



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



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Around the regions: Nelson/Tasman

supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Margaret Scaife, Canine Friends Pet Therapy Liaison Officer for the Nelson/Tasman region, tells the story of visiting in this part of the country:

Nelson/Tasman is a large and diverse area encompassing city, villages and countryside. We have 22 members and visit three hospitals, the hospice, a senior day care centre and 10 rest homes. Our members live from Atawhai, northeast of Nelson, through to Wakefield, Motueka and Murchison.

As Liaison Officer and Assessor for this area, I am privileged to meet a lovely variety of caring people and their Canine Friends. In over three years I have assessed just two dogs that were not yet ready for visiting because of their youth and enthusiasm: we have to

ensure that elderly people do not get bumped or their skin grazed by bouncy pups.

Once a team is assessed and has received the Canine Friends 'uniform', it is time for them to be introduced to the facility they will visit and go through initial procedures to ensure health and safety. This process has become even more stringent because of Covid 19. Once all this is finished the team visits weekly or fortnightly for approximately one hour. It is immensely rewarding to hear the positive feedback from them and the facilities reflecting the joy they bring to the residents. Because we are so spread out our visiting teams seldom manage to get together to socialise, but is it always great to hear how their visits are going. 🐾



Just as our area is so diverse, so are our Canine Friends. Two of our longest serving dogs are no longer well.

A stunning black Poodle, Tui belle (right), has visited at Motueka's Woodlands with Lorraine Smith for many years, but is now quietly retiring because of her age and fragile health.

Jammu is a stately German Shepherd (left) and long-term visitor at Stillwater Gardens in Richmond, and later The Wood in Atawhai. She and her owner, Lorraine Lindsay, have each had health challenges, but are soon to begin visiting again.



If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: www.caninefriends.org.nz

While some of our dogs are ageing we have lovely young ones just beginning their visiting careers.



Shih Tzus Charlie and Milky (wearing scarf), with Lilac Meir, are alternating weekly visits to Whareama.



Ben, Charlene Storrar's handsome German Shepherd, goes to Jack Inglis Hospital in Motueka.



From my personal experience I find that both the owners and their dogs get a lot of pleasure from seeing the delight they can bring to the people they visit.

Just the feel of a dog's fur can be therapeutic, as has been researched and documented over the years.



Lottie, Sara Booth's cute miniature Schnauzer visits at Woodlands Rest Home in Motueka.

My own dog, Chummy, usually visits at Kensington Court where this photograph was taken. However he has just begun making monthly visits to Harakeke Day Care for Seniors, where he really loves the cuddles.

Attendees feel his curls, scratch behind his ears and are reminded of furry friends in their past. 🐾