

**LONG ISLAND STATE VETERANS HOME
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Department: Therapeutic Recreation

Effective Date: 9/1/91

Subject: Pet Therapy Program

Revised Dates: 9/1/92, 04/29/94,

Reference Code: 1-415-7260 04/29/94, 11/14/94, 02/14/97, 04/19/02,
01/10/13

POLICY:

In order to provide a home-like environment the LISVH shall encourage the therapeutic use of dog visitation within established guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Director of Therapeutic Recreation and the Therapeutic Staff, along with assistance from all nursing home staff shall, assure that:

- 1.1 **DOG VISITATION:**

- 1.1.1 Dog owner must sign in at front desk and notify unit nursing station upon arrival. Nursing staff determines whether dog can visit unit. Dog may only visit designated relative or friend.

- 1.1.2 A certificate of good health from a licensed veterinarian must be on file in the Therapeutic Recreation office. This certificate must be updated annually. It must include the following:

- a. Annual Check-Up attested by your veterinarian, with the statement included on the TDI Health Record Form, that the dog is physically and mentally healthy and free of contagious disease.
- b. Rabies (3 year, must be given by a licensed veterinarian)
- c. DA2P-PV (3year)
- d. Bordetella (annual)
- e. Heartworm Test (annual)
- f. Heartworm/Intestinal Parasite Prevention
- g. Fecal Check (annual)
- h. Flea/Tick Prevention

Recommended:

- i. Leptospirosis

- 1.1.3 A pass will be issued to all individuals involved in the Dog Visitation Program. This pass will include: signature of the Director of Therapeutic Recreation or Assistant Director of Therapeutic Recreation, dog owner's name, type of dog, name & unit of resident the dog is visiting and an expiration date. This pass must be carried at all times during visits.
- 1.1.4 Dogs are to be kept out of the laundry, clean and soiled storage, food preparation areas, and/or all rooms during food distribution/consumption.
- 1.1.5 Dogs are to be leashed at all times and accompanied by a person familiar with and capable of controlling the animal's behavior.
- 1.1.6 Dogs not cleared in advance, as described above, will not be permitted to visit inside the facility and will be escorted out of the building. They may visit outdoors, weather permitting.
- 1.1.7 Cleaning of soiling from dogs is the responsibility of the animal's owner both inside and outside the building. Supplies for spill clean-ups are available from the Environmental Services Department upon request.
- 1.1.8 If during a dog's visit on a resident unit, a resident is opposed to the presence of said animal, then the animal must be removed from the area by the owner. Similarly, if a member of the professional staff deems it necessary, the animal must be removed from the area to prevent resident discomfort, fear or injury.
- 1.1.9 Dogs must be inspected for ticks and other ectoparasites and conditions by the owner, immediately, prior to the visit. Any animal with a suspicious health condition must not be brought into the facility, as this may compromise safety or health of the residents and others. If any staff member determines that an animal is not appropriate during a visit for this facility, Therapeutic Recreation must be notified and the animal must be removed from the facility immediately.
- 1.1.10 Limit number of animals visiting to one per visit.
- 1.1.11 Hands must be washed before and after each contact with dog.
- 1.1.12 No animal or bird other than dogs will be part of the LISVH Dog Visitation Program. Other animals will be part of the LISVH Animal Assisted Therapy Program which are facilitated solely by the Therapeutic Recreation Department.
- 1.1.13 Therapeutic Recreation staff has the right to remove all animals from all recreation programs.

1.1.14 Failure to adhere to this policy will result in loss of dog visitation rights.

1.2 **ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY:**

- 1.2.1. The Therapeutic Recreation Department will provide therapeutic animal visits under the supervision of Therapeutic Recreation staff.
- 1.2.2 Any person or persons providing therapeutic animal visits must have the appropriate immunizations as recommended by a licensed veterinarian plus a certificate of insurance as per New York State regulations, Pet Therapy training and relevant documentation.
- 1.2.3 Animals are to be kept out of our laundry, clean and soiled storage, food preparation areas and/or all rooms during food distribution/consumption.
- 1.2.4 Animals are to be accompanied by a person/persons familiar with and capable of controlling the animal's behavior.
- 1.2.5 Cleaning of soiling from the animal/animals is the responsibility of the person or persons providing the therapeutic service. Supplies for spill clean-up are available from the Environmental Services Department upon request.
- 1.2.6 If during an animal's visit on a resident unit, a resident is opposed to the presence of said animal, then the animal must be removed from the area. Similarly, if a member of the professional staff deems it necessary, the animal must be removed from the area to prevent resident discomfort, fear or injury.
- 1.2.7 Any animal with a suspicious health condition must not be brought into the facility, as this may compromise safety or health of the residents and others. If any staff member determines that an animal is not appropriate during a visit for this facility, Therapeutic Recreation must be notified and the animal removed from the facility immediately.
- 1.2.8 Hands must be washed before and after each contact with animals.
- 1.2.9 Therapeutic Recreation staff has the right to remove animals from all recreation programs.

Michelle Cheslak, Director of TR