

caninefriends pet therapy

Dogs helping people



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Getting to the heart of pet therapy

Auckland City Hospital Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit has appointed two Canine Friends Pet Therapy dogs to visit their patients, families and staff.

This new programme is being headed by two very special dogs and their owners.

Lisa is working with her black Labrador Zoom, Christian and Chelsea are visiting with Jesse the greyhound.

Christian and Chelsea say, 'The response from patients and staff is amazing. You can definitely pick up on how well Doctor Laurence and Staff nurse Philippa have spread the word on the dogs and pet therapy. One of the most amazing things is the change you can see in people, not just in the CVICU, but throughout the hospital. I have never seen so many smiles as when Jesse is with me.

When we arrive with Jesse at CVICU waiting area patient's relatives and friends are often asking for us to visit their loved one. Our visits have become popular in such a short time as people often say they have been waiting for us to arrive. As soon as the doors open to the CVICU staff become energised with excitement as we make our way to reception. Jesse loves all the petting he gets. Visiting the rooms is where Jesse really shines as we can see patients' expressions change immediately. He makes what is a stressful environment focussed on patients and their outcomes to something with a touch of home. He usually has enough energy to make the rounds then he parks himself next to someone's bed near the end of the visit. This always makes them laugh because



the greyhound flop of tiredness is always over-dramatic. We have seen a big difference in our first four visits and Doctor Laurence and Staff nurse Philippa have seen positive results as well.'

Staff nurse Philippa says, 'The programme is progressing well. We have visits every Wednesday with Zoom and Jesse on alternate weeks. We are getting great feedback from our patients and staff ... particularly our long term patients who have been here for a number of weeks. We often see a visible change in the patient's mood which is fantastic and very beneficial for their recovery. They look forward to the visits every week.'

School exam stress sent packing by fun furry visitors

In Christchurch recently a group of Canine Friends Pet Therapy members took their lovely dogs to St Margaret's College in Merivale at the request of staff and students.

Two senior students, Aisha O'Mally and Ashleigh Benson organised the visit to help reduce exam stress amongst their peers and staff. It was noted that all of the dogs behaved beautifully and the visit was an enormous success. Photos Janine Hutton.



Multi-tasking talent in the Waikato

This handsome line up in Hamilton are (from left) Bruno, MacDuff, Skye and Tui in the front.

They visit Trevellyn Hospital, Rest Home and Apartments in the city. Skye and Macduff are also part of the Reading Buddies programme through Hamilton City Library.



St Margarets Group... From left: Helen Pullar and Ben the Huntaway/Beardie, Hanneke Couperous with Wolfie the Schnauzer, Barry Amer with Adamas the Great Dane, Andrea Hefferman with Roxy the Spoodle, Evelien Bass with Mischa the White Shepherd, Kristina Sheppard with Jensen the Collie/Staffie cross, Carol Millican with Jess the Border Collie, Vicky Kerrison with the Jack the West Highland Terrier, (hiding), Anna Rutherford-Falconer with Archer the Golden Retriever, Erika Hendy with Poli the Golden Retriever, Aisha O'Malley (student), Annette Sheridan with Max the cavoodle, Lois Lang with Fletcher the Golden Retriever.