



Valley Senior Living Bring Your Pet to Work

Access to animals is a vital need of our residents. Companionship, opportunities for residents to care for others, and spontaneity are just some of the direct benefits that animals provide to residents. This policy refers to cats and dogs only. If you want to bring in another type of pet, please discuss with the pet designee for your care community (Valley on Columbia-Jill Swingen, Valley on 42nd-Carole Torgerson, Tufte Manor-Suzanne Widdel).

Pets may visit Valley Senior Living (VSL) under direct supervision of their owner after approval from the supervisor and pet designee for the care community. Upon approval by the pet designee based on proof of current vaccinations and other requirements listed below, permission for a pet to stay at VSL during an employee's shift must be pre-approved by their director supervisor.

I understand that my pet has been given permission to stay at VSL during my paid hours at work and have agreed to the following:

- Pet must be at least 6 months of age unless otherwise preapproved by the pet designee and direct supervisor.
- I certify that I have and will continue to maintain current age-appropriate vaccinations as determined by my veterinarian for my pet. I will need to provide proof upon request from VSL.
 - **Required Vaccinations for Dogs include:** Distemper (including Parainfluenza, Canine Adenovirus Type 2-dogs only), Rabies, and Bordetella. In addition, my pet shall be screened for heartworms and flea/tick yearly.
 - **Required Vaccinations for Cats include:** Feline panleukopenia (distemper), feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus (These three can be given as a combination shot), and rabies. In addition, my pet shall be screened for heartworms and flea/tick yearly.
- I may be personally liable for injury caused by an aggressive act of my pet to residents, visitors, or employees of Valley Senior Living.
- I may be personally liable for any damage caused by my pet to facility or resident property.
- The pet designee or my supervisor may revoke the ability for my pet to continue to visit at any time related to my ability to complete my duties.
- **My pet is housetrained**, as defined by using litter box for cats or outdoor toileting areas for dogs. No "toilet pads" are allowed. If my pet has an "accident" I will be responsible to clean that area according to facility procedures.
- Pets will remain out of the dining areas at mealtimes. Pets can be placed outside, in an office area (behind a closed door), or in a kennel during mealtimes. Pets also are not allowed in the kitchen, laundry area, or treatment areas. Pets should be removed from resident rooms while care is being provided.
- Residents, family members, or other employees of Valley Senior Living are not responsible for any injury to my pet.

- If my pet causes disruption or concern for residents of a particular neighborhood, the neighborhood may vote on the continued ability for my pet to visit the neighborhood.
- My pet must pass a basic physical exam that includes the following:
 - Eyes shall be clear and free from disease.
 - Ears shall be clean and free from disease.
 - Skin shall be free of fleas, ticks, dermatitis/allergic reaction, mange and other common ailments.
 - Pets shall have clean and healthy teeth and gums free of infections or other dental problems.

For a pet to be allowed to come to work with an employee, a meeting needs to take place where staff and residents are allowed the opportunity to meet with the pet. This meeting is also an opportunity to see how the pet reacts to the variety of stimuli that occur (sounds, smells, busyness, etc.). A temperament test can also be performed to see how the pet reacts. Some examples of tests that can be conducted include:

- Tug/pull lightly on the animal's tail and monitor for response.
- Pet the animal backwards and monitor for response.
- Make a loud noise (i.e., clap, rattle a set of keys, etc.) and monitor for response.
- Lightly pull animals hair/fur and monitor for response.
- Give the pet a snack/food then approach the pet and monitor for response such as hissing, growling, bearing of teeth.
- Introduce the pet to other facility pets and monitor for response.
- The pet should display confidence and a willingness to interact with people.

These are just a few tests that can be easily set up and administered. Responses that are questionable or aggressive should be noted (i.e., barking, hissing, bearing of teeth, biting/nipping, scratching, etc.). Note that this is not an all-inclusive test to ensure proper temperament for pets, but a sampling of tests to give an idea of how a pet may react when visiting the care community. If a pet is allowed to visit, ongoing observations of the pet during visits should continue to monitor the safety of the residents, staff, visitors, and the pet itself. Any clean-up of a toileting incident is the responsibility of the pet owner. Permission for a pet to visit may be revoked at any time if the criteria on this form is not being met. This policy needs to be reviewed and re-signed annually for pets that continue to visit.

Employee Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Pet Name: _____ Pet Type/Breed: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Signature of Staff who gave Temperament Test: _____

When complete, route completed form and related paperwork to Jill Swingen at Valley on Columbia.