

Huntsville Pets Helping People (HPPH) Rules

Member Teams – Teams are members of HPPH but are not certified as Delta Pet Partner Teams.

Pet Partners Teams - A program sponsored by *Delta Society*. Participating dogs have been evaluated using internationally established standards pertaining to health, aptitude and teamwork. The dog's handlers have received education, training and evaluation which also meets internationally established standards. The dog-handler teams are well prepared to utilize *Animal Assisted Therapy* and *Animal Assisted Activity* with patients who have a variety of diagnoses.

The Delta Society- An internationally recognized, non-profit organization, based in Seattle, Washington. *Delta Society* specializes in development of testing protocols for animals who will interact in health care settings. The organization provides educational information on Animal Therapy. *Delta's* hallmark program is *Pet Partners*.

Animal Assisted Activity (AAA)- An internationally recognized term that is used to describe when patients visit with certified animals and the animals handlers for enjoyment. *Animal Assisted Activity* interactions are not goal directed and are not documented into the medical record. A health care professional does not direct the interaction.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) - An internationally recognized term used to describe patient interaction with a certified animal, the animal's handler and a health care professional to attain specific goals. The goals are established by the health care professional and the patient. *Animal Assisted Therapy* interactions are documented into the medical record.

POLICY:

- I. All members of HPPH will abide by the facility policy and procedures and by the policies and procedures of the Delta Society (The Delta Society policy and procedure is attached to this document).
- II. HPPH believes pet visitation may be therapeutic to patient's recuperation process. Therefore HPPH will provide AAA/T within the community under specific guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Member teams, not certified by Delta, may visit and participate in activities with the understanding that they are personally liable for any incident that occurs. HPPH will not be held responsible for any liability.
- II. All new Pet Partner teams will visit only in areas within the guidelines of their Delta Certification and will be required to do their first three visits with a mentor. Teams certified by Delta Society at the novice level will only be permitted to visit predictable, low-activity areas. Once your mentoring has been completed, you will then be able to visit the areas by yourself.
- III. All pets must be groomed appropriately before visiting in accordance with Delta guidelines and facility policies.
- IV. Uniforms and ID tags (Delta & those required by facility) must be worn during each

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- visit.
- V. Handler will walk animal before entering facility, clean up and dispose of properly
 - VI. Visits
 - A. For ALL visits, handler will notify HPPH of the program of dates of each visit, place and number of hours and with which dog. This can be done by E-Mail or by personal notation given to designee
 - B. Pet Partners, once inside the facility are to proceed directly to the area scheduled to be visited and check in with the assigned supervisor before interacting with any patient.
 - VII. Inappropriate behavior by handler (to animal, staff or patients) or animal will be cause for removal from the program.
 - VIII. Accidents in facilities will be reported to the proper staff, cleaned up with disinfectant and disposed of properly.
 - IX. Permission from patient (and/or family) must be obtained before visiting with your animal.
 - X. Photos of patients will not be taken without written consent.
 - XI. Teams will only go to areas and/or facilities where approved (dependent on Facility policy and level of certification by Delta Society). Teams that do not abide by this policy will be removed from the program.
 - XII. Failure to comply with facility policies will result in removal from the program.
 - XIII. HPPH members will meet once a month to discuss policy issues, fund raising, group support, etc.
 - XIV. HPPH members will participate in dog shows, health fairs, etc. to promote participation and awareness of the program as needed
 - XV. HPPH members will assist with Classes and Team Evaluations as needed.
 - XVI. Animals and handlers that are sick or have infections will not be permitted to visit.
 - XVII It is HIGHLY recommended that teams visit at least twice a month to maintain their skill levels.

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XVIII **Grievance Policy**

If an individual has a grievance towards either HPPH as a group, an individual within HPPH or an organization closely aligned with HPPH **MUST** follow the procedures for resolving the issues.

1. The individual with the issue is expected to make an effort to personally contact the person in question and discuss the issue. If a mediator is needed ask one of the board members to appoint one or ask another HPPH person to assist you.
2. If contacting the person personally does not resolve the issue it may be taken to the board at the monthly meeting and discussed at that time to see how to resolve the issue.

If a person is found defaming anyone within the group or organization as outlined above and has not tried to follow the procedures outlined that person will have one (1) warning. The warning will be in writing signed by at least one member of the board and the offending party. A copy of this will be given to the offending person and the original will be placed in their HPPH personnel file.

If a person is found to commit the defaming again, even if it is not directed at the first party offended, he/she will be immediately removed from the group for a minimum of 2 years. Reentry would be up to the board.

Any defamation of the group or individuals of the group will not be tolerated. Defamation is defined as negative or libel comments by voice, E-Mail or US Mail towards any member of the HPPH group or persons or organizations associated with HPPH about any member of HPPH.