Therapy Dogs of Southeast Michigan

Memorandum of Understanding for Therapy Dog Visits

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Therapy Dogs of Southeast Michigan and the below facility, represents the full agreement between these two organizations for the provision of volunteer therapy dog services in the facility.

Name of Facility: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Contact's Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Therapy Dogs of Southeast Michigan (TDSEM) is a non-profit organization providing visitations free of charge through its tested and registered handler/dog teams. All of our handlers are volunteers and covered under TDSEM's excess liability insurance program (copy provided upon request). TDSEM's contact information is:

Address: 2718 Sheick Rd., Monroe, MI 48162 **Phone:** (734) 770-8316 **Email:** Info@therapydogsmi.com

Facility Therapy Dog Visits

While in the facility the handler must follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the facility as long as no harm can come to either the dog or handler. If additional training or paperwork for volunteers is required, it's up to the handler to comply if the handler wants to visit at the facility.

The facility should provide guidelines to the handler for its therapy dog program. All visits should be accompanied by a staff member. This is important for the health and safety of our volunteer handler/dog teams, as well as the facility's employees and students (where applicable).

The facility must have a policy in place for infection control to protect the handler/dog team from coming in contact with possible dangerous germs. The handlers will visit with an appropriately groomed dog. Upon leaving the facility the handler should wipe the dog with a pet-safe disinfectant, including its paws.

All visitations must be scheduled in advance. The volunteer as well as the facility is responsible for adhering to a scheduled visitation program. If a scheduled visit cannot be made, the volunteer or the facility must cancel in advance.

The facility is responsible for checking the handler's TDSEM credentials and making sure they are up-to-date at the time of visitation. TDSEM requires annual registration and the credentials must reflect the current year. TDSEM verifies the current health status of its registered dogs to ensure they are healthy and fit to visit in public settings. If any of the required procedures lapse, the handler will be prohibited from visitations. Our handlers are made aware when any of their credentials are due to expire.

During a visit, the handler may take pictures of the interaction between the dog(s) and the person being visited for the purpose of sharing our work on social media. However, all pictures posted will NOT include the faces of those visited, i.e. just hands petting dogs or faces covered with emojis or otherwise blocked. If a facility does not want even these types of pictures posted, they must notify TDSEM in writing at the above address.

Any disputes with TDSEM shall be governed by and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, without giving effect to any choice or conflict of law or rule that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than those of the State of Michigan.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the visits or the handler/dog team, please feel free to contact us at the above email or phone number.

_____ Date: _____

Cheryl Wassus
Director, TDSEM

_____ Date: _____

Authorized Signature of
Facility Representative