

## Canine Friends ... the organisation

Canine Friends Pet Therapy is a nationally recognised organisation of volunteers who share the company of their well-behaved dogs with people in rest homes, hospitals and hospices. They also work with stressed students in schools and universities and people in distressing situations – like after the Christchurch earthquakes.

The organisation was started in Wellington 30 years ago by highly respected dog breeder, trainer and judge Eileen Curry. It now operates throughout New Zealand with 800 plus members.

Our regional co-ordinating teams have vast experience in the dog world and use their skills in assessing dogs and owners applying for membership.

We have a programme in place for our liaison officers and members to keep them informed and up-to-date. Our processes are reviewed regularly by our national executive committee to ensure that all health and safety and other relevant legislation is complied with.

We have testimonials on our website from our contacts in many of the rest homes, hospitals and hospices we visit. You can check these out to see how pet therapy with Canine Friends teams can help those you are caring for: [www.caninefriends.org.nz](http://www.caninefriends.org.nz)

And you can see some of our Wellington team in action at Te Hopai in this clip made by Lotto: <https://mylotto.co.nz/community-winners/pet-therapy>

## Becoming a member of your special family

Your dog will become part of the life of your facility. On special occasions like birthdays of residents our dogs are invited to share the celebrations. They make a real splash at Christmas and Easter too, to bring happiness and some hilarity to the people they visit.



*"Canine Friends have been visiting Te Hopai for many years now and our residents get innumerable benefits. For many of them the opportunity to pat a dog brings back memories of dogs they have had during the years. And you know what's really special? Sometimes we have residents who are non-responsive. When they see and touch a dog they suddenly light up!"*

Te Hopai Rest Home

## Would you like your very own pet therapy dog for your place?

Go to our website: [www.caninefriends.org.nz](http://www.caninefriends.org.nz)  
...and click on **Want a visit?**



[www.caninefriends.org.nz](http://www.caninefriends.org.nz)

# We can help you to help the people you are caring for



Thumpa and Tash, Activities Officer, Broadview Rest Home, Whanganui





Brighten the days of the people you are caring for with visits from us ... Canine Friends Pet Therapy dogs

### Our dogs say ...

*"You will be amazed how people in need look forward to our visits. When they touch our silky coats and rub our soft ears memories of their own beloved pets come flooding back bringing smiles to their faces.*

*We are well behaved, happy, loving family pets who have been assessed to visit people in rest homes, hospitals and hospices ... and universities and workplaces.*

*Our owners are good listeners. They enjoy sharing us, their much loved dogs, with other people."*

### How does it work?

Our co-ordinators in your area (we call them liaison officers) will have teams of owners and dogs who have been assessed and are ready to start visiting their 'own' place.

This liaison person will make contact with this new team and the rest home, hospital or hospice selected for them to visit to organise a first visit.

In most areas an experienced member will accompany the new team to your place – for the first few visits sometimes.

You will introduce them to your staff, residents and / or patients.

You will take them through your particular health and safety requirements and visiting processes with them.

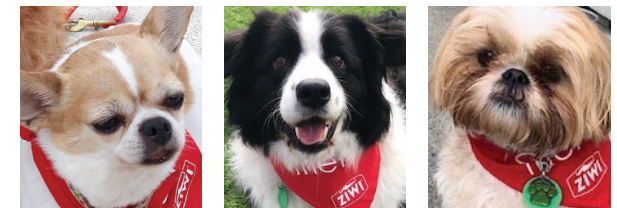
Canine Friends members will explain our own health and safety guidelines and work through a simple document with you called our commitment to you.

Visiting days and times will be discussed ... these may be weekly or fortnightly or whatever you agree together.

Our dogs must wear their Canine Friends scarves when visiting and members must wear their badges.

Visits may last from half an hour to an hour. Sometimes heat in hospitals and rest homes can affect some dogs so duration of visits has to be flexible.

Dogs can be cuddled and patted in the lounge area of your facility. They can also call in on residents and patients in rooms when this is requested.



*"I would like to thank you and your wonderful team for the amazing job you do bringing your much loved pet dogs into Hilda Ross Retirement Village for pet therapy. The residents look forward to the fortnightly visits, the dogs are welcomed, loved, cuddled and cherished – they certainly cheer up our residents in the most heart-warming way and I know the dogs are just as excited to visit. Again, thank you and your team for bringing Canine Friends Pet Therapy to our facility".*

Hilda Ross Retirement Village