

STANDARD

To ensure animals brought into the healthcare setting for therapeutic visits are managed to minimise risk to both patients and Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB).

All organisations providing a canine service must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BOPDHB.

Patient consent must be gained prior to commencing any visit.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The popularity of animal-assisted interventions (AAs) in human health care has grown to the point where many hospitals and long-term care facilities currently permit animals to visit with patients and residents. This document aims to be a collaborative document that captures the interests of most stakeholders while providing specific recommendations to minimise both injuries and the transmission of infectious organisms to and from animals.

OBJECTIVES

Patients in hospital miss the companionship of their own pets and many can benefit from the experience of interacting with a visiting animal. The objective of Animals in Healthcare includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing a source of touch and affiliation
- Giving patients something to focus on other than hospital events
- Increasing levels of communication and interaction between patients, staff and patients
- Helping people cope with illness and depression
- Bringing joy, laughter and pleasure
- Boosting overall morale
- Lowering stress levels

STANDARDS TO BE MET

1. General Infection Prevention and Control Measures

- 1.1. Hand hygiene to be completed before and after handling the animal.
- 1.2. Animal handlers are responsible for ensuring animals are:
 - a) bathed 24 hours prior to visit or groomed to remove loose hair
 - b) in good health
 - c) free of diarrhoea for two (2) weeks
 - d) treated for fleas and worms
 - e) have no skin infections
- 1.3. Animals shall not have access to the following clinical areas: theatres, radiology, interventional radiology suite, clean linen storage areas, laundry, medication preparation areas, kitchen and eating areas, and sterile stock areas.
- 1.4. Animals should be prevented from coming into contact with wounds or invasive devices
- 1.5. Patients nursed under transmission based isolation precautions or protective isolation are not suitable candidates for animal assisted activities
- 1.6. The volunteer handler is directly responsible for all the animal's actions. The animals must be under control by the volunteer handler at all times and be removed if required

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 <p>BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD HAUORA A TOI</p> <p>VISITORS PROTOCOL</p>	<p>ANIMALS IN BOPDHB HEALTHCARE SETTINGS</p>	<p>Policy 6.9.4 Protocol 2</p>
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- 1.7. Dogs must be kept on a leash and should be toileted prior to each visit
- 1.8. Handlers should control any patient contact with animal saliva, dander, urine and faeces.
- 1.9. Any animal waste should be cleaned immediately by the handler using appropriate PPE e.g. gloves and area decontaminated in accordance with Infection Control protocol IC.S1.5 Standard Precautions – Spills Management.
- 1.10. Should a person receive a bite or scratch from an animal on hospital premises, the CNM, or deputy is to ensure the wound is cleansed immediately, assessed for the need for antibiotic cover and monitored for subsequent infection. Follow policy 5.4.4 Blood or Body Fluid Exposure and ensure an Incident Management form is completed.

2. Visits

- 2.1 Visits are required to be organised in advance through the BOPDHB Volunteer Co-ordinator who will make appropriate arrangements with the Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM) and / or Occupational Therapist, to ensure that other patients potentially exposed to a care animal do not have an allergy (common with dogs and cats) or fear.
- 2.2 All interactions between animal and patients will be at the discretion of the ward CNM, or delegate, whose decision(s) must be complied with.
- 2.3 Animal assisted activity visits should primarily take place in a designated non clinical area such as a ward lounge and visits to patient cubicles should only take place after agreement by CNM or deputy.
- 2.4 The CNM, or deputy, is required if deemed appropriate to advise the patient that there is risk associated with animals in health care settings.
- 2.5 All providers to BOPDHB facilities are expected to behave in a manner that respects and supports the care, wellbeing and safety of patients, employees and other visitors of BOPDHB. Providers displaying unacceptable behaviour may be asked to leave the premises.

REFERENCES

- Dog Control Act 1996
- Human Rights Act 1996
- New Zealand Standards NZS8142:2000
- Memorandum of Understanding between BOPDHB and Canine Friends Pet Therapy Inc.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 4.1.0 Infection Control Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 2.2.5 Media
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.2 Smokefree
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.4 Blood or Body Fluid Exposure
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.7 Threatening behaviour, Bullying
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.5.1 Security
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.5.3 Trespass
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Form FM.P24.1 Pet Therapy Consent
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Infection Control protocol IC.S1.5 Standard Precautions – Spills Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Incident Management Form

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