

### **Making the ICU a better place - families & pet therapy**

Hospitals in general and Intensive Care Units in particular are designed around the needs of their staff, not their patients. To a family member, the overwhelming sensory assault of an ICU is complicated by physical, numerical and chronological restrictions, often arbitrarily imposed to suit the needs of clinicians. Some ICUs around the world are beginning to challenge this dogma with a move to unlimited visiting hours, patient diaries, family presence during resuscitation, and family pets being allowed into sacred sterile areas for the first time.