

Pet Visitation at FMC

Patients' personal pets are welcome to visit at the Foothills Medical Centre. Having a patient's own pet visit while in hospital can "pawsitively" benefit health and well-being!

There are some very important considerations when making the decision to bring in a patient's personal pet for visitation. Here's what you need to know:

- Any patient's personal pet visiting the FMC site **must be approved** by the department manager or designate prior to visiting anywhere on the site. Arrangements for the visit are specific to each care area and will be made in collaboration with the health care team, patient and family.
- Pets are excluded from certain areas in the hospital. Please check with an FMC staff member for more details about appropriate areas for visitation.
- Only domesticated animals are permitted in health care facilities. Birds, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, arachnids, insects, fish, wild and farm animals (i.e. pigs, cows, goats, etc.) are not permitted to visit due to various microorganisms, communicable diseases and/or safety concerns.
- Pets must be even tempered and well behaved, house trained, and clean/well groomed.
- All pets must be vaccinated, in good health and free of disease (staff reserve the right to request proof of health and vaccination records from a veterinarian). Due to the high risk of harmful bacteria transmission (salmonella, E. coli), pets that are fed a raw diet are not permitted to visit at any AHS facility.
- All pets must be leashed or transported in a carrier while on site. Pets must be monitored and kept in control by a handler (other than the patient) at all times, and may not be left unattended anywhere on the premises. Any excrement must be cleaned up immediately by the pet's handler.
- Pets must be kept away from any medical equipment and wounds.
- If a patient is scratched or bitten during the visit, please inform an FMC staff member as soon as possible.
- Ensure good handwashing – both for the pet handler before and after visiting the hospital, as well as the patient – before and after visiting with their pet.
- A sign indicating "Pet Therapy/Visit in Progress" shall be placed on the door during the visit (see other side of this page)



PET THERAPY/ VISITATION IN PROGRESS



All pets must be approved prior to visitation

**For more information, or to request a visit by a family pet
or trained therapy animal, please speak with FMC Unit Staff.**