

<b>Policy/Procedure Name: Pet Visitation</b>	
<b>Type: Operations</b>	<b>Approved by: Executive Director</b>
<b>Date of Original: September 2021</b>	<b>Effective Date: May 2025</b>
<b>Dates Revised: May 2025</b>	

**POLICY:**

Hospice Renfrew recognizes that pets play an important role in the lives of the individuals we serve and that interacting with pets is often physically and psychologically beneficial. At the same time the Hospice recognizes that animals can be a source of infections transmissible to humans or can trigger allergies. A balance is sought to mitigate the risk of allergic reactions or of transmission of pathogens, while providing the therapeutic benefit of animal interaction.

In keeping with our goal of a home-like environment and improved quality of life for our residents, Hospice Renfrew permits accompanied visitation of pets (dog and cats only) for limited time periods. Pets are not permitted to stay overnight or live with the resident, except for approved service dogs. All pet visits must be pre-approved by the Manager of Clinical Services or Executive Director.

Staff and volunteers have the right to a safe and comfortable work environment. Should a pet be a cause for concern or source of allergy for any staff member or volunteer, the pet owner will be required to remove the pet from the premises. Staff and volunteers are not permitted to bring their pets to participate in any of the clinical programs. On an exception and time-limited basis staff may need to bring in their own pets from home. All pet conduct guidelines below apply.

**PROCEDURE:**

**APPROVAL:**

Pet visits must be pre-approved by Manager of Clinical Services or Executive Director. Approval criteria include:

1. The resident or substitute decision maker must consent to the visit
2. The pet must be in good health with proof provided to staff that the pet’s rabies vaccination is current and up to date
3. The pet must appear clean and groomed
4. No known allergies or fear expressed about the pet, by other residents/families, staff and volunteers working at the time of the pet visit

**CONDUCT:**

Pets and pet owners must adhere to the following conduct during the visit.

1. Pets must be always accompanied by a responsible family member/owner
2. Pet visitation is limited to the resident’s room, staff office or outside

3. Pets may be on a leash or in a carrier when outside of the resident's room or staff office
4. Pets are not to be left unattended in a room or office.
5. Pets are not permitted to visit other residents unless permission has been received
6. Pet owners are liable for any costs associated with damage caused by their pet.
7. Staff and volunteers are not responsible for the care or control of pets
8. Pet owners are responsible for the care of and cleaning up after pets
9. A sign must be on the door indicating that a pet is visiting (to alert other incoming people and to prevent accidental escapes). Signs may be obtained from the Nursing Station
10. Pet visits that become disruptive or are a concern to others are terminated by the Manager of Clinical Services/Executive Director or RN in charge
11. Pet visits are limited to day and evening hours and cannot be overnight
12. Pets are not to enter any food prep, kitchen or serving areas

#### **ACCIDENT CLEAN UP**

1. Staff members are required to:
  - Inform the person responsible for the pet of the appropriate method to clean any accidents, and
  - Supply appropriate equipment or materials to the person responsible
2. Requirements for cleaning up after pet accidents:
  - Use gloves for cleaning up
  - Use paper towel to remove the organic material
  - Place soiled material in plastic bag
  - Apply Cavi Wipe disinfectant to the area and leave area undisturbed for five (5) minutes in order to allow for effective disinfection, then discard
  - Remove gloves and wash hands when finished
  - Notify housekeeping staff as needed

#### **IF DOG BITE OCCURS:**

1. Inform the nurse immediately and administer first aid as needed
2. Identify the dog, the dog's owner and the person bitten
3. Verify vaccination information we may have
4. Complete Incident Report
5. Notify Manager of Clinical Services

6. Notify the Town of Renfrew as per Animal Care and Control By-Law
7. Alert Public Health if indicated by the City of Pembroke