ANIMAL VISITATION IN THE HOSPITAL





POLICY NUMBER: PCA-100-046-BH

Ballad Health policy for animal visitation applies to

- Dogs certified by a nationally recognized Therapy Dog Program
- Service Animals (Recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act "ADA")
- Personal Pet Visitation (limited to specific situations addressed in the policy)

Emotional Support Animals are not recognized by the ADA and are therefore to be considered as a personal pet in this policy.

This policy is meant to ensure that infection prevention and control guidelines are maintained for the safety of patients, staff, and visitors.

Animals can spread illnesses to humans such as Rabies, Campylobacter, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, and Salmonella.

Some parts of the hospital are off-limits to therapy dogs and personal pets to protect high-risk patients. **Please refer to the policy for details.**

Animals are required to be groomed, free of obvious infection or infestation, and have proof of rabies vaccination prior to visit.

Hand Hygiene is required by everyone before and after contact with the animal.

Team members should not bend to the floor to interact with the dog, or hug the animals, potentially contaminating their clothing.

Please refer to the entire policy for more details on animal visitation