



UMC's Canine Comfort Program consists of handlers and their certified therapy dogs. They are well-mannered canines who provide emotional and motivational support – and doggone fun visits – to hospitalized patients.

Our comfort canines are not just pets, our teams have gone through numerous hours of training and are certified through a nationally recognized program.

Canine therapy is recognized at hospitals around the country as a great way to help patients cope with the stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization. Sometimes, the quiet comfort provided by a furry friend can calm nerves and distract a person from medical treatments. The health benefits may be measured in reduced blood pressure and improved recovery times. At the very least, a visit from a loving dog can make an unfamiliar place feel a bit more familiar.

With a roster of retrievers, border collies, poodles and other breeds, teams from the program have been certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and complete a rigorous behavioral and physical screening process to interact safely with hospitalized patients.

UMC is proud to be the **ONLY** hospital to provide canine therapy rounding with our resident facility dogs across almost all of our inpatient units bringing comfort to patients, their families, and staff too!

If you are interested in being part of our team please email canine.comfort@umcsn.com. We look forward to meeting you and your special friend.

