(l) Animals.
(1) Animals, exclusive of those required for laboratory purposes, shall not be allowed in a nursing home, except in a nursing home animal visitation or animal-assisted therapy program as permitted in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subdivision. Also, service dogs and other service animals which have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability may accompany such persons when the presence of such animals will not pose a significant risk to the health and safety of others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodation and is not medically contraindicated. However, if the safe operation of the facility would be jeopardized, a service animal need not be allowed to enter. A finding by appropriate medical personnel at the facility that the presence or use of a service animal would pose a significant health risk in certain designated area of a nursing home may serve as a basis for excluding service animals in those areas.
(2) A nursing home may board animals as part of an animal-assisted therapy program, provided that:
(i) the health, safety, welfare and rights of all residents on the unit are assured;
(ii) a staff member has been designated to be responsible for the care and management of the animal or animals and has had appropriate training for such responsibilities;
(iii) the animal or animals are free from disease and have received all immunizations as recommended by a licensed veterinarian;
(iv) the animal or animals shall not be allowed in laundry, utensil storage or food preparation areas; and
(v) the well-being of the participating animal or animals is considered and maintained.
(3) Animal visitations are permitted in a nursing home provided that:
(i) the visit is prescheduled and approved by the facility;
(ii) the animal shall not be allowed in laundry, utensil storage or food preparation areas; and
(iii) the animal will at all times be accompanied by a person familiar with and capable of controlling the animal's behavior.