



Policy Name PET VISITATION		Policy Number: 0190
		Effective Date: April 1, 2009
Approved By: Executive Team	Next Date for Review: December, 2019	Date Revised: December 12, 2016
Classification: Delivery of Care to Residents and Families		Page No: Page 1 of 2

POLICY

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice recognizes that “family” means whomever the resident identifies as important individuals in their lives, including family pets. We encourage family pets to be brought in for visits with Residents.

PROCESS

1. Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Assistance Dogs

Guide dogs, hearing dogs and assistance dogs are permitted in Agapé Hospice, in all areas where the general public is permitted, in compliance with legislated requirements and with the following provisions:

- The owner/health advocate must provide all necessary care and attention for the dog.
- The dog must be clean and in good health.
- Proof of appropriate immunizations shall be made available on request.
- Overnight stays must receive prior approval from the Clinical Lead. A family member must be present to care for the dog at all times.

2. Family Pets

Family pets are permitted and must adhere to the following conditions:

- Allergic reactions to animals may occur among staff or other residents/family members; therefore it is necessary when considering requests for visitation to ascertain that anyone coming in contact with the animal has no known allergies.
- Pets must be clean and in good health.
- Pets must remain on leashes or in crates when in common areas of the hospice.
- Once in the Resident’s room, pets may be off leash but the room door must be left closed so that the animal cannot get out into the common areas unattended.
- A family member must be present to look after the pet while the hospice.
- Any pet found to be making excessive noise and being disruptive to other Residents, will be asked to be removed from the hospice.
- Agapé Hospice staff will not be responsible for the case of a pet visiting with residents. Pets cannot be left in Resident’s rooms unattended and are not permitted to spend the night.

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3. Restrictions:

Guide dogs, hearing dogs, assistance dogs **are not permitted** in the following areas:

- Food preparation areas
- Medication or clean/sterile supply storage areas;

Family pets **are not permitted** in the following areas:

- Food preparation areas/dining areas;
- Medication or clean/sterile supply storage areas;
- Isolation rooms.

The Clinical Lead (or designate) has the discretion to approve requests in exceptional circumstances.

4. Infection Prevention and Control Precautions:

Hand hygiene **must** be performed by all persons before and after handling animals.

REFERENCE

Alberta Health Services, Calgary Region. (2009). Acute Care Policy and Procedure Manual: Animals in Calgary Health Region Facilities (#1285). Calgary

Alberta Queen's Printer. (2007). Service Dogs Act. Statutes of Alberta, 2007. Chapter S-7.5. Current as of January 1, 2009.

Intercare Corporate Group Inc. (2009). Corporate Administration Manual: Visiting and In-House Pets (06-03-00). Calgary