



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION AD 0020 / OHS 0005 / IPC 0006

TITLE: PET MONITORING AND CONTROL

REVISION DATE: APRIL, 2016

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EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER, 2015

APPROVED BY: CEO *Dr. P. Birzgalis*

1.0 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To define the guidelines for pets residing or visiting within Venta Care Centre. To reduce the risk of disease that can be transmitted to humans.
- 1.2 To ensure compliance with Regional Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health & Safety Legislation when monitoring and controlling the visiting or residing of pets within Venta Care Centre.
- 1.3 To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors through quality control guidelines for Visiting pets at Venta Care Centre.
- 1.4 This guideline does not apply to Alberta Service Dogs Act or Blind Person's Right's Act regarding service animals in health care facilities.

2.0 POLICY:

- 2.1 Venta Care Centre will keep all required records in the Business Office which includes:
 - 2.1.1 Picture of animal
 - 2.1.2 All Veterinarian records – vaccination records, a signed agreement by the pet owner of their responsibilities, management approval, resident consent for visitation.
 - 2.1.3 Resident consent signed on admission to have animals visit, if applicable.
 - 2.1.4 Health checklist and annual exam to be completed by a licensed Veterinarian.
- 2.2 All visiting pet owners to Venta Care Centre shall provide an annual exam certificate by a licensed Veterinarian indicating they are free of disease. Vaccinations, including rabies must be current and must be provided along with the annual Veterinarian exam.
- 2.3 Any animals that are fed raw meat diets and dehydrated animal products will be excluded from visiting the facility for ninety (90) days.

2.4 In the event that an animal becomes ill, the animal will be removed from Venta Care Centre immediately.

2.5 Animals with any of the following condition(s) will be prevented from visiting Venta Care Centre for one (1) week following the resolution of:

2.5.1 Diarrhea, or have been diagnosed with Clostridium difficile, Salmonella and Giardia, Toxoplasma oocysts by a licensed Veterinarian. Treatment documentation will need to be provided from your Veterinarian.

2.5.2 Vomiting

2.5.3 Sneezing, coughing

2.5.4 Antimicrobial, immunosuppressive therapy

2.5.5 Skin and soft tissue infections (open or closed) ear infections (should have testing for MRSA)

2.5.6 Fleas, ticks, external or internal parasites including worms.

2.6 Only domesticated animals are permitted at Venta Care Centre. The following animals are not permitted within Venta Care Centre:

2.6.1 Reptiles and amphibians

2.6.2 All rodents, including hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats and hedgehogs

2.6.3 Non-litter trained animals

2.6.4 Zoo animals, exotic animals, and petting zoo animals.

2.7 Animals are restricted to enter:

2.7.1 Food preparation areas

2.7.2 Dining Room areas

2.7.3 Medication preparation areas

2.7.4 Resident bathrooms

2.7.5 Immunosuppressed or neutropenic resident rooms

2.8 All pet visits require resident and roommate consent (if applicable).

2.9 Only one (1) visiting pet is allowed on the property at a time.

- 2.10 All pets visiting Venta Care Centre shall wear an identification tag, be on a clean, non-retractable, less than two (2) meters in length leash and or in a carrier. The use of choke chains is prohibited. The owner will accompany the animal at all times. Visits shall be limited to one (1) hour for the courtesy of other visitors wishing to bring in animals. Visiting hours for animals are from 10 am- 5 pm.
- 2.11 Pets shall visit with the family member only and shall refrain from wandering throughout the building. Personal visiting pets are not allowed to visit other residents. Pet owners shall be responsible for any incidents and clean-ups that occur with their pets.
- 2.12 Pets must be signed-in and out at the Business Office each time they visit.
- 2.13 Pets are allowed on resident lap, beds, chairs and sofas *only if* a disposable soaker pad or waterproof barrier is placed beneath the pet. Family is to supply soaker pad. If they do not have one, they can be purchased one at the Business Office for \$2.00.
- 2.14 Animal behaviors such as licking, shaking of paws are discouraged during visits.
- 2.15 Appropriate animal hygiene practices must be adhered to by all who have contact with animals.
- 2.15.1 Hand hygiene must be performed:
- 2.15.1.1 Before and after contact with the animal. Hand hygiene must also be adhered to after the clean-up of pet excrement, litter boxes or aquariums.
- 2.15.1.2 Any pet owner or handler must perform hand hygiene between rooms. They are required to carry hand sanitizer and show this upon signing-into the facility. Hand sanitizer bottles may be purchased at the Business Office for \$2.00 if needed.
- 2.15.3 Any furniture that an animal comes in contact with should be routinely cleaned and/or disinfected.
- 2.15.4 Any persons handling the animal should not come in contact with medical equipment, devices, wounds, dressing or bandages.
- 2.15.5 Residents on additional infection control precautions will consult with the Infection Control Designate before visiting.
- 2.15.6 Pets may not visit a resident that is eating or undergoing a medical procedure.
- 2.16 Any incident involving animal bites and/or scratches must be reported immediately to a nurse. The nurse will provide treatment if necessary and fill out an incident form or any other medical documentation required. If the incident occurs to a Venta Care Centre employee a WCB form must be completed and submitted to the OH&S Coordinator.

2.17 All biting and scratching incidents should be reported to Environmental Public Health Inspectors immediately by calling Health Link Alberta 1-800-408-LINK or 811.

2.18 Any personal or visiting animals at Venta Care Centre:

2.18.1 Shall follow the guidelines for visiting as the policy states.

2.18.2 The owner/handler assumes all responsibility for and will accompany the animals during visits. They are responsible for all clean-up of animal excrement in accordance with Venta Care Centre's policy.

2.19 Pet Therapy Animal Handlers must follow the policy and procedure outlined below:

2.19.1 It is recommended that animals be registered with a recognized pet therapy program if visiting the facility.

2.19.3 Assumes all responsibility for and accompany of the animal during the visit

2.20 Resident/ Venta Care Centre Aquarium Fish:

2.20.1 Have a dedicated person responsible for their care and feeding. Feedings are documented and signed by the responsible party.

2.20.2 The cleaning of the fish tank is done by Aquarium Illusions and all documentation is kept in the Business Office.

2.20.3 There is a dedicated storage area for the fish supplies and they are kept away from medication room, clean supply rooms and kitchen and resident areas.

2.20.4 Aquarium water is not to be disposed of in sinks used for hand hygiene, food preparation or drinking.

2.20.5 Sinks used to dispose aquarium water must be cleaned and disinfected after use.

2.21 When there is an outbreak or suspected outbreak or ongoing micro-organism transmission the Infection Control Designate (ICD) may make additional recommendations for restricting animal visitation. A separate area may be provided during an outbreak with a resident who is not affected in a specified area with prior approval from the ICD.

7.0 REFERENCES:

7.1 Venta Care Centre Policy

7.2 Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Animals in Health Care Facilities – October 2015

7.2 Guidelines for Safe & Healthy Pet Care as per Veterinarian Services.

7.3 Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines to environmental safety within the workplace.

7.4 Service Animals – Refer to the Alberta Service Dogs Act or Bind Persons Act for guidelines regarding service animals in health facilities

PET APPLICATION INFORMATION

PET OWNER'S INFO	PET INFO
OWNER'S NAME: _____	PETS NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____	BREED: _____
CITY/PROVINCE: _____	SMALL DOG / LARGE DOG / CAT/ OTHER Specify: _____
POSTAL CODE: _____	<i>(Please circle one)</i>
HOME PHONE#: _____	PETS AGE: _____
CELL PHONE: _____	LAST ANNUAL EXAM COMPLETED: VACCINATION RECORD PROVIDED
Name of Resident being visited: _____	VACCINATION LIST: _____ Dates
ROOM#: _____	Rabies: _____
	Distemper: _____
	Deworming: _____
	Broadband Parasite: _____
	ALL VACCINATIONS MUST BE CURRENT – Within 12 months
	Identify any behavioral concerns: _____ _____

I will not bring my pet to Venta Care Centre to visit for one (1) week following any episode(s) of:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Sneezing and/or coughing
- Antimicrobial, immunosuppressive therapy
- Skin or soft tissue infection (both open or closed)
- Fleas, ticks, external or internal parasites

I agree to follow and abide by Venta Care Centre's Pet Monitoring and Control Policy and Procedure.

I understand that if I violate this policy I will be prohibited from bringing my pet into Venta Care Centre.

I have been provided the policy and have read the online module.

Pet Owners Signature

Date