



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



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Spring Photo competition

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President

A lot has happened for Canine Friends Pet Therapy during 2022 and as we approach Christmas I wish to thank our members for their patience while we worked through COVID-19 and the associated restrictions.

I am relieved and encouraged to hear many members have returned to their visiting routines. I know residents, patients and staff will appreciate seeing a friendly face and wagging tails, giving a sense of normality back to their daily routines.

As part of our member engagement activities we ran our second photo competition for the year, with a Spring theme. Here are the three winners.

Best wishes to everyone involved in NZ's dog scene and have a safe and happy Christmas. 🐾



Our Auckland members have been busy responding to various requests for group visits. No doubt many of you watched the exciting final of the Women's Rugby World Cup, played at Auckland's Eden Park. Leading up to the semi-final I received a request from Thomas, one of the sport psychologists who was looking after a group of referees. He thought a visit from us would be beneficial. As he said: "Who doesn't love a dog?". We couldn't agree more!

Sam Kean was Acting Liaison Officer for this visit: "It was a lovely visit with the WRWC referees. Thomas was lovely and very inviting. He had not told the referees what the meeting was about so as each one entered the room their jaws dropped and the excitement level rose. Having been away from family and their own pets for six weeks, this was a welcome surprise they fully embraced and enjoyed. Definitely the boost they needed."

1st: Linda Klugar with Missy

This is Missy, our three-year-old Bichon Frise. Right from the start Missy enjoyed games and training. So far, we have earned five Obedience grades, two Canine Good Citizen titles and are currently working on our fourth Tricks Title. Our visits to Masonic Village are a highlight, where Missy entertains the staff and residents. Thank you Canine Friends for all the great work you inspire.

2nd: Kathryn Snook with Viper

I have been breeding and competing in breed and dog sports with Miniature Schnauzers for over 30 years. Viper is my third home-bred Agility Grand Champion. After she finished competing at 12, I felt it would be great to share her beautiful nature with others, so we joined Canine Friends in Christchurch. She is a hit with her tricks and can never get enough pats when visiting. Currently we still have fun competing in Rally-O and CGC. At home she is still the matriarch, keeping the young dogs in line!

3rd: Jenny Wills with Riley

We adopted Riley three years ago. He shares his life between myself and my son Dean. I take Riley to Waterlea Rest Home in Blenheim and love seeing the enjoyment on the resident's faces. Riley swims in the river and sea and goes out fishing with Dean.



Sam Kean, Acting Liaison Officer, comments on a recent hospital visit: "It was a pleasure to visit Auckland Hospital to brighten the day of some very busy hard-working nursing staff of OR4 (Operating Rooms). As our five member/dog teams passed through the hospital halls you could feel the mood lighten and the smiles were uplifting. Erica, our Hospital Liaison said: 'It's not something you expect to see in a hospital setting. It's amazing how just seeing the dogs brightens people's day.' Nursing staff thoroughly enjoyed the visit, with many requests of 'can you come every Friday?'. They left the room with a bounce in their step and ear-to-ear smiles. Lara with Charlie the Pug summed up the visit perfectly: 'Meeting the OR4 nurses and some doctors was fabulous. Seeing the joy it brought them made me so happy. Even walking through the hospital together seeing the patient's faces come to life in a tough environment was magical. Loved every moment!'"

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