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**Therapeutic Animal Guidelines at Family shelter**

To ensure the safety of staff and other clients in the shelter, we ask the following:

* ONLY ANIMALS IN SHELTER THAT WERE PART OF THE HOUSEHOLD BEFORE ENTERING THE PROGRAM: This means that you would have had to have gone through the screening process when contacting our SAFE line and disclosed you had a pet that needed to come into shelter with you. Acquiring pets after you have moved into our shelter program is not something this program can accommodate. The nature of a shelter environment with lots going on is not one that is conducive for healthy bonding experiences for a pet with a new owner.
* ONE ANIMAL ONLY: Space is limited so we prefer that no more than one (1) domestic animal is allowed per room. (If this is an issue, please speak to your advocate).
* SAFETY OF ANIMAL: We want to ensure the safety of pets. If any shelter staff feel that animals are not being treated appropriately, we reserve the right to call animal control.
* CONTAIN YOUR ANIMAL: Be sure to keep your pets on a leash or in a carrier if they’re outside your room. They can only be outside your room if your animal is being taken outside. Animals can’t hang out in clusters or patios or court yards.
* ANIMAL ALONE IN ROOM: The animal may remain alone in a room so long as the pet is crated. If staff are not able to enter a room due to pet not being in their crate, staff reserve the right to call animal control for assistance.
* LIMIT OF ANIMAL CRATING: Pets should be taken out regularly. Pets should not be crated for more than 8 hours at a time. An exception to the 8 hour limit may be applied to animals that have specific needs and this will be assessed by the staff based on the animal’s behavior. For example, an animal isn’t very adept to staying by itself or has a medical condition. Additionally, animals will require to be in a crate when you are not in the room in case staff need to go into your room.
* If you plan to be gone for more than 8 hours, please find someone, (ideally, someone not in this shelter your animal can safely stay with), that can take care of you animal during this time. If this is going to be problem, please speak to your advocate about options.
* ANIMALCARE AGREEMENT: You may complete a petcare agreement with another resident of this shelter if you know that this other resident will take proper care of the animal. All of the items on this list will apply to the individual caring for your animal. **SAFE will not be held responsible for any safety issues that may come up around this animal care agreement, for example, the animal injuring the person caring for it.**
* ANIMAL DISTURBANCES: If your animal is disturbing other residents/staff or causing damage, then it cannot be left alone and must remain in your control.

**Therapeutic Animal Guidelines at Family shelter**

* DISRUPTIVE ANIMAL: We count on you to prevent your pet from making excessive noise, being disruptive or aggressive to other residents. If your animal is deemed dangerous, harmful or disruptive, Shelter staff may require you to find other accommodations.
* CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR ANIMAL: In consideration for other residents, please clean up after your animal, and keep it within your control at all times. For example, if your cat is staying with you, you’ll need to provide a litter box. (If you are needing a litter box, please contact your advocate).
* AREA FOR ANIMAL WASTE/CLEAN AFTER YOUR ANIMAL: Please use the grassy area along the fence by the pedestrian gate and along that back corner fence area for your animal. Promptly remove any pet waste from the Property. You can ask shelter staff for plastic bags to dispose of pet waste. Animals kept in the room that require cages to be cleaned are expected to be cleaned on a regular basis and staff may make recommendations if this is needed. \*\*\*NO PETS/ANIMALS IN THE COURTYARDS AS THIS IS CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA\*\*\*
* VACCINES: Animals should be up to date on vaccinations. If you need help with this, please speak with your advocate.
* There is now funding for pet supplies, please ask your Shelter Advocate about this.

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Resident name Signature Date

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Animal name Type of animal Breed approx. weight