

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.