

# Family Pet

(Dog and Cat Visitation Program)

This booklet provides information about a family pet visit to the hospital.



[www.zacharyspawsforhealing.com](http://www.zacharyspawsforhealing.com)

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## Would your loved one enjoy a visit from the family pet?

At the Juravinski Hospital, a family pet may visit a family member who is in the hospital. One pet at a time may visit.

Visits are limited to dogs and cats who are:

- at least 6 months old
- in good health
- well-tempered



The hospital reserves the right to deny a pet visit if the pet is considered unsuitable for the visit.

## To request a pet visit

1. Ask your nurse or social worker if your family member or friend can have a visit from the family pet. Based on the patient's medical condition, approval is obtained from the doctor or unit manager.

2. Once there is approval, the hospital will contact Zachary's Paws for Healing to make the necessary arrangements.

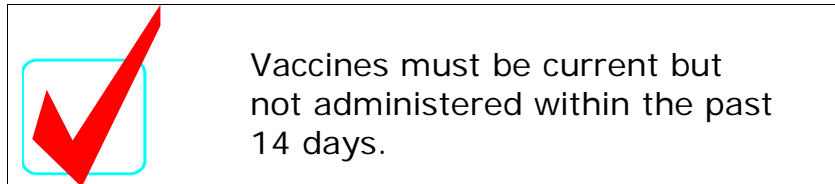


3. A family member or friend needs to be a contact person for the visit.

The contact person will receive a phone call from Zachary's Paws for Healing to get all the information needed to approve the pet for a visit. We will try our best to arrange the pet visit within 48 to 72 hours.

4. The information needed includes:

- Who is the pet's veterinarian and their contact information?
- Is the pet a cat or dog?
- How old is the pet?
- What is the size of the pet?
- Has the pet received any special training?
- Does the pet have special needs or medical conditions?
- Does the pet like strangers?



## Zachary's Paws for Healing

Zachary's Paws for Healing (ZPFH) is a volunteer group that has partnered with the Juravinski Hospital to assist with family pet visits.

The volunteers work with the patient and their family to make the visit a happy and successful reunion.

ZPFH will obtain the veterinarian documents on each pet that visits the hospital.

ZPFH also work with the staff to schedule the visit.



## The hospital visit

A ZPFH volunteer meets the family member and the pet at an agreed upon location outside the hospital.

During this time, the volunteer who has been trained in pet temperament, will check the pet's:

- temperament (can the pet handle the stress)
- grooming
- overall health

A comfort break for the dog is done to prevent any accidents inside the hospital.

After this, the pet is placed in a very large and comfortable transportation crate. The volunteer escorts the pet and family member to the patient's room. Most visits last about an hour.

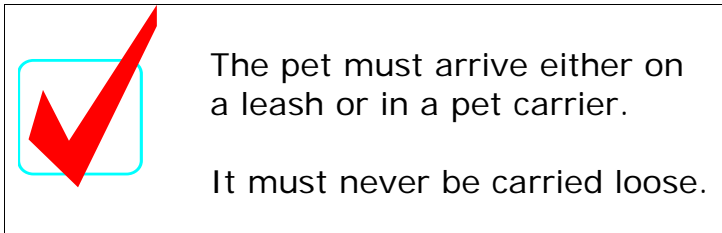
The volunteer stays in the patient's rooms during the visit, but remains quiet and in the background.

The volunteer is there to maintain infection control procedures and to take care of any pet accidents that may happen.



## Before the hospital visit

- Check the pet's overall health. Observe the pet for 24 hours before the hospital visit.
- Do not bring a pet with diarrhea or other illness to the hospital.
- Bathe and groom the pet within 48 hours before the visit.
- Pet's nails should be trimmed short.
- Make sure the pet is free of ticks and fleas.
- Do not feed the pet within 2 hours of the visit.
- Please be on time at the pre-arranged location for the hospital visit.



The Juravinski Hospital at Hamilton Health Sciences believes in treating the whole person, and that includes allowing our patients to have visits with their family dog or cat. We understand that our patients consider their pets to be family members and it brings comfort and joy to have them visit.

The Juravinski Hospital has partnered with Zachary's Paws For Healing to give patients this additional visitor service.



We are so proud to be the first hospital in Canada that has such a patient/family pet visitation program.

Ask your nurse or social worker if your family member or friend is eligible for the pet to visit.



@Zacharyspawsforhealing



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