

10/27/2021

JG

COVID SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

MO-KAN TEAMS

With the newest CDC recommendations, it looks like we can finally consider returning to what we and our animal partners love; sharing with others. In support of YAYABA (You Are Your Animal's Best Advocate), we offer the following suggestions:

Review our normal safety/ Infection Prevention standards:

1. Handler and animal partner must be healthy (not taking antibiotics, anti-fungal or immunosuppressive medications such as steroids or chemo).
2. Animals must be freshly groomed with-in 24 hours.
3. All animal vaccinations must be current (Flu vaccine may be required by facilities for Handlers. COVID vaccination is recommended).
4. Avoid visiting anyone in isolation or experiencing vomiting / diarrhea or cough.
5. Hand sanitizer pre- contact for everyone who has contact with the animal (**be aware if client touches another object such as their phone, water pitcher, bed rail during the visit and re-apply sanitizer**). Offer sanitizer post-contact.
6. Facility – issued barrier must be used on bed linen or furniture (do not bring a barrier such as blanket or towel from home).
7. Handlers must cleanse hands before and after each encounter and at the conclusion of the visit.

Additional standard:

8. Masks must be worn by all who participate (client, staff, visitors). **We recommend that masks be issued by the facility.**
9. Collars and leashes be wiped with **facility-issued** disinfection wipes (safe for human skin) between each contact. Leashes/ collars should be made from material such as PVC in order to be effectively cleaned. **Scarves and vests should not be worn at this time.**
10. Bags should remain on the Handler's person (fanny packs or backpacks) to contain visit cards and car keys and not set down. Do not bring treats, toys or water bottles into the facility.
11. Allow only one person at a time to have contact with the animal in order to accomplish adequate disinfecting. We recommend confining interaction to approved patient care areas, avoiding interactions in public areas such as a lobby or waiting rooms.
12. Consider limiting visiting times (total facility time and each interaction) as transmission is not thoroughly understood.

Note: Each facility will probably have requirements for entry (eg. temperature assessment and area access restrictions) as well as specific visit requirements that must be followed.