|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Title: Metro Pet Visitation** | |
| **Approved by: Volunteer Dept.** | |
| Approval Date:  5-25-17 | Next Review:  5-25-20 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Responsible Party: Diane Honsberger, Liza Crooks | Institution/Entities Applies to: Mercy Health –St. Anne’s Hospital, Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital, Mercy Health - Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical Center |
| Policy Number: None | Originating Department: Volunteer Dept. |
| Supersedes: | Contributing Departments: Quality, Infection Prevention and Nursing |
| Document Type: Policy | Manual: |
| Policy Level:  Metro Toledo Facilities | Section: |
| Revision: | Policy Start Date: 1 |

**PURPOSE:**

To allow pet visitation to occur in a safe environment where the risk of disease transmission from animal to human is minimized.

**POLICY:**

Pets brought into a Mercy facility will meet specific minimum requirements and be limited to public areas or patient rooms.

**PROCEDURE:**

**General Guidelines for Animals Visitation Mercy Health Partners Facilities**

1. Pets brought into the facility will be limited to dogs and cats. Owners bringing pets into

the facility must sign Agreement/Instructions For Pet form (Appendix A).

2. While on the premises, any pet must be on a short leash, in a carrying case or held by the

owner. Use of a retractable leash is not allowed.

3. A barrier (e.g., sheet) will be placed between a patient's bed and the pet when applicable.

The sheet is removed at the end of the session and disposed of in a linen bag.

4. Any accidents (bowel/bladder) will be cleaned up by the owner, family, or therapist.

Environmental Services will then be called to disinfect the area.

5. Patients and staff will wash hands before and after contact with pets.

6. Pets will not be permitted in food preparation areas, medication storage/preparation areas, clean/sterile supply storage, intensive care units, operating room, labor/delivery, newborn nursery, bone marrow transplant or pre- post-operative recovery areas.

7. If the patient is in a semi-private room, the roommate should not have any allergies to

animals, physical reasons that prohibit such a visit or any personal objections to the

animal visit.

8. If the animal causes a disturbance, the animal must be removed from the hospital.

**Pet Visitation**

1. The Volunteer Department will provide the Appendix A form to anyone bringing a pet in our facility. The nursing unit where patient resides will collect Appendix A with a signature, date and phone number, attesting the pet has met all criteria listed. Appendix A shall be placed in patient’s chart and will become part of the patient’s permanent record.

2. Patients in transmission-based precautions are not eligible for pet visitation. The pet must be bathed within 24 hours prior to the visit.

3. Pet visitation will take place in a public room or the patient's room and will be limited to 30 minutes.

4. For pet visitation, only the patient and/or family that own the pets are permitted to

handle/touch the pet.

Service Animals

Mercy Health will comply at all times with federal, state and local laws concerning the use of service animals and the provisions of this policy will be interpreted to achieve such compliance. For further details on Service Animals, please see the Mercy Health Metro Risk Management Policy “Accommodation of Service Animals”.

Therapy Dogs

Please see Metro Pet Therapeutic Visitation policy

APIC Text of Infection Control and Applied Epidemiology, 4th Edition 2014; Chapter 122

"Animals Visiting Healthcare Facilities."

DISCLAIMER

Despite having the same diagnosis, each individual patient will have unique health care needs. Neither the policies and procedures nor the references in this manual establish the standard of care. This manual is not to replace clinical judgment or to require the same procedure for all patients. Rather these policies and procedures are to provide guidance with the knowledge that variances among patients will be required as determined by that patient provider's clinical assessment and judgment.