



# CENTRAL BAPTIST HOSPITAL

## Position Description

<b>Position Title</b>	Canine Assisted Therapy - Volunteer			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Surgery Waiting</b>			
<b>Immediate Supervisor's Title</b>	Integrative Care Coordinator			
<b>Written and Review Dates</b>	Feb 2011			
<b>Written or Reviewed By</b>	John Walker			

**Position Summary:** The Canine Assisted Therapy Volunteer will visit patient rooms with their Pet Therapy dog. This diversional activity is intended to bring smiles and comfort to families coping with the stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization. The therapy dog's unconditional love and acceptance provides a host of physiological and emotional benefits for our patients who spend long hours in bed. All volunteers engaged in this activity will comply with the CBH Policy titled Canine Assisted Therapy.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities** include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1.	Canine therapy handler will provide health records of participating dogs to the Integrative Care program coordinator/representative. A file will be kept with Director of Volunteer Services and will be updated yearly.
2.	To reduce the risk of soiling, canine handler must curb their dog in the designated area prior to entry into the hospital. Therapy canines must be caged, carried or on a leash no longer than six feet at all times.
3.	On scheduled days the canine therapy handler will check in with security first and then meet with an Integrative Care coordinator/representative in a designated area prior to visiting a patient's room.
4.	The Integrative Care coordinator/representative will then escort the canine handler and therapy canine during rounds. Upon arriving at a unit, check with the charge nurse/supervisor as to which patients have requested a visit. Before gaining entry to a patient's room, the canine handler will knock and announce themselves as a volunteer with the Canine Assisted Therapy program and ask permission to enter.
5.	The visit shall be terminated if the therapy canine creates any type of disturbance or becomes a nuisance. Any animal who displays aggressive or antisocial behavior during any visit will disqualify the dog from the Canine Assisted Therapy program.
6.	The canine handler must carry an alcohol based hand product with them and offer the product to anyone who wishes to touch the animal. If the patient is unable to perform hand hygiene the handler is responsible to call the nursing staff to assist the patient with proper hand hygiene.
7.	The canine handler must clean up any animal soil and inform the nursing staff to notify environmental services to clean the area. Any soiling is to be discarded by the canine handler as clinical waste. Hospital staff is to provide a red waste containment bag to the handler.

### Key Accountabilities

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1.	Canine handler and their dog must be dependable, with a pleasant manner and the ability to interact with patients, visitors and staff. Canine handler must stay with their dog during the entire hospital visit.
2.	Maintain good hand hygiene and follow all applicable CBH policies and procedures.

## Core Competencies

<b>Integrity</b> -Works with integrity and ethically. Demonstrates understanding of hospital mission and values in word and practice. Follows policies and procedures. Maintains corporate compliance guidelines.
<b>Hospitality</b> -Supports healthy working partnerships throughout the organization. Demonstrates respect, compassion and courtesy to all patients, families and co-workers. Uses Service Excellence principles in dealing with people. Maintains a positive work attitude and contributes to a positive work environment.
<b>Partnership</b> -Willing to orient and teach others. Provides and accepts comments in a constructive manner.
<b>Stewardship</b> -Uses resources in a cost-effective manner. Conserves organizational resources.
<b>Excellence</b> -Actively involved in unit process improvements and/or unit-based teams to improve systems, reduce costs, and resolve problems that address meaningful work issues within the department or hospital. Looks for ways to improve and promote quality. Applies comments to improve performance.
<b>Personal Accountability</b> -Demonstrates by reporting to work as scheduled, being flexible to meet hospital staffing needs, helping others without being asked, effectively managing time, arriving at meetings and appointments on time, and undertaking self-development activities.

## Minimum Education, Experience, Training, and Licensures/Certifications/Registrations Required:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- The canine handler/owner must provide evidence that the pet is in compliance with guidelines recognized by a national organization prior to visitation. Show documentation of completion of a certified animal assisted therapy/intervention program by both dog and handler.
- The handler must demonstrate good control of the canine therapy dog.
- The pet (dog) must follow handler's commands, have no history of bad behavior or exhibit excessive barking.
- Practice good hand hygiene before and after each animal contact.
- Must be familiar with the location of the medical units in the hospital.
- Must complete Central Baptist Hospital orientation for Volunteers.
- Handler and canine will wear appropriate volunteer identification.
- Be dependable, have a positive attitude when volunteering and respect the patient's rights.
- Handler/owner and their dog must meet the Director of Volunteer Services prior to beginning their placement.

## Skills and Abilities Required:

- Excellent interpersonal and formal animal assisted therapy skills.
- Good communication and listening skills with the patient and family members.
- Must be willing to accept change and be sensitive to needs of families in stressful situations.
- Ability to communicate and work as a team member.
- Must maintain patient confidentiality.

## Physical Requirements:

- Strength – Able to push/pull and lift objects less than 20 pounds.
- Manual Dexterity – Frequently perform simple motor skills such as walking, standing and occasionally perform simple manipulative skills such as positioning the patient, etc.
- Coordination – Frequently perform gross body coordination, such as walking and stooping.
- Mobility – Able to walk and stand for prolong periods
- Hearing – Able to hear normal sounds with some background noise as in alarms, phones, etc.
- Visual Discrimination – Able to see objects closely as in reading and able to discriminate colors.

### **Primary Customers:**

- Patients and their families
- Visitors
- Staff
- Physicians

### **Working Relationships:**

- Pet therapy dogs and their handlers/owners work closely with the Director of Volunteer Services, Integrative Care Coordinator, Department Staff and Leadership to bring smiles and comfort to patients and families during what can be a stressful time.



This is care.