PET THERAPY VISIT ETIQUETTE GUIDE

A Quick-Reference guide created for Petluv.co

PREPARATION & BASICS

First, know who you're visiting with and tailor conversations accordingly. Visits should run about an hour, and not exceed two hours in one day.

Second, ask about the facility's rules. HIPAA is universal — never share who you saw or what was said during a visit.

Third, honor your scheduled time. Skip perfume or aftershave (allergies), follow any dress code, and silence your phone.

If photos are allowed, get a signed photo release — or simply photograph hands petting your pet, without showing faces. Sharing on social media helps promote the human-animal bond worldwide.

DURING THE VISIT

- Keep a positive attitude and eye contact. Use calm, soothing cues, and never drop the leash or hand it to someone else. Leave a trading card as a keepsake.
- Always ask, "Would you like a pet visit today?" before entering a room — get permission from everyone present, or just say hi from the doorway.
- Ask permission before entering any closed space, like an elevator with others inside.
- Keep all four paws on the floor unless "paws up" are welcomed — use a towel on beds and remove it after.
- Don't let your pet get face-to-face with a person, or allow kissing/licking.
- If your pet loses focus or gets restless, ask to be excused. Always check in for stress signals and advocate for their safety.
- Route requests for help through the nurse's station — you're there to visit, not assist. Return anything you move to its original place.
- Above all, be respectful and compassionate. A few genuine minutes with each person is the whole point.

CONVERSATION & CARE

Great conversation starters:

"Would you like to meet (pet's name)?" · Share your pet's age & breed · "How are you doing today?" · "Do you have pets at home?" · "What do you enjoy doing?" · "Do you enjoy reading?"

Try to:

Answer briefly, encourage conversation, and listen, listen, listen.

To close a visit: "I would love to stay and talk longer, but others are waiting to see us. It's been great talking with you today."

Mishaps: Report any incident to a staff member immediately, then file a detailed report with your organization as soon as possible.

When not to visit: If you or your pet are ill, injured, or off — DO NOT visit. Call ahead if scheduled. When in doubt, use common sense and protect everyone's health.

Ready to begin your pet therapy journey with confidence?

Get the Pet Therapy Basics Bundle at **go.petluv.co/basiccourse**