

## **Guidelines for Personal Dog Visitation Gaylord Specialty Healthcare**

This document is provided for the families of patient whose dog will visit.

We realize that your dog is an important part of your life, and that a visit would be a special time for you. Since your pet is unaccustomed to visiting in the hospital, it is important that the person bringing in the animal be aware of some guidelines that have been developed to make this a successful visit. Your nurse will determine the location of where this visit can take place. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

Proof of a current dog license, up-to-date vaccination record and completed animal health clearance form must be provided prior to the visit and annually thereafter. The person bringing in the animal is responsible for the pet throughout the visit, as well as cleaning up after the pet if any accidents occur.

The dog must be:

1. Current with rabies and other required vaccination, as shown by documentation
2. Currently licensed
3. On a leash or in a pet carrier
4. Bathed or groomed, and brushed within 24 hours of the visit
5. Free of external parasites (such as fleas)
6. Free of external of external signs of disease, including eye or nasal discharge, ear infection, open sores, coughing or diarrhea.

The animal must always be accompanied by the person responsible for bringing him/her to the hospital. For safety reasons, we ask that you not allow employees, other patients or visitors to pet the dog.

The animal cannot have a history of biting or aggressive behavior. If any aggressive behavior is exhibited, the animal will be required to leave.

Before the visit, we recommend that your dog be exercised so that she/he so that she/he can run off excess energy.

Please be prepared by bringing a plastic bag and paper towels to clean up in the event of an “accident”. “Accidents” shall be promptly reported to nursing or environmental services to avoid potential falls on a slippery floor and to ensure environmental disinfection. If the pet has a tendency to drool, please bring along a towel from home.

Take care when boarding an elevator especially with other people on it. Always be certain the dog is on a leash or in a carrying case.

Never feed the pet in the hospital. Animals are not allowed in the cafeteria, unit kitchens and therapy gym with the exception of working or service animals.

If you have any questions, please speak to the nurse on your unit. If needed, you can also call Infection Control at ext. 3278.

**CANINE VISITATION PROGRAM  
VETERINARY CLEARANCE FORM**

Patient Name:	Medical Record Number:
Room Number:	

Pet Attendant's Name:
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Type of Visit (circle one):      Personal Animal                      Service Animal
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Animal name and description:
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Veterinary Service Name & Address:
Veterinary Service Telephone Number:

Dates of Visit:
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Requirements (to be met before actual visit)

1.	Current Dog license	Yes	No
2.	Current Rabies Vaccination (as documented by a licensed veterinarian)	Yes	No
3.	Absence of Diarrhea	Yes	No
4.	Absence of External Parasites (e.g. fleas)	Yes	No
5.	Free of external signs of disease (e.g. cough, eye or nasal discharge, ear infections, open sores)	Yes	No
6.	No history of biting and /or aggressive behavior	Yes	No

If any answer is NO, then the animal <b><u>may not</u></b> enter Gaylord Hospital until the deficiency is resolved.	
_____ This animal has cleared all medical requirements.	
Veterinary Signature:	Date: