

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

- 1 It is the philosophy of OPTIONS to provide our supported person's with as normalized an environment as possible. Thus, OPTIONS supports supported persons exposure to pets as they visit the sites; however, OPTIONS does not allow persons living in OPTIONS owned and/or operated facilities to have pets on the premises. At no time will the presence of an animal or animals compromise the health, safety, and overall well-being of individuals served by OPTIONS, nor will the presence of animals be permitted to interfere with active program implementation.

The key factors in considering the appropriateness of a pet visiting any OPTIONS program sites or offices are:

- 1.1 All pets must be completely housebroken or appropriately caged.
- 1.2 All required shots, immunizations etc. must be completed and current, and must be kept on file at each OPTIONS site visited by the pet.
- 1.3 All dogs must have current registrations on file at each OPTIONS site visited by the dog.
- 1.4 All dogs and cats must wear I.D. tags and be well-groomed (i.e., shampooed, free from fleas, etc.).
- 1.5 **The pet's owner will accept full legal and financial responsibility for his or her pet while the pet is on OPTIONS premises, including any and all injuries to OPTIONS staff, supported persons, or guests, or the pet itself, and any and all damage to the property of OPTIONS and its staff, supported persons, or guests.**
- 1.6 Any animal that poses a safety hazard (e.g., poisonous snakes, etc.) will not be permitted to visit any OPTIONS site.
- 1.7 OPTIONS' Program Managers/Supervisors will retain the right to make the final determination of a pet's appropriateness for supported persons/staff interaction and presence at an OPTIONS site.
- 1.8 Permission for a pet to visit an OPTIONS site may be revoked at any time for any reason by the COO (or CEO, in the COO's absence). Bringing a pet to an OPTIONS site is a privilege, not a right.

POLICY DATE: February 1996  
REVISED: August 1997  
REVISED: April 2004  
REVISED: August 2007