

PROVIDED BY HOSPICE SERVICES OF LAKE COUNTY

Keeping Pets & People Together During Hospice Care

The unconditional love and companionship of a pet is invaluable to many individuals and families. For almost four decades, **Hospice Services of Lake County** has been caring for patients and their loved ones, and we now extend that care to our patients' beloved pets.

Pet Peace of Mind® is a program that allows patients to complete the end-of-life journey with the comfort and companionship of their pets, without worrying about their pets' current or future needs. **Pet Peace of Mind** is a national program we've adopted that equips nonprofit Hospice organizations with training and resources to help individuals and their pets stay together for as long as possible. We will also help our patients re-home their pets when needed.

If you are a **Hospice Services of Lake County** patient or caregiver and need some extra help caring for feathered, finned, or furry members of your family, please tell your care social worker or case manager, or contact our Volunteer Coordinator.

Specially trained volunteers provide hands-on services to cats and dogs. These services include picking up and delivering food and supplies, transporting pets to routine veterinarian or grooming appointments, changing litter boxes and taking pets for walks.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

- 1. You will notify any member of the care team that you would like to consider participating in the Pet Peace of Mind program.
- 2. Your Case Manager or Social worker will conduct a brief assessment with you about the needs of your pet(s).
- 3. Your team members will make a referral to our Volunteer Coordinator describing your pet's needs and specific activities you are requesting from a **Pet Peace of Mind** Volunteer.
- 4. A specially trained volunteer will be briefed and make contact with you to set up an appointment to meet you and your family, including your beloved pet, and begin providing requested services.
- 5. To maintain the safety and security of your pet and our volunteers and to make sure we are meeting your needs, there will be various documents that may require your signature such as a release to transport your pet and a list of your pet's daily habits and dietary needs.

We recognize that your pet's needs may change while you are being cared for by Hospice Services of Lake County and we will make every attempt possible to adapt to those changing needs.

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