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## A Perfect Match:

# Canine Good Citizen & Canine Friends Pet Therapy

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For me, Dogs New Zealand's Canine Good Citizen programme ([dogsnz.org.nz/cgc/cgc-home](http://dogsnz.org.nz/cgc/cgc-home)) started with my previous dog Yiayia. She was anti-social but I wanted to involve her with something worthwhile during her retirement. With training, understanding and support she gained CGC Foundation and Bronze

at the ripe old age of 15 years.

When I adopted Burt as a puppy I knew the importance of socialisation. This included meeting people at Animates, the vet clinic, for regular weight checks and at AGMs at Rotorua Dog Training Club. In fact, pretty much everywhere I went, Burt went too. We met people out in public, dog walkers, people with disabilities: I threw it all at him as I didn't want him to have the same issues as Yiayia (who I loved dearly). But, being a Huntaway/Labrador mix, I was quite confident I wouldn't.

Because I have exposed him to many people, places and situations, I believe he is the best dog he can be. He gained CGC Foundation and Bronze last April at Taupo Dog Training Club and went on to achieve Silver and Gold at North Shore Dog Training Club last December.

I believe CGC is all about having nice manners, being social and a good dog in many different places. Of course, it also means being a responsible dog owner with knowledge of local council dog ownership bylaws.

Last year, Burt and I were accepted as members of Canine Friends Pet Therapy and are regular visitors at a care village. The CGC programme aligns very well with what is expected of a Canine Friends dog: seeing people in their own environment and being comfortable in different settings.

I am pleased we gained CGC Gold and can continue this social engagement and behaviour through our Canine Friends visits. 🐾



If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: [www.caninefriends.org.nz](http://www.caninefriends.org.nz)