

## APWAP Orientation

### **General Requirements:**

1. Passed temperament test and veterinary health screen; health screen must be done yearly at a minimum.
2. Paid dues and signed Volunteer Indemnity Agreement
3. Three supervised visits with a member of the supervision team

### **Handler Requirements:**

1. Healthy with no symptoms of any infectious disease.
2. Dress appropriate for the facility – APWAP shirt, ID badge, shoes and slacks appropriate for the facility (Scott & White requires tan slacks and closed toed shoes; Juvenile Detention Center requires slacks or jeans and closed toed shoes; shorts may be appropriate for some places in the summer but never wear short shorts).
3. Work with the staff of the facility to determine how the animal's interaction will benefit the patient/resident/student.
4. Always ask if the person wants the pet to visit.
5. Make sure your pet has an opportunity to eliminate before entering the facility. Please carry a bag to pick up any waste, place it in the trash and wash your hands or use alcohol hand rub.
6. The primary job of the handler is to watch their pet for signs of stress and remove the pet from the situation before it becomes too stressed.
7. There should be one handler per animal. If you have multiple animals this is a good opportunity for an associate member to help.
8. Do not allow your animal to visit with other animals during a visit. A good recommendation is to keep 3 feet between animals when possible. Only one animal in a room at a time.
9. Report any bite or scratch incident to the facility and to an APWAP officer.

### **Animal Requirements:**

1. Do not visit if your animal has any wounds, skin conditions, gastrointestinal issues or any other health conditions that might be transmitted to people. Also an animal that is not feeling well will not enjoy the visit and may have inappropriate behavior.
2. Free from internal and external parasites.
3. Bathed within 24 hours of a visit.
4. Ears are clean.
5. Nails are trimmed and filed.
6. Do not feed a raw diet.
7. Have good dental hygiene.
8. Animal must wear APWAP collar or harness and leash.
9. Do not allow the animal off the leash unless it is demonstrating a trick or is asked to retrieve a toy. Keep in mind what is safe and appropriate for the visit. We want both the people and our animals to be safe.
10. If an animal is allowed in a patient's bed a barrier such as a disposable cloth, towel or sheet should be placed between the animal's coat and the patient's linen.

11. Do not allow your animal to lick a person's wound or devices. Discourage licking in general.
12. Only allow people to give a treat to your pet by using an open hand.
13. Keep your pet from eating anything off the floor in a facility.
14. Have the person use alcohol hand rub or wash their hands after contact with your pet.