

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING SAFE ANIMAL VISITS AT THE HOSPITAL

Successful teams will demonstrate teamwork and inspire confidence by consistently employing these skills and behaviors throughout a visit.

HANDLER:

Is a good **ADVOCATE** for her/his partner

- Supports healthy habits for partner, including maintaining weight within normal range
- Makes partner first priority in all situations
- Stays close to partner
- Is aware of and addresses partner's needs and responses
- Sets boundaries on how people can interact with partner
- Places partner in safe locations and positions

Is **PROACTIVE**

- Stops and assesses situations in preparation for interactions
- Anticipates and addresses partner's needs and responses
- Anticipates distractions for partner and helps partner cope safely and effectively
- Receives permission before allowing partner to approach people
- Avoids encounters with other animals

Is **SAFE** and **APPROPRIATE**

- Maintains physical connection with partner through leash at all times
- Respects others' needs and desires
- Receives permission before allowing partner to lick anybody
- Conducts visits in relaxed and confident manner
- Manages stressful situations with a calm demeanor
- Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of MSTD Policies & Procedures

Maintains good **COMMUNICATION** with partner

- Gives clear, consistent, effective cues in conversational tone of voice
- Focuses on partner as much as on people
- Maintains position close to partner
- Provides gentle physical contact with partner throughout visit

PARTNER:

Appears to **ENJOY** participating in this activity

- Appears relaxed and confident
- Displays minimal or no signs of stress
- Solicits attention from strangers
- Welcomes attention from strangers
- Maintains focus on task at hand

Is **SAFE** and **APPROPRIATE**

- Seeks out interaction with people in gentle, controlled and suitable ways
- Exhibits self-control
- Maintains loose leash
- Stays close to handler
- Licks only after being given permission by handler and stops when asked
- Does not vocalize while visiting
- Remains "calm, cool and collected" when s/he encounters or meets another dog

Maintains good **COMMUNICATION** with handler

- Checks in with handler periodically
- Looks to handler for guidance as needed
- Willingly and easily accepts guidance from handler with minimal cueing
- Retains or regains connection with handler after distractions