


CHAPTER: 11	SECTION: 3	SUBJECT: SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTION
TITLE: PET PROGRAM FOR DOGS, CATS, AND OTHERS		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/99	REVIEWED/REVISED DATE: 04/30/02, 10/19/04, 11/01/05, 5/6/08, 12/14/09, 1/26/12, 2/18/13, 3/17/14, 3/17/15, 4/21/16, 4/20/17, 7/13/18	
ISSUED AND APPROVED BY:  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR		

I. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures that ensure the selection of pets and their placement in the programs and residential homes, is carefully done, with consideration of the consumer population, colleagues, safety factors, and standards of infection control.

II. APPLICATION:

To all Community Mental Health of Ottawa County (CMHOC) operated programs.

III. POLICY:

CMHOC supports and recognizes the therapeutic value of having pets in the community living areas. Selection of pets and their placement in the programs or residential homes, must be done carefully with the consideration of the consumer population, colleagues, safety factors, and standards of infection control.

IV. PROCEDURE:

With the approval of their supervisor, employees and groups of employees who request to have a pet in their work area must maintain it properly. Consideration will be given to consumers or colleagues who may have allergies to pets or personal, religious or cultural beliefs toward certain animals.

- a. Dogs must have proof of updated vaccines to be granted access to outpatient clinics and day programs. Certified therapy dogs may be present in CMHOC operated buildings when they are “working”.
- b. Service animals are welcome in all CMH sites.
- c. All dogs, cats, reptiles and rodents must have a certificate of good health from a licensed veterinarian that is updated annually and available for review.
- d. Reptiles and rodents must be confined to a cage at all times.

General Guidelines:

1. Wash hands well before and after being in contact with the pet and after contact with its feces or body fluids, or items it has touched.
2. Take good care of the pet and its environment and manage its behavior.
3. Ensure that the pet remains healthy, has all its vaccinations, and has effective flea and tick control.
4. Don’t put anything the pet (or its hair, scales, feathers, droppings or body fluids) has had contact with into your mouth.
5. Wear disposable gloves, and a mask if necessary, when cleaning up areas soiled by

- pets. Use cleaning solutions that will disinfect the surface. Dispose of cleaning debris in a plastic bag that is securely fastened.
6. Keep animals off of counters; wash counters with household disinfectant as instructed by the manufacturer if they do come into contact with counters.

Bites And Scratches:

1. Treat bites/cat scratches:
 - ◆ Wear gloves if caring for a wound to another person (Universal Precautions)
 - ◆ Wash area thoroughly with soap and water
 - ◆ Cover the wound
 - ◆ Call your physician or seek emergency treatment

V. ATTACHMENT:

Not Applicable

VI. REFERENCE:

Association for Professionals in Infection Control 2000; “Your Pet and Your Health”