

The Following Animals are Excluded from Visiting:

- Female dogs in season.
- Animals that are not litter trained or house trained.
- Animals that have been ill in the last 7 days (e.g., vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, running nose or eyes)
- Non-human primates, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, farm animals, zoo animals, or birds.

Additional Guidelines for Animal Visits:

- Hand Hygiene: Clean your hands and ask people to clean their hands before and after interacting with your animal.
- Mature pets are preferred, as they are more likely to be trained and less likely to bite or scratch.
- Pets should be discouraged from licking any patient, resident, client, or staff member.
- Animal owners must maintain control of their animals at all times.
- Pets must be house trained.
- Consider brushing your pet before arrival to reduce shedding of fur and dander.

Following Areas are Restricted

With the exception of certified guide or certified service animals, all other animals, including therapy animals, are prohibited to visit:

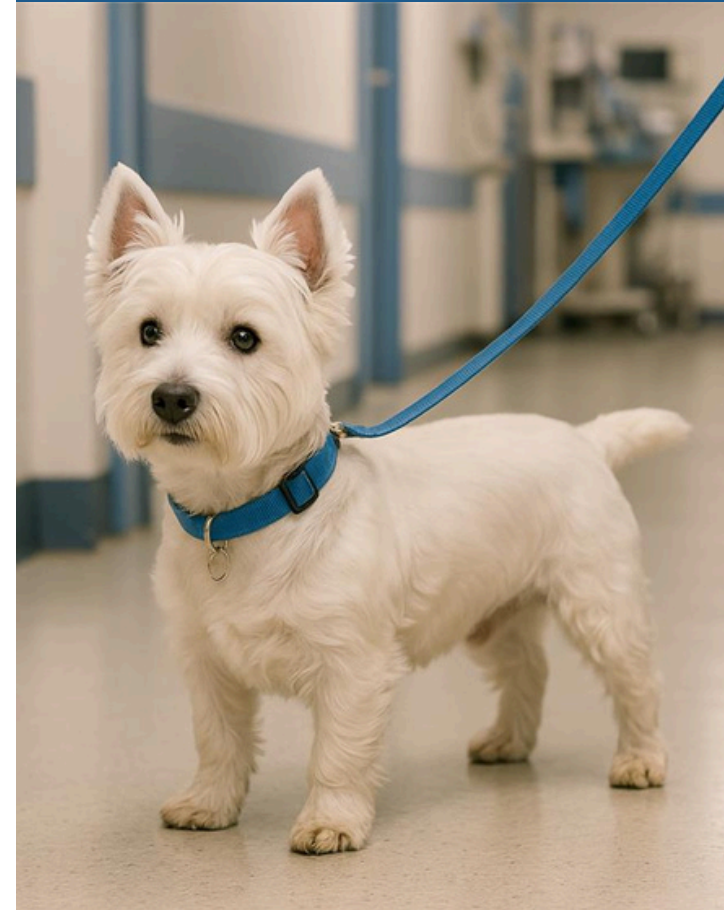
- Surgical Units
- Critical Care Units (ICU, CCU, PICU, NICU)
- Dialysis Units
- Burn Units
- Labor and Delivery and Mother/Babe Units
- Laboratories
- Rooms on additional precautions (including multibed rooms where one patient is on additional precautions)
- Cafeterias or dining rooms

No animals, including certified guide or service animals, are permitted in the following areas for patient safety:

- Operating Rooms and Recovery Rooms
- Clean storage
- Medication preparation
- Public food preparation areas



Animal Visitation





Before Your Visit

The manager or designate must pre-approve the visit to the facility.

To ensure the safety of others and your pet, please ensure the animal:

- Is groomed with clean fur, trimmed nails and has been bathed in the 24 hours prior to the visit.
- Is free of ticks and fleas.
- Has not been on a raw food diet within the last 30 days.
- Is current with all recommended vaccinations.
- Has not experienced diarrhea or vomited in the past 7 days.

During Your Visit

- Go directly to the room of the person you are visiting.
- Do not stop and interact with other individuals on your way to the room.
- Pets are not permitted in dining areas.
- Perform hand hygiene before entering and when leaving the room.
- Animals should not be placed on the bed.
- Do not allow the animal to lick others.
- If animal waste occurs at any time during the visit, the handler is responsible for immediately cleaning of the area with an approved provided clean-up kit.
- Animal must be in owners control at all times via a leash or cage.



After Your Visit

- Floors of healthcare facilities are not considered clean due to high traffic volumes and other various factors even though they are cleaned daily.
- Please take additional steps to ensure your pet's safety by cleaning their paws using a pet safe method.



Island Health remains committed to patient-centred care while ensuring safe, respectful, and appropriate precautions across all healthcare settings.