

caninefriends pet therapy

Dogs helping people



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Furry Friendliness at Broadview Lifecare



Thumpa gets ready for a visit!

Canine Friends dogs and their owners visit rest home residents all around the country. On a recent visit to Broadview Lifecare in Whanganui, we talked with activities co-ordinator Angela

Ratray about the role the dogs play in the rest home and the benefit of their visits to residents.

Some of the residents shared their thoughts too!

Angela is a qualified and registered diversional therapist who has worked at Broadview Heritage Lifecare for nine years and says the dogs visiting have a very positive effect on residents.

“Some residents have had to leave their beloved pets behind when they come into care. It’s so sad they really miss them.”



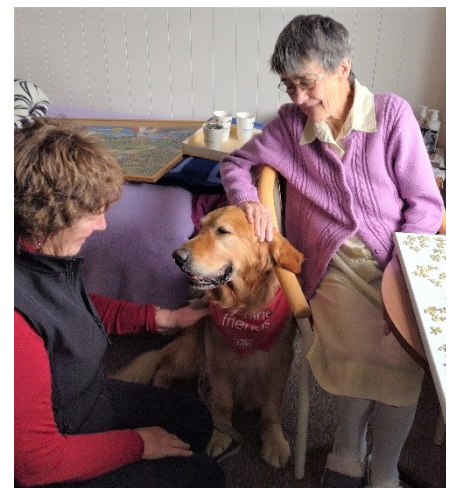
Florence: “I look forward to seeing the dogs! Thumpa reminds me of my son’s dog, he’s beautiful.”

Canine Friends visits remind them of home and happy times. “Visiting dogs remind our residents of their own dogs and open the door to memories they can share.

“When the dogs are here visiting they break down barriers and our residents talk and laugh sharing stories about their own pets.

“Some people who are unwell or isolated relate better to dogs than to other people, they love them!”

Experienced Canine friends member Ann Evans makes a long trip every month to spend time with her friends at Broadview.



Trish: “It’s so good to see the dogs. It brings back happy memories of our own dog.”

Want to know more about Canine Friends Pet Therapy? www.caninefriends.org.nz



Hazel and Queenie with Canine Friends' Ann Evans and Broadview's facilities and village manager Delwyn Deye.

Broadview Heritage Lifecare offers a monthly pop-up café once a month, where a space is given the ambience of a café environment.

Residents, their families and friends all come along to smell the coffee and enjoy the fine china.

Recently on one of these occasions Canine Friend Thumpa came along with Ann.

Hazel: "The dogs respond when we talk to them. And they do exactly what they are told!"

Queenie: "I think the dogs are lovely. They lap up our attention. Their owners are lovely too!"

Canine Friends Pet Therapy is a nationwide organisation of volunteers who share their well-behaved loving family pets with people in need of some furry friendliness. More than 800 volunteers regularly visit rest homes, hospitals and hospices around the country bringing comfort and joy to elderly and sick people.

Caring people interested in sharing their happy dog with others should check out Canine Friends website www.caninefriends.org.nz

Applications should be made online. You will hear from our team when you have applied and a time will be made for you and your dog to meet one of our assessors in your area. If your assessment is successful you will become a member of Canine Friends and be issued with your badge and dog scarf. At this stage you will be allocated a place that will become yours to visit and you will make a commitment to visit to an agreed schedule. In most areas you will be accompanied for your first visit. You then become known as 'our' dog team by the residents or patients and staff and you develop your own relationship with those people.

If you are a good listener and a warm person you will enjoy entertaining and energising the people you visit!

People with skills in dogs assessment and those with experience in the health sector will also enjoy sharing their experience as part of the local Canine Friends liaison team.



Miya turns heads at conference

Canine Friends member Suki Xu is also treasurer of the national organisation of diversional and physical therapists.

Suki's dog Miya accompanied her to the recent national conference of diversional therapists and won the prize for most photogenic attendee!

Miya, a purebred Pomeranian, will be three this month (October).

Suki says that apart from Miya's regular assignments and visits with Canine Friends, she used to work with her in one of the 30-bed memory care unit and she helps calm down clients who struggle with distress/anxiety — by sitting on patients' laps.

"Miya get lots of cuddles and kisses from our lovely elderly."

Miya now works with Suki in the community living environment, around Auckland. Her visits are mainly focused on the clients with physical disabilities who experience social isolation/withdrawal.

