



Questions?  
Contact the patient's unit nurse or  
nurse manager.

# Furry Friends Family Pet

Dog and Cat Visitation Program  
A guide for families



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uihc.org

The hospital reserves the right to deny a visit if it is not suitable for the patient.

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## Would your family member enjoy a visit from a family pet?

A family pet may visit a patient in the hospital if the pet is:

- A dog or a cat
- At least 6 months old
- Up to date on all vaccinations
- In good health
- Calm and follows command
- House broken

The hospital can decide not to let a pet visit.

## Who do I ask for a pet visit?

- Ask the patient's nurse if your family member can have a pet visitor. Sometimes the health of the patient may not allow a pet visit.
- If the nurse thinks a pet visit will work, you will need to fill out 3 forms:
  - Health certificate for pet. Your vet will need to fill this out. All vaccines must be up to date.
  - Consent form
  - Responsibility waiver

## What should I do before each pet visit?

- Talk to the nurses to set up the date, time, and place.
- Roommates must agree before the visit if the patient is in a double room.
- Make sure the pet is healthy.
- Watch the pet for 24 hours before the visit. Pets with loose stools, fleas or ticks, or other illness cannot come to visit.
- Bathe and groom the pet within 24 hours of visit.
- Do not feed the pet within 2 hours of visit.
- Walk the dog before going in the hospital. Bring a plastic bag or other items in case your pet has an accident.
- Take the pet straight to and from the visit. Do not walk all over the hospital with the pet. Do not have your pet interact with other visitors unless asked.
- Ask people before going in the elevator if the pet can enter.
- Tell people a dog or cat is in the elevator before they enter.

## What should I do during the pet visit?

- Tell the nurse when you are ready to visit with the pet. You should be on time. The nurse will post a door sign that a pet is visiting.
- Ask everyone in the room if it is okay to enter with the pet.
- Wash your hands when you enter the room.
- Keep the pet on a leash or in a carrier.
- Watch the pet at all times. Keep the pet under control.
- Do not tie the pet to equipment or furniture in the hospital room.
- Do not hand the leash to other people.
- The nurse will place a sheet over the bed for the pet visit.
- Take breaks often for the pet.
- Wash your hands before leaving the room at the end of the visit.

## What if the pet has an accident?

- Clean it up right away.
- Soak up pee using paper towels. Use a plastic bag to pick up soaked paper towels or poop.
- Turn the bag inside out, tie securely, and place it in the trash. Wash your hands right away.
- Or, animal poop may be put in the toilet.
- Ask the nurse to tell housekeeping staff.

## What happens if a patient, visitor, staff, or pet is hurt during the visit?

- End the visit and tell the nurse.

