



The Foundation for Pet Provided Therapy  
[GoldCountryLoveonaLeash.org](http://GoldCountryLoveonaLeash.org)

### **Visits:**

At this time, there is no minimum number of visits required for individual members.

No one associated with Love on a Leash is to charge for visits or ask for donations from those who are visited.

All visits are to be made with leashes that are four foot in length or less. Extendable leashes are not to be used for visits. Off leash work is not permitted during a visit.

GCLOAL has no formal policy on the type of collars that may be worn on visits, *with the exception of forbidding remote electronic collars, pinch collars and halter type collars (gentle leaders).*

Handler and pet ID membership cards must be visible at all times. Prospective members visiting during supervised visits must carry a copy of their completed control evaluation and pet vaccination records.

Pets are not required to wear the LOAL vest or bandana to all visits, but consider it an honor! You've earned it. It sets you and your pet apart and designates you and your pet as a certified therapy team.

Handlers are not required to wear LOAL attire but if the Love on a Leash logo is used it should conform to our national standards:

- The official color is **medium blue**.
- The official logo is a **paw print within a heart** with **Love on a Leash** written at the top.



### ***List of items to carry on a visit:***

- **Required: LOAL membership card (or copy of control evaluation)**
- **Required: Copy of proof of vaccinations for visiting pet**
- Spare leash
- Poop bags
- Pen and pad
- Bookmarks/brochures/business cards
- Hand wipes/antibacterial hand gel
- Water bowl

### ***Manners for Visits:***

The following list was created by a group of seasoned volunteers:

- 🐾 “Meet and greet” other teams before you go in to a visit. Be sensitive to new pets.
- 🐾 Visits can be social, but you **must know** what your pet is doing at all times.
- 🐾 Don’t touch a wheelchair or walker or any medical equipment without asking.
- 🐾 Respect the client’s space and belongings. Ask permission before moving anything, such as a table or wheelchair, and be sure to replace the object in its original position at the end of the visit.
- 🐾 Ask permission before bringing your pet close to someone. If someone doesn’t like pets, realize it’s not personal.
- 🐾 When introducing your pet, don’t let the person you are visiting put their face right up to your pet or vice versa.
- 🐾 Plan ahead of time how you will handle your pet being offered treats by others and always get permission to give treats to other pets.
- 🐾 Take potty breaks away from activity. Be discreet and pick-up waste and dispose of it properly. (Be prepared to clean up after your pet. Stress levels can be high – especially for the first few visits.) If clean-up is required, notify staff immediately.
- 🐾 Keep sensitive pets apart from each other.
- 🐾 Know your pet. If he shows signs of being tired or irritable, simply excuse

yourself and make plans to return at another time.

- 🐾 Remember that not everyone likes to be kissed by a pet.
- 🐾 Allow those you visit their privacy. Never disclose personal information you learn. Knock or announce yourself before entering a room.
- 🐾 The facilities you visit are staffed with professionals. Report anything out of the ordinary.
- 🐾 Remember that the staff in the places you visit like to be visited, too.
- 🐾 Watch out for the shy people in the corner. Make an effort to include them.
- 🐾 Listen. You may hear a fascinating story.

### ***A Special Word about Visiting Nursing Homes and Care Facilities:***

- The purpose of a therapy visit is to bring comfort by facilitating safe contact between the person you're visiting and your pet. Listen to the patient's needs. Clients are not a captive audience for your life story or problems.
- We are not medical personnel. Most of our client's have medical problems, and we are not to move them, or their wheelchairs or beds, or bring them food or beverages, or adjust their pillows, or do anything except visit. Any requests from the client should be passed on to the appropriate staff at the facility.
- Most of our visits take place where most of the people are not feeling well, so we **MUST** be respectful and as quiet as possible. That means making sure our dogs do not "talk," whine, or bark during visits.
- Most of our clients are either physically fragile or already injured so we must be extra vigilant not to cause any injury from ourselves or our dogs. Pay attention to how your dog is interacting with the client—"paws up" should only be done under controlled circumstances: with the client's permission, with a safe place to put your dog's paws, and with you assisting your dog so that he stays calm and in place.
- Maintain control of your pet at all times. Visits can be social but you must know what your pet is doing at all times.
- Respect the client's space. Ask permission before bringing your pet close to someone. Ask, "Would you like a visit?"