

caninefriends pet therapy

Dogs helping people



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand

Winning smiles with Lotto NZ



Charley loves to sit on Bronwen's knee for some very special cuddle time

Canine Friends were featured by Lotto NZ in September with a great little film on the live Lotto NZ draw, stories on their website and social media and through other Lotto NZ communication.

Lotto NZ has been showcasing some of the volunteer organisations it assists and Canine Friends was selected to be featured. The film was shot in Te Hopai Rest Home in Wellington with a very excited group of dog-loving residents and staff.

Margaret Ranum, our liaison officer who co-ordinates the Canine Friends Wellington team, organised the visit with Lotto NZ executives and the team at Te Hopai.

"We took a team of eight: Carol Colgate with Charley, Marjory Embleton with Bridger, Sue Bingham and Jack and me with Laney. "Te Hopai's marvellous manager Pakize Sari, with whom we work very closely, had the residents primed and ready to be interviewed and photographed by the Lotto NZ marketing team and film crew. "All the residents shone on the day and were filmed and photographed and interviewed, like real professionals."

When the film aired for the first time Margaret raced up to Te

Hopai and plugged the video of it into the big television in the residents' lounge. "They were over the moon to see themselves looking so great and having such fun with the dogs. One star took a bow at the end and asked others to line up for autographs. Weeks later they are still buzzing!" Margaret laughs.

About their relationship with Canine Friends, Kirsten Robinson, Senior Corporate Communications Manager at Lotto NZ, says: "Lotto NZ exists to generate essential funding for Kiwi communities — it's why we do, what we do. With 100% of Lotto NZ profits supporting over 3,000 good causes every year, you'd be hard pressed to find a community that hasn't felt the benefit of lottery funding.

"Canine Friends Pet Therapy is just one of those good causes that lottery funding supports, and we're incredibly proud to share the real difference they are making in the lives of Kiwis all around the country."

There's no quicker way to bring a smile to Kiwis' faces than to share a pat with a cuddly canine. However, for many New Zealanders the benefits of interacting with a dog can be transformative. Canine Friends volunteer Marjory would know — she's seen the magic happen first hand.

Marjory and Bridger's story

"I was at a stage in my life where I wanted to give back and help others. My friend told me about Canine Friends and it seemed like the perfect fit, so I went to the website to apply."

Assessed and accepted, Marjory and her Black Labrador Bridger were quickly put to work spreading joy within her local community.

"For over a year now we've been visiting a dementia unit at a local rest home. I've seen first-hand the pleasure a dog can give to residents...

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that sense of patting something warm and wagging, it just brightens their day." For many residents living in rest homes or hospices around the country, a visit from a Canine Friends dog is not just a way to spend a pleasant hour, it can be transformative.

"The simple act of touching dogs' silky coats or rubbing their soft ears brings back memories of their own pets and happy memories come flooding back.

"It's particularly special when you've been working with a resident who has been non-responsive for a long time and suddenly you get a breakthrough. When they light up and start interacting with your dog it makes everything worthwhile."

However it is not just the elderly who reap the rewards of pet therapy. Young people do too.

"We started visiting some young people who are going through a really tough time with some mental health issues. One of the most interesting things when you bring your dogs into an environment like that is how it creates a sense of community. People who did not know each other before start interacting. The experience gives them something in common they can talk about afterwards."

With more than 800 volunteers nationwide Canine Friends visit



Black Lab Bridger making a difference.

thousands of people in rest homes, hospitals and hospices every week. Wearing their bright red scarves these cute canines of all shapes and ages have one important job to do ... bring some furry friendliness to Kiwis who need a bit of extra comfort and joy. 🐾

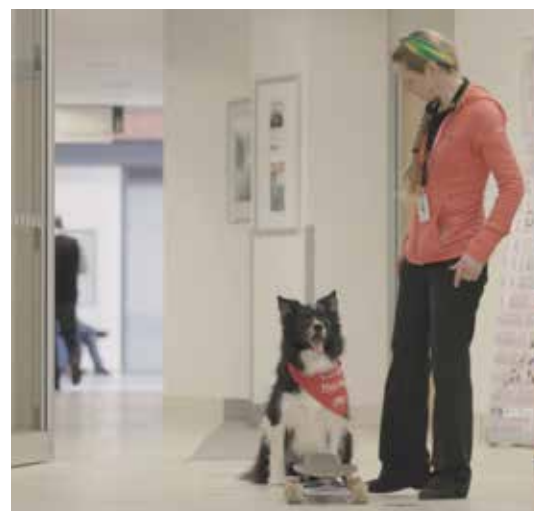
You can enjoy Lotto NZ's one minute video at your leisure. Visit: <https://myLotto NZ.co.nz/community-winners/pet-therapy>



Charlie and Laney.



Marjory, Bridger and resident Francesca Gyson.



Jack on a skateboard!

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