

April 1, 2015



Dear Family Members:

100 Patriots Road
Stony Brook, New York 11790-3300
Phone: 631-444-8500 Fax: 631-444-8575
www.listateveteranshome.org

For many years, the Long Island State Veterans Home has provided a successful pet therapy program. Pet therapy has been recognized as a way to enhance a resident's quality of life in a nursing home. Various studies have demonstrated the positive impact of animals on the elderly and those physically challenged. Pets give unconditional affection and can be a way to increase socialization and well-being.

The pet therapy policy is divided into two separate programs; i.e.: "Animal Assisted Therapy" and "Dog Visitation." Any family member, volunteer or friend who wishes to bring a pet will only be allowed to bring a dog and this will fall under the "Dog Visitation Program." This will allow us to maintain the efficient tracking of proper certification of good health as required by law. The Therapeutic Recreation Department is responsible in regards to arranging other pet visitations through the "Animals Assisted Therapy" program.

We encourage families and friends to have their pets visit the home. However, there are certain guidelines that need to be followed to ensure the safety of all.

1. The dog owner must complete and submit the attached "Dog Visitation Registration Form."
2. The dog owner must provide the Therapeutic Recreation Department with a current veterinary certificate of good health. This certificate must meet the current Department of Health standards and must be updated annually. (Please see the attached Pet Therapy Policy and Procedure). This certificate, along with the completed registration forms, must be given to the Therapeutic Recreation Department for review.
3. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to provide an updated certificate on an annual basis. Failure to maintain updated documents will result in the termination of dog visits.

4. The dog must be reviewed by either the Director or Assistant Director of Therapeutic Recreation to ensure that it is appropriate for visits to our facility. Dogs are reviewed Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, through appointment.
5. After a complete review of all necessary certificates and forms, by either the Director or Assistant Director of Therapeutic Recreation, a badge will be issued to the dog owner.
6. When visiting your family member, please stop at the front desk in the lobby and sign your dog in.

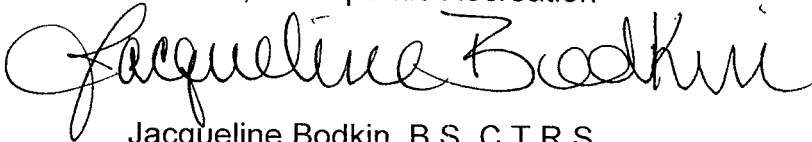
The Long Island State Veterans Home reserves the right to cancel, refuse or restrict all pet visits at any time. If the policy and procedures are not adhered to, your pet will not be permitted in the building or will be asked to leave.

These directions are an overview of what is required to ensure a continued successful Dog Visitation Program. With your assistance, pets can offer a rewarding experience for our residents. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. A copy of the Pet Therapy Program policy and procedures is enclosed. If you have any questions, or need to set-up an appointment for the dog to be reviewed, provide the necessary certificates or pick-up your badge, call the Therapeutic Recreation Department at (631) 444-8522.

Sincerely,



Michelle Cheslak, C.T.R.S., M.B.A.
Director, Therapeutic Recreation



Jacqueline Bodkin, B.S. C.T.R.S.
Assistant Director, Therapeutic Recreation

MC:eo

Encl.