

Sample Facility Pet Policy & Procedure Guidelines

Policy:

Pets are provided within the facility to provide close and continuous companionship to our residents. Pets will be included in the daily lives of our residents in a manner which protects the health, safety, choice, and dignity of the residents, staff, and animal(s).

Procedures:

1. How, when and with what frequency will facility assess the residents' interests and concerns regarding animals?
2. How will the facility assess interests and concerns regarding animals when a new resident is being considered for admission?
3. How will the facility assure resident choice regarding pet involvement / contact is considered?
4. Who will be responsible for the overall coordination of pet care and implementation of pet policy? What will be this person(s) responsibilities?
5. How will staff be prepared for pet adoption and what will be expected of them regarding the pets? How will staff be communicated with regarding any pet related issues?
6. How will the facility assure veterinary services are provided for facility pets?
7. Describe the relationship / expectations of the veterinarian.
8. Identify areas of the facility and /or property from which the animal(s) will be restricted.
9. Identify any determined particular time schedule of pet visits or restrictions on visits within the property.
10. Identify specific criteria that will be used in pet selection.
11. State specific health and care issues and procedures that will be implemented for the various types of pets. (Be sure to consult State regulations and animal related laws).
12. What equipment and supplies will be provided for the animal(s)? How will facility assure adequate and appropriate supplies/equipment will be available?
13. Include the facility procedure for maintaining pet care documentation.
14. How will animals' diets be maintained / controlled?
15. How will facility assure pets are encouraged to spend time with residents?
16. How will facility assure cleanliness and infection control policies and procedures are not compromised by the pets?
17. How will any pet 'accidents' be cleaned up timely and effectively?
18. How will any injuries caused by pets be documented and reported?