

	Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center Policy Manual	Policy Number	110
		Original Date	04/14/0014
	Department: Administration	Revised Date	02/24/2016
	Pet Protocol		

POLICY:

The Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center allows pets (dogs) to visit.

PURPOSE:

It has shown to be a powerful tool in reducing agitation and confusion in those with Alzheimer’s along with those whom have anxiety, depression, and other mental disorders. Animal’s non-verbal communication and profound acceptance can be soothing for those with difficulty using language; some may even connect with memories of their own treasured pets.

PROCEDURE:

1. Dogs brought into the facility need to be approved by the Administrator or Social Services department.
2. Pets must have current vaccines with documentation, and must be on a leash.
3. The designated facility dog must be under control of their owner or designated handler.
 - A. Designated facility dogs must be gentle, adaptable to new environments, and totally non-aggressive. Interaction with people is a must.
 - B. Only two dogs will be allowed as designated facility dogs.
4. Pets must be attended at all times.
5. The owner or their designee must bag and dispose of dog stool immediately outside along with any incidents of urine and stool inside the facility.

Pet Protocol

6. Dogs are not allowed in the resident and/or employee dining areas.
7. Dogs that visit must be bathed, groomed and have trimmed nails.
8. If an employee has a special circumstance where they need to bring their dog, they need approval from the Administrator. Vaccination records are required at all times.