

FNIHB-OR Nursing Policy and Procedure

Section:	Administration	Policy Number:	I - 03
Subject:	Animals in Health Facilities	Issued:	2015-03-31
Distribution:	All Nursing Facilities	Revised:	

1. POLICY:

- 1.1 Animals and animal clinics are not permitted within treatment areas of a nursing station or health care facility.
- 1.2 Fully trained service animals are permitted in certain areas of the health facility as assessed on a case by case scenario.
 - 1.2.1 The service animal must be accompanied by its handler at all times. Nurses are to minimize their contact with the animal and are to use proper hand hygiene if contact is made.
 - 1.2.2 Service animals are not permitted in kitchen areas, mechanical rooms, supply rooms or custodial closets.
- 1.3 Health care supplies, including dressings and medications are not to be used for animal care.

2. PRINCIPLES:

- 2.1 Services animals may be permitted in the health facility when:
 - a. The client requires assistance of the Service Animal; OR
 - b. The evaluation and treatment of the client requires the presence of the Service Animal; AND
 - c. The Service Animal is not at risk of injury; AND
 - d. FNIHB-OR employees are not at risk of injury.
- 2.2 It may be appropriate to exclude a service animal from limited access areas that employ general infection control measures or where the animal's presence may compromise a sterile field environment.
- 2.3 Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or if an individual's disability prevents using these devices. The handler/owner must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1 **Treatment Areas** include all areas past the reception / waiting room of the health facility, including any designated public health room.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 If the Nurse in Charge (NIC) or Community Health Nurse is requested to allow an animal care clinic to be conducted within the health facility, he/she will refuse the request.
- 4.2 When a client presents to the health facility with a service animal, he/she must be informed that the animal must remain in control of the handler at all times and that the animal is not permitted access to all areas of the health facility.
- 4.3 If the animal fails to control its bodily eliminations, the handler is responsible for immediately and properly cleaning up and disposing of the waste, whether indoors or outdoors. The custodial worker shall provide the handler with appropriate cleaning supplies to facilitate the clean-up.
- 4.4 Practice proper hand hygiene after any inadvertent contact with an animal.
- 4.5 Report injuries such as scratches, bites, or other breaks in the skin that are caused by a Service Animal.
- 4.5.1 Treat the incident as an occupational injury and complete the appropriate Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) forms.
- 4.5.2 Report the animal bite to the appropriate public health agency.

5. RELATED POLICIES:

FNIHB Infection Control Policy Manual

Approved by:	Effective Date: March 31, 2015
Director of Nursing, Ontario Region Date:	
Regional Executive, Ontario Region Date:	