

## GUIDELINES FOR PAWS VOLUNTEERS

(Rev. Aug 2016)

### **GENERAL**

- Every owner must observe at least one therapy session before becoming an active PAWS participant.
- All animals must pass the PAWS Temperament Test before they may be used as therapy animals.
- Do not take photographs without obtaining permission from both the facility and the person involved.
- Do not allow the facility staff to monopolize your time.
- The owner needs to use a choker type collar with a **non-retractable leash** while on duty.
- Always wear your nametag. The coordinator will get one made for you as soon as possible.
- Do not hand over responsibility for your animal to a non-PAWS participant.
- The owner must be alert & be prepared to intervene if a resident/child is too aggressive; owner to voice concern & then insert your hand between the resident's hand and the animal.
- Be aware of surroundings such as medicine having been dropped on the floor, wheels too close to tails, noises, pets stopping to smell surroundings, etc.
- Important to notice if wheelchair is locked in place. Don't have to lock chair, just be aware and ready to get out of way.
- Always ask resident if they want to visit with your animal and are comfortable being approached by your animal.
- Kneel or sit near the resident so as not to force their (animal head up to engage in conversation.
- Be in control of your animal at all times.
- May need to have a 'tight' leash when near wheelchairs, crutches or walkers.
- If small animal, ask resident if would like to hold animal.
- If resident wants to hold animal, provide a towel to place in resident's lap before placing animal in lap.
- Always be aware of surroundings.
- If a dog reacts negatively to another animal, owner would have to consider visiting a different hallway or perhaps go ahead of the other animals. Also consider keeping a 'tight' leash.
- See Sheet 2 for positive & negative reactions.
- PAWS members can have as many pets involved in PAWS as desired.
- If a PAWS member has more than one pet involved in PAWS, only ONE pet can enter facility at a time. If a PAWS member wishes to have a human friend(s) to enter with additional pets, that human friend(s) must complete an Observation and Temperament Test with said pet.
- The Observation is a requirement in order for Frazer's liability insurance to be viable.
- All minor children that are involved in the PAWS Ministry must be accompanied by an adult at all times; an adult is a person 18 years or older. Both the minor child and adult will have to complete an Observation Visit and Temperament Testing.

### **DRESS CODE TIPS** – These guidelines are for your safety & convenience

- Rubber sole shoes
- No dangling earrings or delicate jewelry
- Properly dressed to stoop & bend
- No strong perfume or aftershave
- Long hair should be pulled back

### **EACH ANIMAL NEEDS**

- Tags (Rabies tag & ID Tag)
- Dogs must be on leash at all times, cats in carrier or on a leash
- Clean & no fleas
- Limit using any fragrance on animals 24-48 hrs prior to visiting facilities
- Cats & birds are exempt from bath, but must be clean
- “Lap” animals must have a towel
- Cookies or food the animals will eat if needed
- “Potty break” before going inside the facility
- Cleanup supplies (just in case...)

### **PEOPLE NEED**

- Your undivided attention
- Physical contact
- Eye contact
- Evidence of Christ’s love
- Care for their safety
  - Notice if wheelchairs are locked
  - Insist on gentleness from your animal
  - Be aware of other activities and animals in the room

### **POSITIVE REACTIONS**

- Easily takes food
- Gentle nature
- Outgoing
- Owner has control of animal
- Pleasant (owner & animal!)
- Smiling face
- Wagging tail

### **NEGATIVE REACTIONS**

- Aggressiveness
- Barking
- Biting
- Clawing
- Eliminating
- Excessive nervousness
- Fear
- Growling
- Howling
- Loss of control by owner
- Snapping
- Whining