**PURPOSE:**

This policy outlines the use of animals as a therapeutic engagement tool at Trouves Health Care Facilities.

**SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all Trouves residents, visitors, and employees. **DEFINITIONS:**

Therapeutic Animal:

A broad term that includes animal-assisted therapy and other animal-assisted activities. Animal-assisted therapy is a growing field that uses dogs or other animals to help people recover from or better cope with health problems, such as heart disease, cancer, and mental health disorders.

**POLICY:**

1. Trouves supports the therapeutic value of contact with animals for residents. Safety and comfort of the residents, employees, visitors, and animal during an animal- assisted project, group, or individual interaction is of primary importance.
2. Animals must have current vaccinations/shots and veterinary records. A copy of the vaccination records will be provided to the Administrative Assistant for review. The copy will be stored in the front office Animal Therapy notebook.
3. Each Trouves facility may establish designated areas for animal-assisted therapy use. Animals are not allowed in kitchens, food prep or dining areas.
4. Residents keeping personal pets at Trouves facilities is prohibited.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Trouves Facility Animals will:
	1. Maintain up-to-date vaccinations/shots and records as required by veterinarian recommendations;
	2. Designate on-site staff as animal caregiver during day hours;
	3. Designate resting area for Trouves Facility Animals that is safe and secure;
	4. Maintain on-site training plan for animal;
	5. Maintain weekend plan for Trouves St. Ann’s animal that needs more one on one supervision and care;
	6. Always maintain appropriate control of the animal when in the facility or on grounds;
	7. Immediately remove any animal exhibiting aggression toward residents or staff at any time or whose behavior constitutes a safety hazard for residents or staff;
	8. Maintain hygienic conditions of the animal and instruct and educate residents in hygiene after interacting with the animal;
	9. Document the therapeutic interactions in the resident’s record.
2. Animal owners will:
	1. Maintain up-to-date vaccinations/shots and veterinary records:
	2. Control the animal at all times when in the facility or on grounds;
	3. Immediately remove any animal exhibiting aggression toward residents or staff at any time or whose behavior constitutes a safety hazard for residents or staff;
	4. Maintain hygienic conditions of the animal and instruct and educate residents in hygiene after interacting with the animal;
	5. Follow any rules or conditions outlined in facility policy as well as conditions imposed by the supervisor(s); and
	6. Document the therapeutic interactions in the resident’s record.
3. Family Pets
	1. Family members wishing to bring a pet for a visit to a specific resident must contact the administrator prior to bringing the pet, provide a current vaccination record or verification of same, and sign a statement of acceptance of responsibility.
	2. The administrator or DON will approve or disapprove the pet visit for a specific resident and will inform the family members of any rules or regulations regarding the presence of the pet on grounds.
	3. A copy of the pet’s vaccination record will be kept in the front office in the Animal Therapy Notebook.
	4. The family, resident and pet will be provided a private area in which to visit away from other residents.
	5. Aggression of any kind by the pet toward residents or staff, or behavior constituting a disruption in the milieu and/or a safety hazard will necessitate removal of the pet from the grounds until further assessment by the care team.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

No exceptions to this policy may be granted without the prior written approval of the Director.

**SUPERCEDES:**

None

**Effective Date:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Greg Unruh, CEO Date**

**Trouves Health Care Corporation**

**Information Contact:**