

## GUIDELINES FOR PAWS VOLUNTEERS

Jan 2011

### General

- Every owner must observe at least 1 therapy session before becoming an active PAWS participant.
- All animals must pass the PAWS Temperament Test before they may be used as therapy animals.
- Do not take photographs without obtaining permission from both the facility and the person involved.
- Do not allow the facility staff to monopolize your time.
- The owner needs to use a choker type collar with a **non-retractable leash** while on duty.
- Always wear your nametag. The coordinator will get one made for you as soon as possible.
- Do not hand over responsibility for your animal to a non-PAWS participant.
- The owner must be alert & be prepared to intervene if a resident/child is too aggressive. Owner voice concern & then insert your hand between the resident's hand and the animal.
- Be aware of surroundings such as medicine having been dropped on the floor, wheels too close to tails, noises, pets stopping to smell surroundings, etc.
- Important to notice if wheelchair is locked in place. Don't have to lock chair, just be aware and ready to get out of way.
- Always ask resident if they want to visit with your animal and are comfortable being approached by your animal.
- Kneel or sit near the resident so as not to force their (resident) head up to engage in conversation.
- Be in control of your animal at all times.
- May need to have a 'tight' leash when near wheelchairs, crutches or walkers.
- If small animal, ask resident if would like to hold animal.
- If resident wants to hold animal, provide a towel to place in resident's lap before placing animal in lap.
- Always be aware of surroundings.
- If a dog reacts negatively to another animal, owner would have to consider visiting a different hallway or perhaps go ahead of the other animal & owner. Also consider keeping a 'tight' leash.
- See Sheet 2 for positive & negative reactions.

### Dress Code Tips

- Rubber sole shoes.
- No dangling earrings or delicate jewelry.
- Properly dressed to stoop & bend.
- No strong perfume or aftershave.
- Long hair should be pulled back for safety & convenience.

### Each Animal Needs

- Tags (Rabies tag & ID Tag).
- Dogs must be on leash at all times.
- Clean & no fleas.
- Limit using anything on animals 24-48 hrs prior to visiting facilities.
- Cats & birds are exempt from bath, but must be clean.
- "Lap" animals must have a towel.
- Cookies or food the animals will eat.

- “Potty break” before going inside the facility.
- Cleanup supplies (just in case...).

### **People need**

- Your undivided attention.
- Physical contact.
- Eye contact.
- Evidence of Christ’s love.
- Care for their safety.
  - Notice if wheelchairs are locked.
  - Insist on gentleness from your animal.
  - Be aware of other activities and animals in the room.

### **Positive Reactions**

- Easily takes food
- Gentle nature
- Outgoing
- Owner has control of animal
- Pleasant
- Smiling face
- Wagging tail

### **Negative Reactions**

- Aggressiveness
- Barking
- Biting
- Clawing
- Eliminating
- Excessive nervousness or fear
- Growling
- Howling
- Loss of control by owner
- Snapping
- Whining