

caninefriends pet therapy

Dogs helping people



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UCOL visit with Manawatu team

Exam-stressed students took time out recently to cuddle with Canine Friends visiting pet therapy dogs. Everyone was happy and relaxed after the time spent together.



Ed the Greyhound loves a quiet cuddle.



Panda thinks the whole thing is hilarious.

Meet the new Canine Friends committee

At our recent AGM the following people were elected the national executive:

President: Vicky Graham from Taupo was elected president. Vicky says, "I have seen the growth of our organisation from its small beginnings in Wellington (where I was one of the earliest members) to a recognised and respected nationwide charity". Vicky has previously been vice president and funding co-ordinator and manages relationships with sponsors and partners.

Secretary: Leanne Gibson has been on the committee since 2015, holding a number of roles including treasurer, secretary and database manager. She has introduced technology innovations such as a membership management system, video conferencing for meetings and a revamped website.

Treasurer: Dallas Hopkins, who is new to the committee, is from Christchurch has a long background and impressive credentials in accounting. She has been a Canine Friends member for seven

years, with her Samoyed Atticus. "I have found that sharing those moments of happiness and love with people from all walks of life to be fulfilling and inspiring."

Liaison Officer training: Rachel Butler from Auckland has trained dogs in obedience, agility, tacking and heelwork to music, gaining national awards and qualifications in a 25-year career. She now owns a business called Take the Lead where she works with dogs and their owners. With that impressive pedigree we think she can work well with our 30-plus regional coordinators (liaison officers).

New members coordinator: Annette Dougherty joined the organisation in 2005 and visited Ropata Residential Home in Lower Hutt for many years with her Spoodle Meg, then her Bichon/Poodle Murphy. She joined the committee soon after and has held a number of roles in that time including a long spell as president. Annette runs her own dog grooming business in Lower Hutt called Petite Paws.

Newsletter editor: Beverley Jocelyn, a committee member since 2013, brings vast corporate experience to her role as editor. She



Zara the wee Dachshund is a snuggler.



Murphy the Schnauzer is everybody's friend.



Sophie and Oakie are always photo-ready!



Evie the Bichon has the cute wow factor.



Izzie the little Cavalier is a hit.

is an avid animal fan with a special family interest in horses. In recent years Beverley has rescued dogs from the local animal control centre.

Communications: Carolyn Williams has been a committee member for several years, most recently since she produces our 25th anniversary book. She has visited Hutt Hospital orthopaedic ward with her Flatcoated Retrievers and more recently enjoys Canine Friends events with Bruno the English Cocker Spaniel, Diesel the Cavoodle and Lucy the Pug.

Wellington events: David Verrinder has been a committee member for nearly three years. He visits several facilities in the Porirua area with his Golden Retriever Rafa. His background is in the high technology recruitment business. David organises big events like annual Liaison Officers Conference.

And welcome to our new committee members:

Sandy McAllen: Our new liaison officer for Whanganui has also joined the national exec. She has previously been involved with guide dogs and the Blind Foundation. Sandy's vast experience

in the dog world will be of great benefit to Canine Friends. She visits with her Golden Retriever Abbot who shares his adventures with the dogs at home: Vera the 10-year-old Lab and Lucky the 16-year-old Corgi.

Alison Law: Alison's 20-plus year history in local government in managing recreation and aquatic facilities has developed many skills that will assist the organisation. Community engagement, communication, strategy and planning, financial management and volunteer management are some of the valuable areas of her expertise.

Helen Moriarty: Helen's long experience in the health sector and 40 years of committee experience in many diverse organisations will be a great asset on the committee.

Sandy Fea: Sandy is well-known in the dog world and, with her Golden Retrievers, has been a member of Canine Friends since it started nearly 30 years ago. Her knowledge of the organisation over that time, in addition to her vast dog-world experience, make her another valuable addition to the committee. 🐾

Waikato team growing

Last month, we introduced the team members who run the Waikato region for Canine Friends. Now you can meet some of the hard-working dogs and owners in this fast growing team.



Yvette Shore takes her dog Toby to visit the Bupa St Andrews Care Home in Hamilton every week. Here is Toby with one of his greatest fans, Bruce Hanlon, who was 98 in June. Happy birthday Bruce!



Bev Hyde is visiting Trevellyn Rest Home in Hamilton with the regal Alfie.



Ashley McDonald and her Golden Retriever Ella meet up with Radius St Joan's activities coordinator Glenys Holden. Ashley and Ella have starting visiting this month after a visit there with new member support person Christine Johnson. Glenys is a very enthusiastic supporter of Canine Friends and the benefits of pet therapy to the people she looks after. Thanks Glenys!



Pretty Schnauzer Nina waits with her mum Naomi and Taya from Aspire Home. Their visit was a bit delayed as residents had been enjoying a day out.



Handsome dude Zulu visits Aperangi and Kimihia Rest homes with his dad Kevin.



Pauline Rukuwai with her Standard Poodle Skye and Liz Scott's Beardie cross MacDuff at the "To the Dogs" exhibition in Te Awamutu's museum. This exhibition is running for several months and dog-related community groups have been invited to share their work with museum visitors.

Introducing MacDuff

MacDuff (pictured above) is a five-year-old Beardie/Huntaway cross male. Liz Scott tells us his story:

We adopted him from the SPCA when he was about five months old. He had been seized by them as he was a very sick puppy and his owner couldn't afford vet treatment. He was put into isolation for several weeks, with what was originally suspected as parvovirus – but it was obviously not, as he survived!

I was volunteering at the kennels when he came out of isolation and it was 'love at first sight' on both sides. However... I had to convince my husband that we needed a third dog and I was so desperate that I offered to give up smoking in order to adopt him. This worked a treat and am proud to say I'm still a non-smoker.

MacDuff is a laidback, gentle giant and extremely intelligent — show him what you want once and he knows what to do. He loves to swim and has to be persuaded to get out of the lake/river so we can complete our walk. He loves barking and to have his tummy tickled — he rolls over onto his back without any bidding.

There is very little he dislikes, but handling of his front feet is borne very stoically, with little tugs to ask for his foot back.

There is something about him that draws in total strangers wanting to meet him and it's often been commented that he looks like 'Hairy McLairy'. I add that he must have been crossed with Hercules Morse because he's as big as a horse!

MacDuff is a one-in-a-million dog and we have a very close bond which doesn't happen with every dog. He is a Canine Friend Pet Therapy dog and visits Awatere Rest Home and Village (formerly Trevellyn) every week. He brings smiles and laughter to the residents.

He has also recently become a 'Reading Buddy' with the Hamilton City Library programme. He has gained his Canine Good Citizen Gold certification and, when he was younger, competed in Dog Agility and Flygility. He loved these sports but, because of his poor start in life, his immune system had been compromised and this has resulted in the early onset of osteoarthritis in most of his joints, so had to be retired from strenuous exercise.

He also suffers from a very sensitive tummy and is kept on a chicken-based diet.

He will also bear a scar around his neck for the rest of his life from a tight cord/wire cutting into his skin when a puppy.

Despite MacDuff's poor start he bears no grudge or malice and gives 100 percent to enjoying life. 🐾

Do you have some time to spare and skills to share?
We are looking for experienced dog people to help with assessment and liaison in some areas.
Please contact president, Vicky Graham, president@caninefriends.org.nz