

PETS AS THERAPY VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Saint Raphael's Hospice Mission statement clearly states that we value the contribution made by each member of staff and **VOLUNTEER**. Without volunteers we would not be able to provide the high standard of service to our Patients and those important to them that we are able to offer at this time Volunteers' contribution cannot be over emphasised.

ROLE PROFILE

Pets as Therapy Volunteers interact with patients and those important to them on our In-Patient Unit and those attending our Wellbeing Centre. where someone has expressed an interest in meeting a pet. Pets as Therapy volunteers and their pets provide comfort companionship and therapy to our patients and those important to them helping them engage in memories and stories of their own animals or simply enjoying an interaction with pets.

TIME COMMITMENT

Pets as Therapy Volunteers usually offer support with their pet once a week for up to 3 hours at a time . This is just a general guide and can be more often.

DUTIES

- Visit patients with pet as directed by the Nurse in charge of IPU or the Wellbeing Centre Facilitators
- Support interactions with your pet with sensitivity, ensuring you have a patient or those important to them' s consent
- Engage with patients and those important to them in conversation as appropriate.
- Ensure you pet is on a lead
- Attend a briefing session prior to each session and a debrief at the end.
- Discuss any concerns observations or changes in a patient with our clinical staff

DRESS CODE

Appropriate dress for the role to reflect the professional image of the hospice. A volunteer badge and access control pass must be worn at all times and Pets as Therapy ID for the pet.

VOLUNTEERS MUST NOT:

- Give out their personal details
- Give any medical or financial advice
- Witness any documents



VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Complete the St Raphael's mandatory training modules via Blue Stream Training appropriate to this role
- Attend any bespoke additional training sessions offered and support meetings
- Inform the hospice if there are any hazards or health or safety issues detected.
- Be familiar with the relevant policies needed for this role e.g. Infection Control, Information Governance, Problem solving Policy.
- Understand the boundaries of the role requesting assistance and advice where appropriate.

The Pets as Therapy Volunteer Role Description does not intend to cover all aspects of the role. There may, on occasions, be other duties you will be asked to perform. If any Volunteer is asked to perform a task about which they feel unhappy, they must feel free to say so.