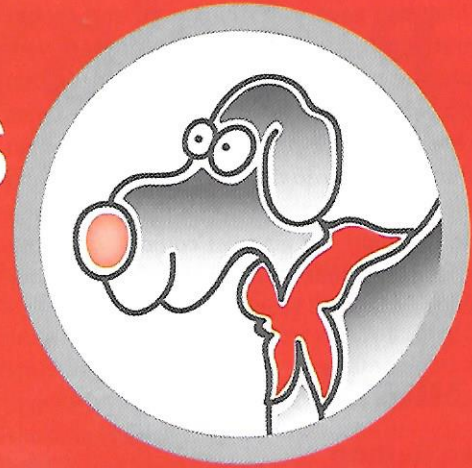


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Dogs helping people



Brock works his magic close to home

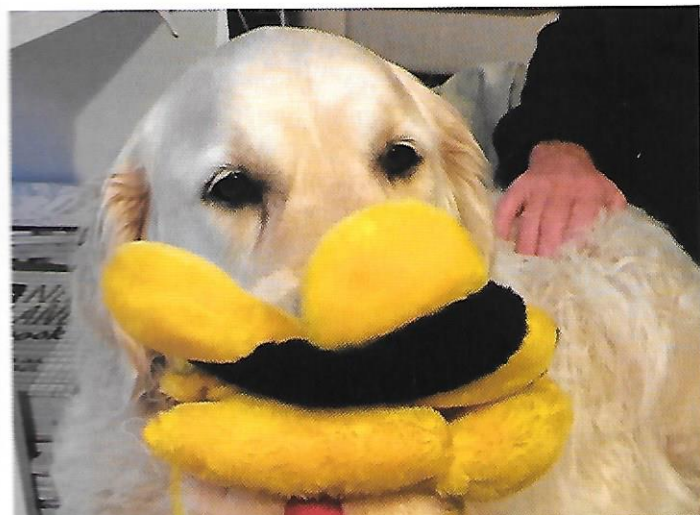
Lynda and her family have experienced unexpected magic moments with their pet therapy dog Brock when trouble comes close to home.

Brock is a nine year old Golden Retriever who has a busy schedule. He makes fortnightly visits to Summerset Retirement Village where he brings comfort and pleasure to dementia patients. He is described as gentle, chilled and gentlemanly.

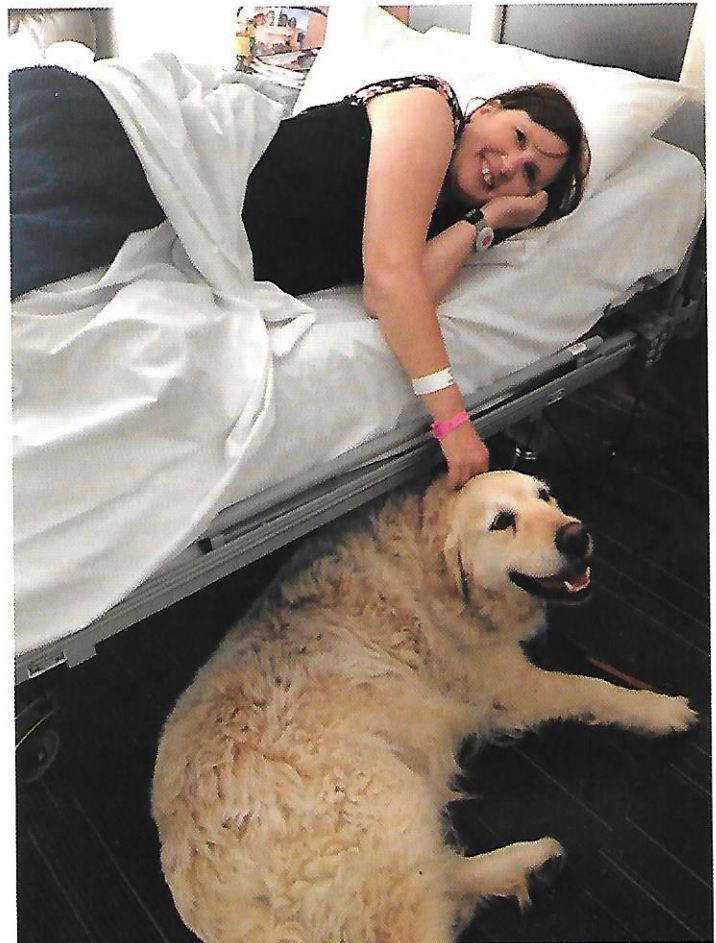
On alternate weeks Brock visits St John's Wood, also in Taupo, where Lynda's dad is a resident. Everyone there ... residents, staff



Sometimes my halo slips a bit!



I show residents I visit my toys and they say Bee-have Brock



Hamilton patient Kerry is delighted to have a cuddle with me, she says 'Brock is a good boy.'

and visitors ... loves his visits. Wally and his late wife have always been part of Brock's life. 'Mum and Dad always had Brock when I was at work or on holiday ... their home was his other home,' Lynda explains. Dad always remembers Brock and introduces him to other residents as his dog!

Brock had cruciate ligament surgery last year and at last his fur is finally growing back and he looks his handsome old self.

'He has taken to swimming which he loves. It's very therapeutic. He spends hours with our grandchildren swimming and playing in Lake Taupo. It's his happy place,' Lynda says.

Last year Lynda's mother became very unwell and was a patient in Hamilton Hospice. Lynda tells how Brock was part of the journey for the family.

We were very privileged to be able to take Brock to visit my mother in the hospice during November.

He spent all day there for four days and was allowed to be part of the furniture. As well as comforting mum and our family he brought a lot of pleasure to other patients, staff and visitors.

We were astounded when Brock arrived at the hospice in Hamilton from Taumaranui. He barked at the entrance to the building, something he rarely does. Did he know Mum was here?

And how did Mum know it was Brock's bark? She had been semi-conscious for several days but she heard Brock and called to him.



Ready for work with my Canine Friends scarf on.



I love visiting Wally, I'm his best boy

The response and bond between them was mind blowing considering her state.

The day she passed away we were again amazed as Brock farewelled her. He whimpered, went around both sides of the bed and licked her hands.

Their interaction and unconditional love was wonderful to see ... a beautiful touching memory we will have forever.