



Animal Health & Welfare Policy

Annual Vet Check

As part of our protocol, Therapy Dogs mandates an annual veterinary check-up for all dogs engaged in therapy work. During this visit, we require the veterinarian to complete our form verifying the dog's overall well-being, confirming they are happy, healthy, and fit for therapy dog duties. You can time this check-up to align with your annual vaccination schedule.

Health Issues

Dogs experiencing short-term health issues should refrain from conducting any visits until they have fully recovered and are in good health. For dogs with long-term health issues, retirement from therapy work may be necessary. However, dogs with chronic conditions, provided they are otherwise healthy, enjoy visits, and do not pose a risk to themselves or others, may continue visiting under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Grooming

Dogs participating in therapy visits should be clean, pleasant-smelling, and free of mud or debris in their coats, which should also be well-brushed. For visits to hospices, hospitals, or with immunocompromised individuals, we require dogs to be bathed using an antifungal antibacterial shampoo. This bathing should be completed within 48 hours before the scheduled visit to ensure optimal hygiene and safety for all involved.

Nails and Ear Care

Dogs' nails should be trimmed and kept clean regularly. This routine also offers a chance to inspect their paw health. Ears should be maintained clean and free from strong odors. If your dog's ears appear dirty, have black wax buildup, or emit a yeasty smell, clean them promptly and consider consulting with your veterinarian if needed.

Dental Hygiene

Dogs' teeth can age and require regular cleaning as well. Options like brushing, using a chlorhexidine rinse, or a dental gel can be beneficial. It's crucial to use dog-friendly products for their oral hygiene. Fresh breath is important for therapy dog visits. If your dog has dental issues or bad teeth, consulting with a veterinary dentist is recommended for appropriate care.

Non-Coercive Training Tools & Techniques

We strictly oppose and discourage the use of coercive training techniques that rely on force, pain, or fear to compel dogs to obey commands. Such methods and tools are often abusive and can cause significant pain to the animal. Building trust between therapy dogs and their handlers is paramount, as we heavily depend on a strong and meaningful relationship for successful therapy work.

Safeguarding Animal Abuse

We firmly oppose animal abuse and are dedicated to upholding animal welfare standards. As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of animals, we will report any cases of abuse or neglect to the Mauritius Animal Welfare Unit. This aligns with Sections 3, 32, and 36 of the Animal Welfare Act 2013.



[Download the Animal Welfare Act 2013](#)



[Contact the Animal Welfare Unit](#)