**Pet Visitation**
Would your child enjoy a visit from your family dog? Miller Children’s Hospital encourages patient and family centered care, including a visit from your beloved family dog. Click [here](#) for more information about having your dog visit.

**Link:**

**To Request a Visit From Your Family Dog:**
- Ask your nurse or doctor if it is safe and therapeutic for your family dog to visit your child.
- Take your family dog to the veterinarian within 30 days of the anticipated visit and get a health certificate that includes:
  - Name of pet and owner
  - Statement of general good health and disposition
  - Proof of current vaccinations and that dog is free of contagious diseases
  - Notation of a flea control program in use
- Determine which responsible adult will be in control of the dog during the visit. This person may not be the patient.

**Before Your Visit:**
- Show your family dog's health certificate, completed and signed by a veterinarian, to your child’s nurse.
- Schedule with your nurse the best day and time to bring your family dog for a visit.
- A responsible adult must do the following:
  - Wash and brush your family dog within 48 hours of the visit. Make sure there are no fleas or ticks or signs of illness.
  - On the scheduled date and time, bring your family dog on a leash, along with the health certificate and plastic bags and paper towels for cleaning up after your family dog.

**During Your Visit, the Responsible Adult Must:**
- Announce your arrival by calling or sending another member of your family to the unit where your child is admitted.
- Wait with your family dog for your child, out of public traffic, on the grassy area outside the hospital near the Columbia Street entrance to the lobby. **At no time may your family dog enter the hospital.**
- Keep your family dog leashed and under your control at all times.
- Immediately clean up any animal waste using a sealed bag, discard it into a trash can and wash your hands.
- Report any problems to your child’s nurse immediately.

**After Your Visit:**
- Ensure your child’s hands are washed.
- Encourage your child to talk about the experience.
Note: A veterinarian’s report does not guarantee your family dog will behave in a manner that allows a visit. Any dog that is perceived as a threat will not be allowed to proceed with the visit.

Never leave your family dog in a closed car unattended. The temperature can rise quickly and cause harm.