



Therapy Animals of Utah

Skills to Spot Reminder

Handler Name:

Facility Name:

Date/Mentoring session:

Inspiring Confidence

Arrive on time

Wear TAU uniform and Pet Partners ID tag

Come equipped with a gear bag with water, clean up supplies, other supplies as needed

Sign in at facility

Collect facility supplies as needed such as hand sanitizer, linen barriers, client list

Observe all rules of confidentiality and privacy

Present yourself in a professional manner

Come to the facility healthy, neat, and clean

Present your animal healthy, clean, and well-groomed

Always keep your leash in your hand or on your wrist

Stay 5 feet away from other dogs: this is work time, not play time.

Clean up after your animal inside and outside the facility

Essential Teamwork Skills

Touch the animal partner often to support and reassure

Skillfully position yourself and animal partner so everyone is comfortable

Make eye contact with your animal frequently

Assess the environment before entering...Be proactive!

Cue your animal. Make sure your animal knows what is expected

Walk your animal between you and the wall, or on the safest side

Keep your eye on your animal while interacting with other people

Use a conversational tone of voice

Use a loose leash – no tugging on leash or leash corrections, but not at entire length

Give respectful directions –voice or subtle hand signals, not pushing or shoving

Encouragement, praise and support/reassure – not demand and presumption

Bed visits: Get staff/family/patient help to secure tubes, place barrier. Animal waits for cue. Place animal safely on bed.

Set boundaries about how people touch your animal

Show clients how to use equipment/tools & assist them if needed

Watch your animal as you leave the interaction

Environmental Engineering

Minimize distractions

Choose a spot with sufficient space

Turn off the TV (with your client's permission)

Move to another room: bedroom, dayroom, courtyard, etc.

Ask if you could move the bedside table or chair
Open or close a door or curtain
Additional Response to Calming/Stress Signals
Move closer to your animal partner
Respect your animal's personal space
Take a break for exercise or water during the hour
Shorten the visit if needed
Interaction with Clients
Introduce yourselves and ask if the client wants a visit
Offer hand sanitizer before and after the visit
Use a barrier under the animal partner when placing it on bed
Ask client to put on brake or turn off wheelchair
Get on the client's level
Engage in friendly conversation and use good listening skills
Concentrate on quality, not quantity
Complete proper closure to the visit
Problem Solve unexpected circumstances
Interaction with Professional Staff
Participate in a pre-visit briefing about client goals and plan for the session
Collaborate with staff on activities
Participate in post-visit debriefing on client progress
Communicate with staff on how the clients responded to the visit.
TAU Documentation
E-mail Team Session Report (name, date, facility, how many clients, joys or problems) to director@therapyanimalsutah.org

Four questions for Discussion:

What went well?

What could have gone better?

What did we learn?

Where do we go from here?

Mentor report :

3 Handler does it often and well.

2 Handler's doing it, but needs practice.

1 Mentor did it this time.

NA Didn't apply, didn't come up, or no opportunity