



Spring 2017

From the chair of your President

It is an exciting time for Canine Friends as I write to you. Canine Friends Pet Therapy is growing rapidly with new applicants coming in each day with little slowing down over the winter months.

We can all look back now on Eileen's wonderful vision all those years ago when she started this wonderful Organisation with her dog and then needed more and now just look at our numbers coming through and the widespread coverage we have achieved. People are still seeing the wonders of our unique pet therapy Organisation everyday where we can use our very own well-loved family pets and share them with others and being able to make unmeasurable differences to the lives of the people that we all touch through our visits.

You are all the best ambassadors we could ever have as you are truly spreading the word by what you do, what people see and talk about and the way that you go about your visits. Keep putting smiles on faces with your presence and of course we are 'dogs helping people'.

A great thanks must go to our new Liaison Officers who have put up their hands to oversee areas. We welcome Annette Sheridan in Christchurch, Julie McRae in Upper Hutt, Rachel Davison in Lower Hutt, Margaret Ranum in Wellington, Marian Barclay in Whanganui, Merina Foster Joint in Tauranga and most recently Caty Mayall as our first ever Liaison Officer for the West Coast of the South Island. These are the people overseeing your area so they are always only a step away so if you need them please do contact them and they also would love to return the contact. Communication is our most important and valuable tool as we cover the entire country so please use it. Some Liaison Officers are luckier than others in that their groups are smaller and may be able to have more personal contact but our bigger groups also have opportunities just on a different scale.

We are also now very lucky to have 2 Field Officers with Carol Millican as our South Island Field Officer and Chris Partridge covering the North Island. A massive thank you also to Annette who has been working really hard to get Liaison Officers in the South Island. As you are aware we are visiting most areas of the South Island this year with the "Deep South" trip being at the beginning of December so when we are in your area please come and chat to us. Sarah and Annette enjoyed their "meet and greet members" in Christchurch in August. We are also planning the Nelson/Marlborough region before Christmas as well. Please support these "meet and greet" sessions in your area.

All committee contacts are in all newsletters plus the website so we are all here to help so please do not hesitate to touch base at any time with any of us and we will return your call.

Enjoy the spring sunshine and summer on the way, make that red scarf shine bright and enjoy your visiting

Ann Evans

Please see below an excerpt from an email from Ann Evans and the lovely photos



"and now it is absolutely teaming down with rain so our road will be a mess again.

In the storm we had no access as trees fell all over the road plus a few slips so took some time to clear and my poor garden is such a mess. We lost a lot of trees and big branches falling off which you thought would have been strong enough. The power wires and telephone lines were just laying on the lawn as had snapped with the weight of the snow. My dogs did love the snow for a couple of days and then it got to mud and no good to play in then. I do have some lovely photos of the snow which landed about a foot on the lawn and was a very heavy snow which we thought should have been directed onto the Mountain as we do get snow but it is a lighter fairy type. We went out to the sheepdog kennels in the morning and it was like they lived in an igloo as the snow had stuck to the wire in the runs and joined up".



Current SNIPPETS from our Committee Meetings for all Members

Donations OK It's OK to accept donations for Canine Friends (such as when you are involved in a community event and make provision for a gold coin donation, or when you do a university visit and they offer a donation).

Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy is our patron. We will be doing some visits with our patron later in the year to publicise her role and spread the message about Canine Friends and the value of pet therapy.

Meet our new President and Vice President in NZ Dog World August magazine. Our story in this publication profiles our new leadership team. If you don't subscribe to it, don't worry! You can download these stories from our membership system.

South Island visits continue : The next areas on the mainland due for visits are Dunedin, Oamaru, Invercargill, Queenstown Wanaka and Cromwell. Ann Evans, our president and North Island field officer Chris Partridge, will be doing a lightning tour to work with our liaison officers in the Deep South. Our new South Island field officer Carol Millican will be with them which is brilliant. This gives Carol and Chris Partridge the opportunity to get to know each other and organise themselves to sing from the same song sheet. Very good for the national consistency of Canine Friends. Later a visit will be made to Nelson, Golden Bay, and Blenheim. Members and liaison officers will get the chance to meet committee members and get more connected with Canine Friends.

New liaison officers and field officer approved. Warm Canine Friends greetings and welcome aboard to these people! Margaret Ranum in Wellington city, Rachel Davison in Lower Hutt, Julie McRae in Upper Hutt and Annette Sheridan in Christchurch (with Lois Lang as assessor) are greeted with wagging tails. We welcome too our new South Island field officer Carol Millican. And it's great to have new assessor Daniella Rosenstreich in Palmerston North on board.

Media requests for interviews and stories

Please refer all approaches for comment, interviews, stories and whatever else from the media ...newspapers, magazines, radio, television ... to Ann Evans our president. We have people on the committee who are experienced with media and they will assist with these situations.

New Member & All set to go!



Madison (left) supporting Daffodil day and looking like Spring. She wore a yellow lei with daffodils attached with a green lead and collar for her visit to MASH in Ranui.

Regards Jean Barr

Hawk (right) I am all set to go visiting with Gamma Ross and Antony Wyburn



Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee contacts as at 13 June 2017

Founder Eileen Curry Home 04 567 6376
Patron The Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy

President	Ann Evans	Mobile 021 047 1479
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Committee Member	Sarah Cull	Mobile 021 340 440
Committee Member	David Verrinder	Mobile 022 425 6024
Committee Member	Rachel Butler	Mobile 021 854 808
Committee Member	Chris Partridge	Mobile 027 235 5352

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Spur is a New Member for Levin

Spur is a one year old heading dog, seriously injured being kicked by a cattle beast while working. Due to being a nice young dog with a loving nature he was given a full front leg amputation and adopted out to be a pet. He has an active life pottering around on his lifestyle block with his canine buddies, enjoys visiting the dog park and plays the "poor three-legged dog" card to get plenty of pats and cuddles and enjoys a good vigorous play with any dog who is up for a game.

He very much enjoys his new role as a Canine Friend visiting Ultimate Care Madison in Levin and loves giving doggy kisses to as many residents as he can. He already has a couple of ladies who really love him after only a couple of visits and is also popular with the residents in their rooms.

Regards Tania



Spur

Elliot is a New Member in Levin

Elliot loves wearing his new red scarf as a new member of Canine Friends.

Elliot is four and a half years old and quite often people ask if he is a "Pug" or a "French Bulldog" but actually he is a cute Boston Terrier. Elliot loves going for walks and likes to be near people – except when the wood fire is burning then he likes to sprawl out in front of that!!!

Elliot enjoys a belly rub in the morning and will gladly do a trick or two for a special treat. Twice a week he goes around to his Nana's house who takes him for a walk before they have a nap together in the afternoon. Elliot loves other dogs and looks forward to meeting his new Canine Friends in the future. Elliot now visits Ultimate Care Madison in Levin at the weekend.

On our first visit to Ultimate Care Madison we knocked on a door, asked if the lady would like to see our new Canine Friend dog, she immediately burst into tears and the reason was she thought she was dreaming as she had owned a Boston Terrier just like Elliot but had named him Popeye. Boston Terriers are quite rare and he looked just like hers. Now Elliot alias Popeye will have a special friend to visit everytime. Regards Apryl.



Apryl with Elliot

VISITING MASSEY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

A group from Manawatu, Levin and Palmerton North members accepted an invitation to visit the Massey University Campus in early June for their Study Week.

We had an amazing number of 20 dogs able to come which was fantastic and the students who turned up in their hundreds all for a pat, a cuddle and a chat.

This visit is greatly appreciated by all students and some staff who came down to the Students Lounge and courtyard where we spread ourselves both inside and outside and our 2 hours there goes very quickly.

We then went to Soskys Cafe for recovery coffee where we could have also brought in our dogs but they were more than happy sleeping in the vehicles so they stayed there.

It was a fabulous Day and we hope the students went back to exam study refreshed and rejuvenated to study more for their upcoming exams

Ann Evans



Oakie & Thumpa



Wonderful Massey Canine Friends Group



Shadow



Daisy



The Corgis



Murphy



Daisy



Bondi



Panda



Clyde



Rusty



Izzy



Evie



Simon and Amber



Thumpa



Naajz



Bradley



Zaria

Signs of discomfort in CFPT dogs during a visit

All of us as members of Canine Friends have chosen to share our friendly, placid and totally gorgeous dog with elderly residents and those in hospital. We have been passed as suitable people (yes, we were being assessed too!) and our dogs have been passed as suitable canine visitors. A proud day for all. However, even the most friendly and suitable dog is visiting because we want to and because we take them and we know it is beneficial for those people whose lives we touch. Our dogs don't have much say in the matter so it is up to us to make sure their mental wellbeing is taken care of while doing the wonderful work that they do. To be the best support crew for our dogs, we need to recognise and respond to how our dog is feeling and if they are struggling with something. How do we recognise when our canine Friend may be uncomfortable or be worried or overwhelmed during a visit? **Signs that a dog is finding something a bit much or a bit intense can be:**

- **Yawning** – maybe someone handled them roughly or stared at them while looming over and you notice your dog yawns straight after.
- **Shaking themselves as if wet** – this is also usually after the event
- **Licking their lips lots and gulping** – whatever is happening right now is worrying them at the time so perhaps stop an interaction sooner
- **Panting** (most rest homes are very hot so this can be a tricky one to differentiate) – if your dog starts to pant part way through a visit or when surrounded by children or lots of activity this suggests discomfort. Time for a time out.
- **Turning their head away from someone or something** – an attempt to disengage and lower the intensity of a situation. If you see this, honour it and say you will come back later. Don't force your dog to "face" someone.
- **Moving away from someone or something** – as above, if they can move away this is a direct indicator of their preferred action.
- **Refusing treats they would normally eat** – if you are worried you don't feel hungry. This would be a more severe sign of anxiety on a higher level and if this is happening I would reassess the visit as a whole and see how you can make it less stressful for your dog
- **Becoming "deaf" suddenly** – if they are worried about and focussed on something else they won't be able to respond as well to you. Lead guidance and treats once they are settled will help.
- **Ears pulled back and a tension about the face (particularly frown lines and cheek lines)** – more than mild worry. Have a look at the visit as a whole and consider whether your dog has already had a stressful or busy day and may be less able to cope with their visiting role today.

Many new Canine Friends display lots of these signs when they do their first couple of visits – it is new, unfamiliar, hot, demanding and socially intense and they will naturally take a while to settle in to the routine and the "job". Any dog, however accustomed to visiting, can have a trying day and get a bit worried. I am not talking about anxiety disorders or ongoing stress and behavioural problems – these are a totally different situation and require professional assistance.

If you see your dog doing some of the signs above it is important to make a mental note about what was happening at the time, who was involved and how had their visit been going until that point. Seeing these signs does not mean you have to end your visit or that your dog is being naughty, over-reacting or is no longer suitable as a Friend. What it does mean is that there was something today that worried them and they were just expressing this with some "let off" signals and body responses. It is perfectly normal and healthy and appropriate for a dog to try (and to succeed in) working off mild stress and to recover and move on. We need to be mindful of these signs so that we can support our canine Friend and keep visits happy and positive.

What might have triggered some worry? Too many people around, noisy or unpredictable people, children, being trodden on/in pain, too small a space, a particular handling style or person's appearance, your own worry or behaviour, not being able to gather sufficient information about a situation they find themselves in, feeling trapped or overwhelmed.

What can you do when you see your dog showing signs of mild stress?

- Bring them out of the situation for a short break or loo stop
- Try to work out what may have been concerning them so that you can work with them to feel better next time (treats paired with the thing/person, taking more time, making sure there are fewer people)
- For example, visiting one person at a time is likely to be less stressful than being surrounded and touched on all sides at once
- Being touched on the top of the head can be tricky for lots of dogs because they cannot actually see up there and it is a bit strange.
- Reward your dog immediately after and for a while after the signs to build up some confidence and good feeling
- Don't stop your visit unless your dog seems to not be themselves even after a break or visit with a favourite person
- Don't look on it as a personal failing or fault in your dog – remember we are talking about a particular reaction to a particular situation – we all have things that we find difficult or uncomfortable, often in a social setting
- Don't ignore the signs or tell yourself that they are "just a coincidence" or your dog didn't mean it – they can't lie.
- Don't feel disappointed, feel empowered and help your dog next time.

Real life example: My dog Willow was once grabbed around the neck and pulled in for a well-intentioned hug by a lovely resident with in-coordinated motor control. His movements were more jerky and violent than he meant them to be and his arms would constantly move making any touching tricky. Needless to say, Willow found this completely freaky and was backing out fast – panting, ears back, yawning and looking aghast. I gave many treats for recovery, we had a wee break to calm down. I brought him back to the man who was very apologetic and then guided them both through a different stroking pattern (treats all the while for Willow) on the body and neck without grabbing. We continued with our visit and all was well. Back at home, I practiced grabbing Willow gently around the neck and holding him for a couple of seconds while delivering treats so that this scenario was not as unfamiliar to him as it was that first time.

This Article has been shared with us by Catherine Rivron, Oamaru Liaison Officer and Canine Friend member with Willow who is also a Vet that does cat and dog behavioural cases.

Hope you have enjoyed this article which I have found very interesting and educational. Editor.

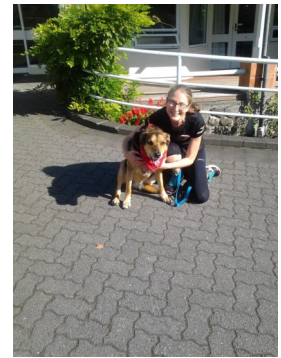
Please note that you may contact Chris and Carol at any time if you cannot reach your Liaison Officer

North Island Field Officer Chris Partridge email address is NIFieldOfficer@caninefriends.org.nz

South Island Field Officer Carol Millican email address is SIFieldOfficer@caninefriends.org.nz

New Canine Friend—Cody

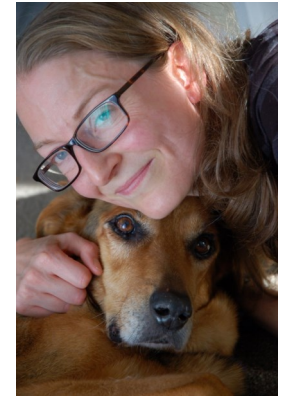
In March this year my dog Cody started to visit Te Omanga Hospice in Lower Hutt. What is amazing is Cody is a 12 1/2 year old huntaway - fairly mature for a first time canine friend. Cody's sister from the same litter Missy has been going in to Te Omanga hospice since July 2010. In December 2016 Missy ruptured her cruciate ligament whilst running with me and although she had been visiting the hospice since then - her swollen knee meant I couldn't take her regularly. Cody is settling in great and seems to be a natural in the role - a great blessing.



Cody & Georgina

In Memorium—Missy

On 24th April my great friend Missy (2nd photo a couple days before she died) died. Missy had ruptured her cruciate ligament in December 2016 and although for a while with water therapy she had seemed to improve, at the end of March her leg appeared worse. Our vet organised for us to go to another surgery for a more expert opinion - there we found that osteosarcoma (bone cancer) had eaten the bone in her leg leaving her with a break and a fracture in the hind leg and secondary cancer in her lung. She was put to sleep at home four days later. Over the weekend before she died we had 40 people visit us and 2 dogs. The rest of the animal family were able to see that her spirit was gone and we were blessed to have 7 human friends come to support us. I realised we had a special bond - we just seemed to know each other - I was blessed.



Missy & Georgina

Thank you, Georgina

Visiting Dog Ted....and some friends in Hamilton

I introduced Ted, to readers of our Newsletter just over 1 year ago when he had recently passed his assessment at Hamilton Lake. At that time he was new to our family and I had high hopes he would settle well and accept his very different life in retirement with us and 'Canine Friends Visiting'.

He is an older dog who has worked with cattle and sheep..... we were told. Re-homed to us on our life-style block at the edge of Hamilton City made Ted a bit anxious at first because not only did he have a new home, a new name, a cosy soft bed inside etc. he had frequent trips to the shops, family and friends homes and local parks. His anxiety passed quite quickly. I kept to the same routine and used simple commands.

Ted picked-up on my confidence in him and kind encouragement. He did settle very well and quickly became to enjoy the sights and sounds and smells of the city, and his new 'work' visiting for 'C.F.P.T'

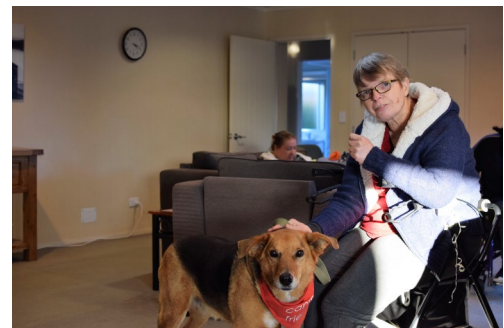
He is calm and friendly and understands new words..... 'Visiting' 'Friends' 'Let's go'.

When I pop his red scarf on and his body harness, used only at those times, he is a very keen, smiling and happy tail-wagging boy. He brings happiness to the residents of the 2 'Aspire' homes we visit and is welcomed by the staff there also. He 'holds-in' his wonderful Huntaway bark until he is outside.....as I have trained him to do.....and as we get back to the car he gives a huge 'Woof'.....just to prove he is still a working-dog. Good boy Ted.



Taya, Outcomes Development Cor-ordinator for Aspire has written the little story below. Ted had a nasty accident, hit by a car, so good to see him fit and well again.

Christine Johnson



Ted with his friend Claire

Here is a happy image of friendship between Sharkaela and Chris and Ted..Sharkaela loves dogs because her family has Boxers. Ted stands well for us while Sharkaela holds his lead, but sometimes she asks me to move away and then call 'Ted' so that he moves towards me and pulls her along...this is lots of fun for Sharkaela, staff and others there, but we don't overdo it. Ted moves slowly and seems to know we all enjoy his towing skills.

READING BUDDIES IN THE WAIKATO

The Hamilton Council Libraries have implemented a pilot programme of Reading Buddies and two existing Canine Friends Therapy dogs were chosen to help “get the programme off the ground”.

Pauline Rukuwai with Skye and Liz Scott with MacDuff have been visiting Trevelllyn Rest Home and Hospital for some time now and even though they had been thoroughly vetted by Judy McRae initially, the Hamilton City Council required them to go through a very extensive assessment, carried out by Dr. Clare Browne, Animal Behaviour Consultant.

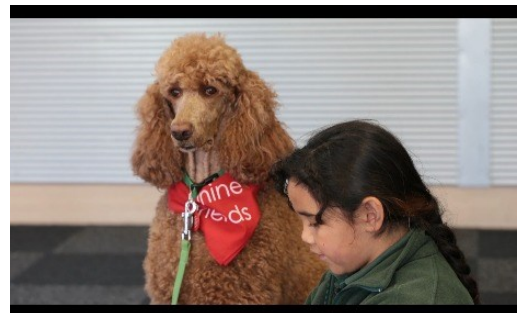
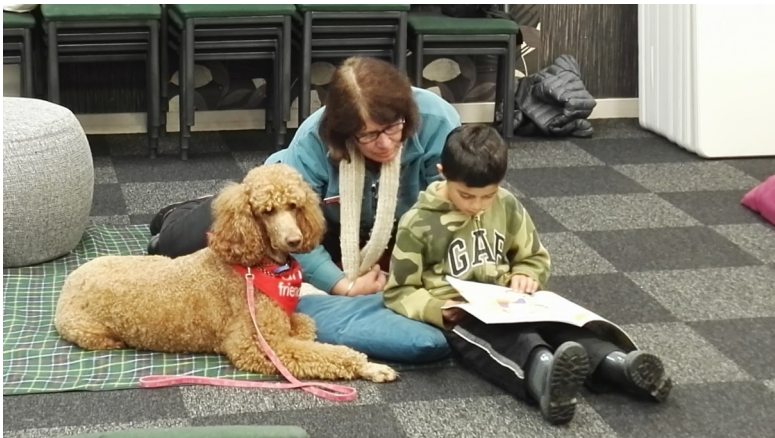
Naturally, they were assessed as suitable and the pilot programme commenced on Monday the 31st July at the Western Stars After-School Care, Nawton. All went well with both Skye and MacDuff behaving and the children studiously reading to them with a little assistance from Pauline and Liz.

If all goes well with the pilot scheme, the Hamilton City Libraries will be looking for more dogs to join in and help out.

Ann Evans



Pauline Rukuwai with Skye & Liz Scott with MacDuff



(Above left) Pauline with Skye

(Below left) Liz with MacDuff

Please deliver to:



Welcome to all new Members with their canine friends from 11th June, 2017 to 27th September, 2017.

Auckland

Annette Balsillie, Inka, Golden Retriever
Meghan & Chris Blair, Booker, German Short Haired Pointer
Karen Gibson Snoopy, Labrador
Trish Gwynne, Maggie, Löwchen
Angela Kinnersley, Sam, Labradoodle
Gemma Ross & Antony Wyborn, Hawk, Labrador
Clare Nicholas, Shiloh, Rough Coated Collie X Belgium Shepherd
Brittany Mark, Gus, Standard Poodle
Nicolette Hilton, Patrick, Greyhound
Hamish MacDonald, David, Dachshund
Jennifer Spencer, Truffle, Chow Chow X Mastiff
Christchurch
Heather Connell, Ziggy, Maltese X Bichon
Jude Day, Ted, Labrador X Huntaway X Border Collie
Michele Hollis, Jess, Huntaway x Bearded Collie
Donna McKenzie, Ginger, Labrador
Carol Millican, Tara, Labrador
Sheryl Thorn & Dale Finlayson, Reba, Greyhound & Isa, Bull Mastiff X
Verity Verster, Turbo, King Charles Cavalier Spaniel
Fleur Walls, Kushka, Afghan X Golden Retriever

Hawkes Bay

Danielle Bougher, Luna, Greyhound
Jody Jordan, Gracie, Anatolian Shepard
Loke, Ranger, Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Karin O'Kennedy, not currently visiting
Invercargill & Southland
Kelly Peake, Cruz, Labrador X
Kapiti Coast
Kerry-Ann de Ruiter, Gracie, Greyhound
Perris, Trixie, Spoodle

Levin

Apryl Cadman, Elliot, Boston Terrier
Sue Muir, Asher, Greyhound

Lower Hutt

Melany Curley, Hope, Labrador X
Fay McDonald, Rosie, Golden Doodle

Manawatu & Rural Districts

Vicki Moffat, Bondi, Siberian Husky X Border Collie
Brenda Kenworthy, Nina, Black Russian Terrier

Northland

Sarah Findlay, Onyx, English Staffordshire Terrier
Maggie Scott, Poppy, Jack Russell X Maltese

Oamaru

Philippa Hanley, Duke, Mastiff

Otago

Dawn Meehan, Mungo, Golden Retriever

Palmerston North

Rae & Gavin Hurnard, Poppy, Golden Retriever
Lucy Scott, Stella, Labrador
Wolf van Jaarsveld, Bankai, Labrador X Huntaway

Rotorua

Christina Kaiser, Missy, Licorice All Sorts
Michael Stevens, Sam, Cocker Spaniel

Taranaki

Estelle Low, Dante, Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Alex Weary, Archie, Collie X Heading dog
Carolyn Voce, Storm, Labrador

Wellington

Janet Hesketh, Thomas, Miniature Poodle

Woodville

Desiree Watt, Pippa, English Bull Terrier

Taupo

Jane Arnott, Zoe, English Pointer

Tauranga

Michelle Gilbert, Louie, Bichon Frise X Shih
Jackie Lee, Dougal, Maltese X
Heather Loughlin, Lilo, Greyhound
Margi Petersen, Chloe, Shih Tzu X Dachshund
Emma Richardson, Sally, Greyhound
Nicky Seuren, Libby, Labrador
Nicki Sunderland, Milkshake, Golden retriever
Liz Ward, Amber, Labrador

Upper Hutt

Sharon Frew, Bree, Huntaway X
Nova Mercier, Lucy, Bulldog

Waikato

Susan Phillips, Marjorie, Labradoodle
Tania Wheeler, Bandit, Maltese x Shih Tzu