



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION

AD 0020 / IPC 0006 / OHS 0005

TITLE: PET MONITORING AND CONTROL

REVISION DATE: JUNE, 2023

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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 on Venta Care Centre (VCC) premises. To reduce the risk of zoonosis or animal-human disease transmission during animal visitation.
- 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 VCC.
- 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 Pet owners/ handlers are responsible to complete a Pet Application (Appendix A) prior to bringing a pet on VCC premises. Pet application includes, but is not limited to:
 - 2.1.1 Current picture of pet;
 - 2.1.2 Pet owner information;
 - 2.1.3 Information on pet including their annual exam by a licensed veterinarian indicating they are free of disease and, vaccine records within twelve (12) months.
 - 2.1.4 Pet owner agreement to abide by facility pet policy.
- 2.2 The pet owner/handler assumes all responsibility for and will accompany the animal during visits. They are responsible for all clean-up of animal excrement in accordance with VCC policy.
- 2.3 In the event that an animal becomes ill, the animal will be removed from the facility immediately.

2.4 Animals with any of the following condition(s) will be prevented from visiting VCC for one (1) week following the resolution of:

2.4.1 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.

2.4.2 Vomiting

2.4.3 Sneezing, coughing

2.4.4 Antimicrobial, immunosuppressive therapy

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

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

2.5 Any animals that are fed raw meat diets including poultry, dehydrated animal products or pigs' ears are excluded from visiting the facility for ninety (90) days.

2.6 Only domesticated animals are permitted at VCC, excluding:

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 or when measures cannot be taken to prevent exposure to animal excrement;

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 (may be considered in some situations)

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

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

- 2.10 All pets visiting VCC 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 between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 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 at the reception desk 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 from VCC 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 By resident before and after animal contact,
- 2.15.1.2 By handlers between rooms, and after cleaning pet excrement.
- 2.15.2 Any furniture that an animal comes in contact with should be routinely cleaned and/or disinfected.
- 2.15.3 Any persons handling the animal should not come in contact with medical equipment, devices, wounds, dressing, or bandages.
- 2.15.4 Residents on additional infection control precautions will consult with the Infection Control Designate before visiting.
- 2.15.5 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 the 1000 Unit First Aid Station nurse who will provide treatment, if necessary, and complete an incident report. If an employee is exposed this must be reported to the OH&S Coordinator.
- 2.16.1 All biting and scratching incidents will be reported to Environmental Public Health Inspectors by calling Health Link Alberta 1-800-408-LINK or 811.

2.17 Pet Therapy Animal Handlers:

2.17.1 Must have their animals registered with a recognized pet therapy program if visiting the facility.

2.17.2 Assume all responsibility for and accompany the animal during the visit

2.18 Resident/ Venta Care Centre Aquarium Fish:

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

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

2.18.3 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.

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

2.20 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.

3.0 REFERENCES:

3.1 Venta Care Centre Policy

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

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

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

3.5 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: _____ _____	☐ Current photo of pet provided (attached)
CITY: _____	PET BREED: _____
PROVINCE: _____	TYPE OF PET:
POSTAL CODE: _____	☐ SMALL DOG ☐ LARGE DOG ☐ CAT
HOME PHONE#: _____	OTHER (<i>Specify</i>): _____
CELL PHONE: _____	PETS AGE: _____
FULL NAME OF RESIDENT PET VISITING: _____	DATE OF LAST ANNUAL VET EXAM: _____
	VACCINATION RECORDS (Printout of current vaccination records provided)
	VACCINATION LIST:
	☐ Rabies Date: _____
	☐ Distemper Date: _____
	☐ Deworming Date: _____
	☐ Broadband Parasite Date: _____
	ALL PET VACCINATIONS MUST BE CURRENT – Within 12 months
	Pet behavioral concerns: ☐ No ☐ Yes, (<i>Specify</i>) _____

I agree to 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 not bring my pet to visit Venta Care Centre for ninety (90) days after feeding them a raw meat diet including poultry, dehydrated animal products or pigs' ears.

I agree to abide by Venta Care Centre's pet policy as outlined in the 'Pet Monitoring and Control' Policy and Procedure provide to me.

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

Pet Owner/ Handler Signature

Date