

PET THERAPY REQUIREMENTS FOR PETS

Because we are a healthcare organization, there are some requirements you must fulfill before you can volunteer at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. For the safety of our patients, their families and for you we ask all potential volunteers to be able to commit to the following:

Pet Requirements: Must be certified through Pet Partners www.petpartners.org or Therapy Dogs International www.TDI-Dog.com.

Immunizations: Must be up to date on immunizations to include:

- Rabies vaccine
- Hepatitis A
- Leptospirosis vaccine
- Parvovirus vaccine

Annual Screening: Must provide annual veterinarian certificate of health and must undergo annual screening to include:

- Heart Worms
- Stool Pathogens: *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Giardia sp.*, *Shigella sp.*, and *Salmonella sp.*

All animal handlers (Pet Therapy Volunteers) must visually inspect animals for ticks and fleas, open wounds and any other signs of illness prior to visit.

All animals must be bathed prior to visiting the hospital.

All animals must wear a t-shirt or other cover to reduce shedding of hair or dander.

Any animal appearing ill will be excluded from visiting until well.

Note: Rabies (PA state code 16.43 – Revaccination) a dog over 3 months of age shall be vaccinated to maintain immunity against rabies by the administration of a USDA licensed vaccine, including vaccines producing immunity lasting 3 years in accordance with instructions prescribed by the manufacturer.

1. A dog vaccinated when under 1 year of age shall be vaccinated no later than one year later.
2. A dog vaccinated when over 1 year of age with a vaccine producing immunity lasting 3 years shall be revaccinated no later than 3 years later and at least every 3 years thereafter.
3. A dog vaccinated with a vaccine producing immunity lasting less than 3 years shall be revaccinated no later than 1 year later.