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Program helps patients' pets

People who move into hospice have plenty on their minds, so **Family Hospice and Palliative Care** has joined a new program to give patients and their family members one less thing to worry about.

The nonprofit hospice, the largest in Western Pennsylvania, will take care, for free, of its patients' pets. Under "Pet Peace of Mind," volunteers will feed and walk the pets, take them to appointments with the vet, and more.

Only a handful of hospices nationwide are participating in the Pet Peace of Mind program, which is funded chiefly by the Banfield Charitable Trust.

Family Hospice has been recruiting and training volunteers to take care of their patients' pets for three months, said Nick Petti, manager of volunteer services. If you'd like to help, call 412-572-8806, or visit www.familyhospice.com.