

caninefriends pet therapy

Dogs helping people



Christmas cheers with cuddles

These amazing images are from The Wellington Special Children's Christmas Party held recently at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua. These Christmas parties are held around New Zealand and are the biggest events of the year for special needs children and their families. Organisers of the events work closely with hundreds of charities, schools, community groups and government organisations to select these special children.

The children invited may suffer from life threatening illness, physical or intellectual impairment, or may be living in underprivileged circumstances. But for this special day they are spoiled rotten with entertainment, time with Santa, presents galore, exciting things to eat, music and dancing ... just a great day of fun and colour.

Canine Friends Pet Therapy has been part of these events for many years and this year 25 dogs and their owners mingled with the many hundreds of children and their families. And they set up a cuddle space in a quiet corner so kids who just want to chill out can relax and cuddle a dog.

Jean Barr of Canine Friends said, 'the whole event was a marvellous success and many, many children were overjoyed at the chance to enjoy some furry friendliness with our lovely dogs and their owners.'

Hard at work with children and their families are Blue the Greyhound, Lucy the Cavalier, Mason the Labrador, Dobby the Corgi, Teddy the Spoodle, Bruno the Cocker Spaniel, Diesel the Cavoodle and Lucy the Pug Griffin.

Photography: Dan Taylor, Kapiti Camera Club



