **must be** in the room at all times.
2. Because some libraries have reading rooms with large windows that can be distracting for both dogs and children, drapes should be closed if possible.
3. In libraries, parents **are not** allowed in the room while the children are reading.
4. Some libraries allow parents to take photos AFTER the final reading group has finished their reading session. The librarian will inform you if photos can be taken at that time.

## Medical Facilities Guidelines

Rainbow provides a variety of pet therapy programs in hospitals throughout the metropolitan Chicago area. Some hospital programs are geared towards visitation:

- Comforting
- Helping to reduce pain or discomfort
- Humanizing the complexity of medical treatments
- Increasing patient morale

Others are more complex, traditional animal assisted therapy encounters: goal-directed interventions in which the dog plays an integral part in the treatment progress. These include rehabilitation (physical, speech and occupational therapy), behavioral units etc. Many programs are a combination of both visitation and goal-directed interactions.



In order to work in a hospital program, Rainbow volunteers usually must join the hospitals' volunteer organization and fulfill the specific hospital requirement for volunteering. Each hospital has different requirements for volunteers. There should be NO charges for any health requirements.

Working in a health facility requires a handler with good communication and interpersonal skills as well as sensitivity to patients and their families. Teams often work independently. Following Rainbow protocols and using good judgement are very important. Familiarize yourself with and follow the protocols of Rainbow's Visitation Guidelines, including the Medical Guidelines.

Hospitals have additional policies that must be followed. **Because we are guests of the institutions we visit, we must follow all the rules and regulations set up by the individual facility.** Some of these standards are prescribed by the State of Illinois Department of Health and must be carefully adhered to. However, if requests from the hospital staff conflict with Rainbow protocols, members must ALWAYS follow Rainbow's guidelines.



You must protect the confidentiality of all patients and follow the protocols of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA imposes federal regulations upon health care providers regarding the storage and dissemination of private identifying information about patients and their families. All therapy dog volunteers who come into contact with this protected health information are subject to the provisions of HIPAA

In all Rainbow therapy programs, but particularly in hospitals, Rainbow volunteers must respect the confidentiality of all patients they encounter including:

- Name
- Ages
- Physical/medical condition

Do not question hospital staff, patients or their families about a patient's condition or reason for hospitalization.

The single most important means of preventing the spread of infection in a medical facility is good hand hygiene.

- Wash your hands before and after contact with each patient or a patient's personal items.
- Patients should wash their hands **before touching the dog** and **again when the visit is over**.
- **Anyone** who wishes to pet the dog must follow the handwashing requirement including visitors, medical staff and volunteers.
- Handlers should carry hand sanitizer in their pocket.

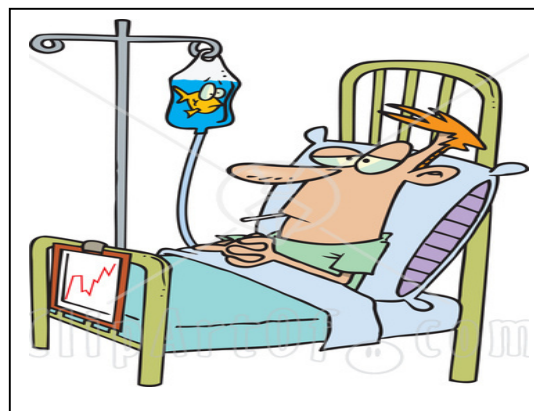


- Only teams that have been authorized by the hospital may work in that facility.
- Sessions are conducted during an authorized day and time. Visit only those patients who have been cleared by the staff. **DO NOT** bring your dog to any other area of the hospital except the one you are permitted to enter even if you receive a request while you are working. ALL visits must be confirmed by the medical staff.
- **A designated member of the hospital staff or assigned volunteer must always be present during the entire time you are working the program.**
- Your dog must be recently bathed, and free of wounds, skin infections etc. Your dog's equipment (leash, collar etc.) should be clean as well. **Never** visit the program if you or your dog is ill. It is strongly recommended that, due to the pathogens which exist within a hospital, you wipe your dog's paws with a pet or baby wipe after you leave the building.
- Upon entering the hospital, walk with purpose directly to your designated visitation/program area and directly from that area to leave the hospital when you are done. Keep interactions with staff, visitors, and others brief, pleasant and polite, avoiding any long conversations or mini-therapy sessions along the way. Remember – each person that wants to pet your dog **MUST** sanitize their hands – even if you are in the lobby.
- Do not bring your dog into the hospital's cafeteria unless you have permission to do so.
- Working in a hospital is very stressful, both emotionally and physically for dogs. Pay attention to make sure your dog is not tired or stressed. Make sure you give your dog plenty of water.
- Once a dog has visited a program over time, it tends to learn the routine. Watch your dog carefully so that it does not anticipate (example: going up to a patient before it has permission to do so etc.).
- Any person during a program in progress who expresses his/her concern over dogs being used inside a facility should be directed to a member of the staff.

## In-Patient Bed Visits

Never do in-patient bed visits in a group. Each team, accompanied by a pet therapy assistant, should visit separate patients, either in the same unit or in different units or floors.

Two dogs should never be in the same patient room at the same time.



- Members should not visit patients in isolation. **If exposure to a patient may compromise your or your dog's safety, do not visit the patient.** This includes patients with communicable diseases or those with antibiotic resistant infections.
- **If you are visiting a patient's room, always knock on the door and ask permission from the patient before entering the room.** Ask "Do you want to visit **with a therapy dog?**"

Although the majority of patients visited by therapy teams enjoy the interactions with the dogs, some do not. **Never force your dog's attentions on any patient.** A patient has the right of refusal. Respect that right.

- If the patient is having a meal, meeting with the doctor etc., return when they have finished.
- Never awaken a sleeping patient.
- Do not comment on a patient's appearance or illness

Do not ask:

"What happened to you?"

"How are you feeling?"

"How long have you been in the hospital?"

"When are you going home?"

### **WARNING**

**There are many hazards in a medical facility.**

- When you enter the patient's room, be aware of items on the floor that may cause your dog harm (pills, bandages, syringes etc.).
- **DO NOT** let your dog investigate, sniff or eat anything.

Keep your dog away from disposal containers.

Teach your dog the "Leave It" command.

### **WATCH FOR**

- IV's, catheters or other invasive lines or devices that are connected to the patient.
- Containers, bags by the bed for urine, blood etc.
- The safest side of the bed to visit the patient.

When in doubt, ask "Is there a better side for the dog to be on?" "Where would you like the dog?"



### **Going on the Bed**

- Specific hospital policy will determine whether or not your dog may go up on a patient's bed. If the hospital does allow dogs on the bed, you must have received Rainbow authorization after completing the Introductory Medical Training class before putting your dog on the bed.
- Dogs must be lifted onto the bed. Do NOT allow your dog to jump up onto the bed. Dogs over 50 pounds may not go onto the bed.

### **COVER THE BED/CHAIR**

- A sheet or towel **MUST** be used on the bed as a barrier between the patient and the dog **whether the dog is on the bed or alongside of it.** A cover protects your dog from patient bodily fluids and medications and protects the patient from your dog. **Never re-use the cover.** Covers must be replaced after each patient's use. The patient must also be covered if sitting on the edge of the bed or in a chair when interacting with the dog.



- If the dog has permission to be on the bed, make sure you know where it is safe to place your dog in order not to harm the patient.
- The dog should access the bed in a very calm, controlled manner.
- Start with positioning the dog with head away from the patient to see how the patient might react.
- Control your dog's position on the bed. Your hand should always be on the dog. Always hold the leash and watch your dog's movements at all times.
- Be very careful when placing the dog near the patient. Make sure that you or your dog do not cause the patient discomfort by touching the patient in an area that is painful, especially if the patient recently underwent surgery
- Once the dog is on the bed, it must stay still and not move without your permission.

- **Do not allow your dog to lick anyone.**
- **Do not visit a patient who is allergic to dogs.** There is no breed of dogs that does not pose a risk to a patient allergic to dogs.
- Do not touch or adjust medical or health equipment including, but not limited to, the bedrails. Do not give food, water or assistance to any patient even if asked. Notify a staff member that help is needed.
- Do not place any of your personal items on the patient's bed including (but not limited to) your therapy bag, purse, coat etc. **Never sit on a patient's bed.**
- Only you may pick up your dog. **Do not place your dog onto any occupied bed, chair or wheelchair unless the participant and a facility staff member have given permission.** Dogs over 25lbs. **may not** sit on a patient's lap.
- Never push a participant in a wheelchair. Only a representative from the hospital may do so while you accompany your dog walking along side.



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