



Kia ora and greetings to all our members, friends, and supporters



Above: Students in Miss Aitken's health class at Hornby High School got a visit from Canine Friends for their animal therapy topic.



Above: Ally and Santa at Hāwera Paper Plus.



Above: Amber (Rottweiler) giving Chas a card and a kiss for his birthday at Fergusson Rest Home in Rotorua.



Above: "On this day, Cruze (Border Collie) was insistent we went around the home twice. I was wondering why, then he spotted his friend - his back end was just about coming round to meet his head with excitement." Diane Haydon, South Taranaki



Blake's story

Our lovely Blake (Golden Retriever) died in October, just short of his 14th birthday. It's so quiet without him and the loss is huge as anyone who has owned a dog will know. Blake joined Canine Friends in 2015 after I had read the book *A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home* by Sue Halpenden. It was a gift from my sons for Mother's Day.

During his time with Canine Friends, Blake visited most of the ARC facilities in Rotorua, including secure dementia units, brightening the day for both residents and staff alike. It is heartwarming to see the smiles on people's faces when a dog enters the room, especially for the many retired farmers he used to see on a regular basis.



In the last four years, we were weekly visitors to Malfroy Primary School with our Reading with Blake programme. He was loved by all the children who came to read, though some were a little apprehensive at first. It was a real pleasure watching them grow in confidence and laugh at him trying to pull socks off or show them his tricks. He was always treated with kindness and respect from the whole school who welcomed us into their place.

This year he had begun to slow down with arthritic hips, so in September I started taking Finnley, my son's two-year-old Golden Retriever, who is also becoming a hit with the children. Finnley has also taken on the rest home visits with our group this year.

Blake's last Canine Friends job was to be a still-life model for 10–14-year-olds at the Rotorua Arts Village. Unfortunately, he died just before this was due to take place. Again, young Finnley stepped up and it was a fun session with some very talented artists. They are keen to hold another session next year and kindly made a donation to Canine Friends for our time.

The Rotorua group have managed to provide visits to all seven ARC facilities this year, a huge achievement with only 15 members and some people still working. Over November and December, we have four group visits planned, following on from a session in October. The members, dogs and the ARC staff and residents enjoyed the visit and it is something we will aim to do more in 2024.

— Vicky Gaunt, Rotorua

Your 2023/2024 Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee

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- a. Remember to view and use the Canine Friends Pet Therapy website if you have a question or require information — www.caninefriends.org.nz
b. Please view our Youtube channel to see more about our dogs — www.youtube.com/channel/UCdnZJ4LaiApt2bLpdssY2rA

Thank you so much for sending your photos! Please don't be disappointed if they don't appear in this newsletter; we receive a lot of wonderful pictures and do our best to publish a balanced selection.

President's report

Over the last few days, I have been thinking about the content of my last report for 2023 and the first words that spring to mind are “in the spotlight”. I must also say WOW to you and to the committee. The considerable time, energy and outstanding commitment you all contribute is truly amazing.

In the spotlight – I don't recall such a year as this for the number of wonderful articles and photos appearing on Stuff, Facebook and in the NZ Herald, and in the many other newsletters shared with us by local organisations in your communities.

Since my last report, group visits and our reading programmes with children have reached another level; all credit to those of you who arrange and attend these.

Just this last week I have received requests from volunteer managers at two hospitals asking for teams to visit their emergency departments (EDs), and teams have recently started visiting the ED at Christchurch Hospital. In Manawatu, our teams are receiving regular requests to extend their time into other wards.

Our visits to correction centres are very much appreciated. The most recent development here is Christchurch Women's. I know from speaking with members involved that these visits are very rewarding, despite for some being a challenging and very different environment. The appreciation shown by staff is very clear; I am positive these visits provide a welcome and kind distraction from their duties.

We are well underway with the transition process with our new sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim, and at the time of writing your new scarves have just arrived. These, along with loyalty cards for Boehringer Ingelheim's product, Nexgard Spectra, will be sent out shortly.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I hope you feel a sense of belonging to our organisation and I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Have fun with your dogs and keep well.

— Vicky Graham

Koto's story

I've been a member of Canine Friends for seven years. I first joined with my Australian Koolie, Frosty. He began as a reading dog, then moved on to a local school for children with disabilities. He is amazing at bringing calm to classrooms.

My second dog is a longhaired Weimaraner, Koto. Koto was bred by a friend from dog training. When I found out she had a special needs pup, one that needed a special home, I was extremely interested. He was born with a very deformed foot. When I met him, I thought that if he had the right temperament, he'd make an amazing therapy dog.

Koto is now two years old and began visiting our local primary school this year. He's also one of the dogs that have been selected to visit Christchurch Hospital's children's ward. He shows kids that it doesn't matter if you're different, you can still love life.

— Sarah Sharratt, Christchurch



Clockwise from top-left:

- Izzy (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) at Jumping Jelly Beans, Palmerston North Library.
- Halloween dress-ups at Riverstone in Manawatu.
- Eve with Dido (Griffon) at Te Whānau in Levin.
- Julia getting cuddles from Bramble (Griffon) at Te Whānau in Levin.
- New member Hadron (Saint Bernard) looking suave in his bandana.

Out and about





New branded gear for our furry friends

With our new sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI), on board, we're refreshing our scarves. The new scarves will bear the logo of Nexgard Spectra, a BI product.

In addition to your scarf, we're also making co-branded jackets available. These are handmade in New Zealand and can be used instead of, or in addition to, your scarf.

To acknowledge our committed, long-term members, we have recently offered the jackets to those with two years or more of active service. 56 eligible members responded to secure their jackets. Jackets will be made available twice yearly with the next round becoming available in July 2024. At this time, a new round of eligible members will receive an email outlining the criteria.

We're looking forward to seeing some great pictures of our volunteer dogs wearing our new scarves and jackets next year.

— Rachel Butler, Canine Friends Vice-President



Above from top:

- Jamie (Border Collie) giving a model's pose showing off his new co-branded jacket.
- Cohen and Hunter (Border Collie and Golden Retriever) looking lovely in their new Canine Friends scarves.

New members: December 2023

Blenheim

Millie Pickering & Charley (Labradoodle)

Central Hawkes Bay

Kaye Ellis & Rosie (Shih Tzu)

Donna Heaps & Poppy (Border Collie)

Christchurch

Patricia Andrade & Bella (Japanese Spitz)

Rebecca and Mike Coombes & Delilah

(Cavalier King Charles Spaniel)

Claire Horncastle & Louis (Miniature American Shepherd)

Foxton/Levin

Larree Lust & Bing (Sharpei x Bearded Collie)

Invercargill & Southland

Shelley Hitchcox & Ruby (Pug)

Manawatū

Nirvanalea Bowater & Civic (Koolie x Greyhound)

Bill and Clare Carswell & Bruno (Italian Spinone)

Julia Smout and Jamie Fitzpatrick & Lola

(Maltese x Shih Tzu)

Napier

Marcia Hengst-Anderson & Roxy

(Japanese Spitz x Shiba Inu)

Tauranga

Louise Pryde & Shadow (Labradoodle)

Upper Hutt

Michelle Dawes & Comma Dogmatix

(Maltese x Pappillion x Chihuahua)

Waikato

Brigit Brant & Ernie (Miniature Schnauzer)

Helen Dutton & Willa (Golden Retriever)

Wairarapa

Marina Adams & Apollo (Leonberger)

Georgina O'Reilly & Mabel (Cavoodle)

Wellington

Anna Pears & Daisy (Miniature Poodle)

Westport

Shirley Serban & Luna

(Bichon x Poodle x Pomeranian)

Whitby to Johnsonville

Zoe Manson & Hadron (Saint Bernard)

Stanley and Marie's story

This is Marie with Stanley (Border Collie) at Elderslea Rest Home in Upper Hutt. Marie doesn't normally go to the home's lounge but decided today that she would in order to help with the quiz. When Stanley saw her for the first time, he went straight to her and sat down for her to cuddle him. This brought a smile to her face.

Marie grew up with dogs and lived with them all her life, and since she has been in the home she has missed them. She told me that now she knows she can see Stanley every Friday, she will have something special to look forward to.

Stanley is 4 years old and has struggled with life due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its lockdowns hitting when he was a wee puppy. Working with Canine Friends has helped him grow; he loves Fridays when he gets to visit all his friends. Thank you for allowing him to do this.

— Sharon Hastings, Upper Hutt



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Editorial: Protecting your family and your pets

Our new sponsors, Boehringer Ingelheim, have some advice for keeping your pets and family safe from animal-born diseases.

There are many benefits of pet ownership; they provide companionship and a range of positive emotional, physical and psychological benefits. However, it is important to take precautions to ensure that our pets don't pose a risk to our health.

A zoonotic disease, or zoonosis, is a disease that can be transmitted from an animal to a human. Fortunately, using a product like NEXGARD SPECTRA monthly helps minimise the risk.

The Australian Companion Animal Zoonoses Advisory Panel is a group of veterinary and human infectious disease experts. To protect you and your family from diseases that can be transmitted from pets to people, the panel has developed guidelines and recommendations to help reduce the risk of disease transmission that are as relevant in New Zealand as they are in Australia.

Key recommendations from the guidelines include:

- monthly deworming
- year-round control of external parasites
- selecting the right pet for your situation
- regular veterinary care and health checks
- ensuring good hygiene practices
- avoiding feeding raw meat.

You can read more on this important topic at www.animalhealthhub.co.nz/zoonoses, and you can take an important step by treating your dog with NEXGARD SPECTRA today.

The advertisement features a close-up of a ginger and white tabby cat's face. A large, clear water droplet is positioned over the cat's right eye, reflecting a tiger's face. To the right of the cat, the text 'NexGard SPECTRA' is displayed in blue and green, with 'SPOT-ON SOLUTION FOR CATS' in smaller green letters below it. Further down, the words 'FIERCELY PROTECTIVE' are written in a large, bold, green, italicized font.

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We acknowledge and thank our sponsors and supporters

