

### DOG THERAPY PROGRAM

Under the supervision of Tucson's Banner-University Medicine Volunteer Services department, Dog Therapy volunteers (handler and pet) provide comfort, distraction, and peace through gentle companionship during their assigned volunteer shifts. They can visit patients, families, visitors, and employees as needed or requested in designated/available areas within Banner Health facilities. They continue to provide excellent customer service while maintaining the confidentiality of patients, visitors, volunteers, and employees of Banner Health. These services are provided within the guidelines of The Dog Therapy Policy set by Banner Health.

#### **PRE-SCREENING/INTERVIEW WITH DOG TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOG REQUIREMENTS:**

- Dog Therapy Certification from one of the following:
  - Alliance of Therapy Dogs
  - Pet Partners of Southern Arizona
  - Pet VIP Therapy and Visitation Program – HSSA
- Rabies Vaccination (Every 3 years)
- Fecal (Negative within 1 month, then bi-annual requirement)
- Dog over the age of 1 year

### FUN FACT!

Do you know the difference between a Therapy Dog, a Service Dog, and an Emotional Support Animal?

- **Therapy Dogs** – Therapy dogs go through certification with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and more. From working with a child who is learning to read to visiting a senior in assisted living, therapy dogs and their owners work together as a team to improve the lives of other people – (*American Kennel Club*)
- **Service Dogs** – Service dogs are dogs who are specially trained to perform specific tasks to help a person who has a disability. An example of a service dog is a dog that guides an owner who is blind or a dog who assists someone who has a physical disability. Service dogs stay with their person and have special access privileges in public places such as on planes, restaurants, etc. – (*American Kennel Club*)
- **Emotional Support Animal** – An (ESA) animal is an animal that can provide emotional and therapeutic benefits to those suffering from emotional issues, anxiety, or psychiatric problems. To benefit from the federal law protection under the United States, a person must have a note from a licensed mental health counselor stating the person has a condition and that the animal provides emotional support benefiting the person with the disability. The animal doesn't need specific working abilities to become an emotional support animal – (*USA Service Dog Registration*)

### SPIRITUAL CARE

Under the supervision of Tucson's Banner-University Medicine Volunteer Services department and Spiritual Care department, Spiritual Care Volunteers assist in providing peace, emotional and spiritual support in a limited faith-based or ecumenical/interfaith context to patients, families, and employees. Our Spiritual Care volunteers continue to provide confidentiality, customer service and maintain a much-needed listening ear during an individual's time of need. These services are provided within the guidelines set by Banner Health.

#### Requirements:

- Letter of confirmation of compliance or endorsement from the applicant's faith community to engage in any Volunteer Spiritual Care responsibilities and duties at Tucson Banner-University Medicine facilities.

### NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)

Under the supervision of the Nursing Staff and Volunteer Services, volunteer(s) will provide support to the patients and families by promoting a healing environment in the NICU department through cuddling. After completing the unit-specific orientation, training and related competencies, volunteers may assist in the specified patient care tasks after performing necessary non-patient care tasks such as laundry and stocking.

#### Requirements:

- Must be able to commit to at least 2 years of consecutive service
- **Preferred age requirement:** 50 years of age or older
- Must be willing to do laundry and stocking prior to cuddling a patient

### PEDIATRIC TUTORING

Under the supervision of the Hospital School Teacher, Hospital School Educational Support /Tutor Volunteer(s) will provide academic support through tutoring on specific academic areas, skill reinforcement through educational activities, and enrichment activities guided by the patient's learning level.

#### Requirements:

- Must be able to commit to a minimum of **3 consecutive months and 50 hours** of service
- Must be 18 years of age or older

### PEDIATRIC VOLUNTEERING

Under the supervision of Child Life Associate Director/Specialists, bedside nurse and Volunteer Services, Pediatric Volunteer(s) will provide diversional activities for pediatric patients and siblings. Activities may include reading, playing games, arts/crafts, and interacting with children.

#### Requirements:

- Must be able to commit to a minimum of **6 consecutive months and 100 hours** of service
- Must be 18 years of age or older