



Guidelines for the Canine Companions for Independence Facility Dog in the Workplace

- Facility dogs are required to be crated or attached to their primary handler when not working. A Facility dog is not allowed to roam freely throughout a building. A Facility dog may never be off leash.
- The primary handler is responsible for the dog's basic needs while at work. It is at the discretion of the primary handler as to how often the dog is offered opportunities to toilet or drink water. Facility dogs are not to be fed while in the workplace unless directed by the primary handler.
- Facility dogs are not permitted to lick, jump, or sniff when greeting. This applies to greeting co-workers, patients, clients, administrators, etc. Encouraging the dog to become overly stimulated may impede the dog's working role and affect its overall behavior in the workplace.
- It is a violation of Canine Companion's Facility dog policy for the dog to be used for financial gain or to increase clientele for the place of business. The Canine Companion's dog should not become the workplace mascot or treated as the workplace pet.
- Facility dogs are required to focus on their primary handler and complete tasks as directed. Purposeful distraction of the dog by co-workers may inhibit the dog's working role as well as create unnecessary stress for the dog and the handler.
- Facility dog's are on a regulated diet to ensure overall health and wellness of the dog. Dogs are never to eat human food or scavenge food off of the floor. Facility dogs should never "visit" any co-worker, resident, or patient routinely for dog treats.
- The Facility dog's primary handler has been extensively trained in working with the dog. They have been instructed in the use of various different training collars and are required by CCI to keep the dog under control at all times. To ensure the dog's safety as well as the safety of co-workers, patients, etc the handler will use techniques such as motivation and correction to manage the dog.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH A FACILITY DOG

The following guidelines have been written by CCI Instructors and we encourage all people who will come in frequent contact with our facility dog to please follow the recommendations in order to foster a strong relationship between the handlers and their dog.

Working dogs can be easily recognized by their identification vest and leash. Certified working teams will also have a picture identification card with them at all times. CCI dogs wear blue and yellow vests with a CCI logo patch on the side and they use a blue and yellow leash.

WHILE THE DOG IS WORKING:

1. **Always ask before you pet!** It may be advisable for you to shake hand with the dog or not to pet at all. Also remember that if you are petting the dog and the handler gives a command – you must stop petting the dog.
2. **Never feed the facility dog food or any kind of treats.** You will be luring the dog away from his/her important job as a facility dog. Giving a working dog treats may upset the dog's stomach, distract the dog from his/her work, and/or cause the dog to gain weight. Facility dogs do not rely on treats to perform commands and they are well fed at home.
3. **Limit your interaction with the dog as much as possible.** It is important for the handlers to meet as many of the dog's needs as possible (feeding, praising, commanding, petting, playing, grooming, exercising, etc.). **The handlers may ask for your help with some of these tasks – please interact with the dog and help as you are directed by the handlers.**

It is best to “ignore” a dog who is working. The dog will then begin to automatically look to his/her handlers for its needs, as well as remaining attentive and willing to work.

Remember that facility dogs DO get time to relax and play, but when they are working they need to be focused and serious about what they do. They play a very important role within our Child Advocacy Model. Thank you very much for your cooperation in helping a successful working relationship.