



Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Certified Therapy Dog Visitation Program

"HERSHEY HEELERS"

Penn State Hershey
Volunteer Services

For more information,
call the CareLine:

1-800-243-1455

PennStateHershey.org

PENNSTATE HERSHEY



Milton S. Hershey
Medical Center

Good People. Great Medicine.™





This guide is for patients at Penn State Hershey Medical Center who wish to have a visit from a specially screened dog. These dogs are tested for good health and temperament.

Benefits of Pet Therapy:

- Improve immune system function
- Relieve stress
- Increase awareness
- Mental stimulation
- Lessen depression and anxiety
- Lower blood pressure, respiratory and heart rates
- Provide emotional safety leading to better communication
- Provides a non-threatening physical contact or “touch” that is very important for nourishment of both mind and spirit.
- Positive distraction
- Provide Entertainment

Not only do patients benefit from pet therapy visits, they are also beneficial to staff, families of patients and other visitors in the hospital.

The Medical Center is pleased to be able to provide pet therapy to anyone who needs some extra “TLC.”

Pet Therapy Facts:

- Medical Center Pet Therapy Policy implemented in 2005.
- Medical Center Pet Therapy dogs can be identified by their Penn State Hershey ID Badges.
- All Hershey Heeler Therapy Dogs are certified therapy dogs through KPETS (Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services), all teams are volunteers, and all dogs are owned, loved, and trained by that volunteer.
- Visits occur in all inpatient adult units, including intensive care units, excluding, however, cardiovascular units.
- Visits also occur at cardiac rehab and the adult and child eating disorders offices.
- Visits occur every day of the week in different areas of the hospital.
- Special visits can be arranged by making a request at the nurse’s station.
- Therapy dogs cannot visit patients in isolation rooms.
- Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital has a separate pet therapy program.

