

Infection Preventionist Lunch and Learn

December 12, 2023

Ashley O'Keefe, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, CIC, CDIPC



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Series Objectives

2

- Encourage learning, growth, and networking.
- Provide non-regulatory education and information.
- Discuss topics relevant to new infection preventionists (IPs).

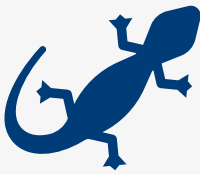
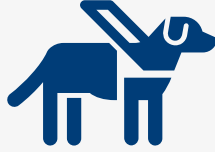
Animals in Health Care Facilities



Animal Encounters Pose Both...

Psychological and physiological benefits

Infection control risks

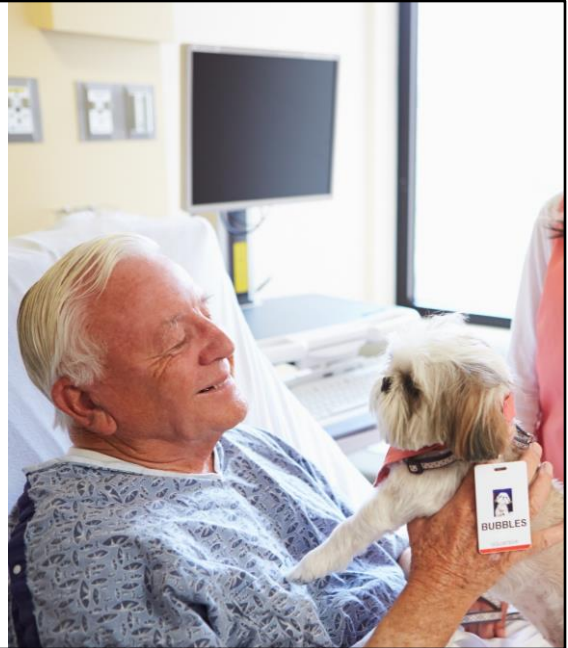


Animal Encounters in Health Care

- Animal therapy
- Visits with personal pets
- Service animals

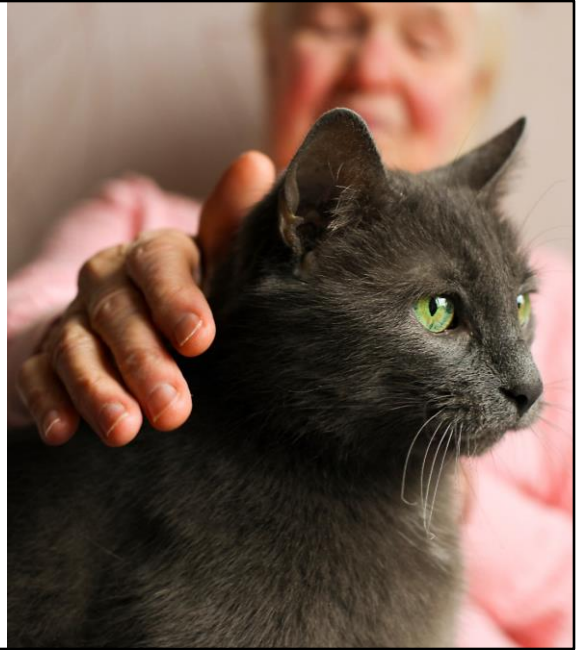
Animal Therapy

- Activities in groups or with individual patients or residents
- Animals and handlers should have training
- Domesticated animals



Visits with Personal Pets

- Can vary based on health care setting
- Should be scheduled
- Should only involve the owner and handler

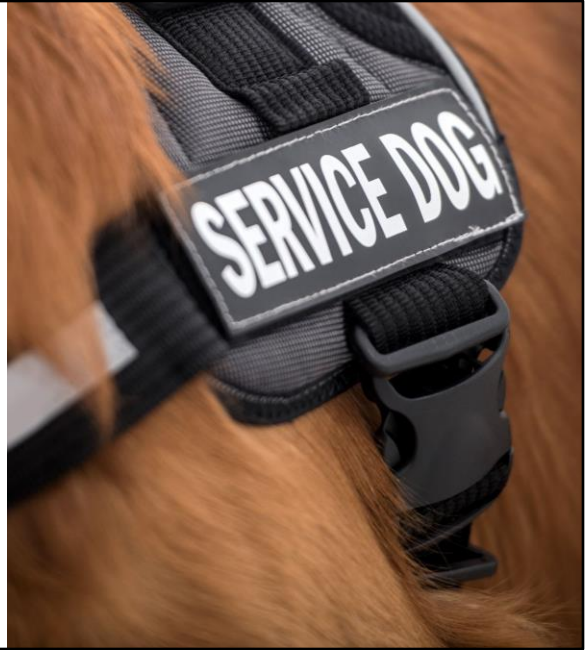


Infection Control Considerations

- Hand hygiene
- Animal hygiene
- Animal vaccinations
- Protection of invasive devices or wounds
- Reporting of incidents or injuries

Service Animals

- Protected under federal law
- Trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities
- Limited exclusion criteria



Lessons Learned from the Field

- ✓ Include animals in your facility's infection prevention risk assessment.
- ✓ Lean into corporate policies.
- ✓ Periodically audit your processes.

Helpful Resources

- [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\): Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities \(2003\), Section H](#)
- [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology \(APIC\): Animals Visiting in Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America \(SHEA\): Expert Guidance](#)

11

- [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\): Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities \(2003\), Section H:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/animals.html>](#)
- [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology \(APIC\): Animals Visiting in Healthcare Facilities:
<https://text.apic.org/toc/community-based-infection-prevention-practices/animals-visiting-in-healthcare-facilities>](#)
- [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America \(SHEA\): Expert Guidance:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospital-epidemiology/article/animals-in-healthcare-facilities-recommendations-to-minimize-potential-risks/7086725BAB2AAA4C1949DA5B90F06F3B>](#)

Send your questions and topic suggestions.

Submit your ideas to Ashley O'Keefe at ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov.



12

Please submit your ideas to [Ashley O'Keefe](#) at ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

IP Starter Kit

Infection Preventionist Starter Kit



 Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
P-02992 (05/2022)

Collaboratively developed by members of the
Wisconsin HAI Prevention Program Advisory Committee

13

IP Starter Kit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02992.pdf>

HAI Prevention Program Contact Information

 **Email:** dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov

 **Phone:** 608-267-7711

 **Website:** www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm

Email: dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Phone: 608-267-7711

Website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm

Upcoming Lunch and Learn Session

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Topic: Pesky Pests in Health Care Facilities