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# caninefriends

## pet therapy

Dogs helping people



## Part 1

# New lives and loves for some special dogs

Let's meet some of the pet therapy dogs who bring great joy and comfort into people's lives. These three special dogs had a rough start but have now found their forever homes. Meet Buddy, Truffle and Tyne and hear their heart-warming stories in the words of Deanna, Jennifer and Sandra who gave them their second chances at life.

## Buddy pays it forward

Deanna shares Buddy's story

*Buddy* was picked up by a very good friend of mine (with whom I was living with at the time) from the *Humane Society of NZ* back in December 2016. He was then about four years old and had been found wandering the streets of south Auckland in a poor state; hungry, bad skin and paw pads, not de-sexed or microchipped.

No-one knew his back story but he didn't know any basic commands or even know how to play either with a ball or other dogs. He was only ever interested or motivated by food. However his temperament was noticed straight away. He is a very soft-natured, loving dog who enjoys being around people, even strangers. My friends got him as a companion for themselves and their current dog *Bang Bang* and he quickly became part of the family. He even looks as if he comes from the same litter as his sister!

At the time I was looking to do volunteer work with animals. I discovered Canine Friends and knew that it would be the perfect thing for Buddy and I to do together.

I joined Canine Friends, had Buddy assessed in February 2017 and was placed straight away at the Jervois Road Hospice. We've been visiting there every fortnight since. Buddy loves to sit either on patients' beds or to join them in the common room where they watch TV or play bingo. He always gets a smile and has some favourite residents (and nurses) with some even calling him a best friend as he is their most regular visitor. He always takes it in his stride and gets excited when I pick him up to take him visiting. Buddy has come into his own by 'paying it forward' and is perfect for his role as a therapy dog.



## Truffle the Pound Pooch

Jennifer tells Truffle's story.

I had been a fosterer for puppies, mainly, from Henderson Pound, through a charity called ARAN (Animal Rescue Action Network).

I had just completed a successful foster of Blossom, a bull breed mix puppy who had gone to her new home in Kapiti. ARAN messaged me about an older dog, who had managed to dodge the euthanasia list twice because she was the staff favourite. But time was running out.

They sent me a photo and my initial thoughts were that she looked quite menacing as the photo showed her with a choke lead being held by an animal management officer. I was slightly worried, as I have a smaller dog and two cats. However, as this was the 'last ditch' effort to find her a way out I went to meet her.

Appearances had been wrong ... Truffle, is a gentle, easy going, caring and loving Staffy Bull Terrier cross.

I fostered her for five months until a family came forward to adopt her. I knew it would be hard to see her go, as she fitted so well into my little family and obviously loved her life with us ... lying on the deck, beach/park walks, dinner time and treats.

Within two weeks of Truffle being at her new home, I was contacted and told things were not working out. She was very distant and wasn't eating or playing.

I went to collect her Truffle was absolutely beside herself with excitement and couldn't wait to get into the car and come home. That's when I knew she wasn't going to go anywhere else, and she was mine and I was hers.

With her beautifully gentle nature, love of snuggling on the bed and seeking of pats, I knew she would be a wonderful Canine Pet Therapy dog.

She is now a member of the Middlemore Critical Care team, and spends a couple of hours each fortnight cuddled up to patients in HDU and ICU. She's a wonderful dog and brings much happiness to hospital staff as well as patients and their families. People who experience Truffle's furry friendliness say that she is a fantastic ambassador for ex-pound pooches and Bull breeds.



## Tyne

Sandra tells Tyne's story

We have two rescue dogs, one of whom, Tyne works for Canine Friends Pet Therapy. We really hit the jackpot with Tyne and are incredibly lucky to have her. She was one of an unwanted litter and went straight from her mum to the pound in Hamilton, along with her brother. Auckland Animal Shelters are awesome and keep trying for as long as it takes for dogs to find their forever home. Outside of Auckland most shelters don't have the population to support this luxury so dogs are usually given two weeks. If they are not claimed or adopted in that time, they are put to sleep. With Tyne, and her brother (who apparently was just as sweet-natured), the pound tried for an unheard of six weeks to find them a home but there were no takers.

Tyne's a mixture of Boxer, German Short-Haired Pointer, English Pointer, Greyhound, Bull Terrier and Bloodhound so she isn't a conventionally good looking dog, but she's beautiful to me. The outlook wasn't exactly rosy for Tyne and she was hours away from being put to sleep when a dog rescue charity *New Lives Animal Rescue* begged my boss's sister to take her. She has fostered many dogs over the years and hadn't planned on fostering any more, however, fortunately for us and Tyne, she relented. Unfortunately, they couldn't find a foster for Tyne's brother and he didn't make it.

We had been thinking about getting a sister for our other rescue dog Geordie who was eight months old at the time. My boss persuaded me to

meet Tyne so we took Geordie over and from the first second they were besties. We adopted her permanently. It was quite challenging having an eight and four month-old puppy at the same time! We put a lot of effort into training and socialisation. Many people remarked on how calm Tyne is.

I set the dogs up with their own Instagram account (as you do) and we made friends with a Catahoula Leopard Dog (Cowboy Catahoula) in the United States who is a therapy dog. Cowboy's dad commented that if Tyne was as calm as I said, she would make a great therapy dog. So when Tyne turned three I thought it would be great if we could share her sweet nature around a bit. I contacted Canine Friends and Tyne flew through her assessment. We were assigned to visit Terrence Kennedy House, a few hundred metres from where we live. We go every fortnight and Tyne loves it, I love it and I think the residents quite enjoy it too!

I actually get quite emotional when I see the smile Tyne brings to their faces. She's a big girl so can't sit on their laps or anything, but she just sits next to them, or on their feet and leans into their pats and strokes. I've seen a resident's face with a smile big enough to light up the room when she sees Tyne. I've had residents who can't move their arms much just drop their hand on to the top of her head as she sits next to their wheelchair and the biggest grin you've ever seen in your life spreads across their faces as they caress her velvety head. Once she moved away from the hand of a resident and his face fell ... but Tyne was just turning her head so she could start licking his hand and as soon as she did this he started to giggle!

I know a lot of residents by their first names now and me and Tyne both love spending time with them, bringing a bit of company and velvety head rubs into their day.



# Rottweiler

## Litter Registration Limitation (LRL) Scheme Registration Regulations



After ratification by Executive Council at the September 2018 meeting and notification of the scheme in the November 2018 New Zealand Dog World the owner survey has been completed and reached the 75% participant support required for all proposed health testing to be implemented.

Executive Council has approved the 1 August 2019 date for the regulations to be in place. The regulations will apply to progeny whelped on or after that date.

### 10.14 Rottweilers

For all Rottweiler litters born on and after 1st August 2019, as a pre-requisite to registration of any litter on the Dogs NZ Register I or III, the following shall apply:

#### 10.14.1

The Sire AND Dam of every litter must be radiographed and assessed by a Dogs NZ approved scheme for hip and elbow dysplasia and results supplied to Dogs NZ. Any parent whelped before January 1st, 2011 may be excluded. Frozen semen dispensations may be requested.

#### 10.14.2

The Sire AND Dam of every litter must be tested, and either the

sire OR dam must test clear by DNA testing of JLPP and results supplied to Dogs NZ.

#### 10.14.3

The Sire AND Dam of every litter must have a Dogs NZ Rottweiler LRL Eye Certificate completed by any registered veterinarian at a minimum age of 12 months old and results supplied to Dogs NZ. Any parent whelped before 1st February 2011 may be excluded. Frozen semen dispensations may be requested.

#### 10.14.4

The Sire AND Dam of every litter must have a Dogs NZ Rottweiler LRL Dental Certificate completed by any registered veterinarian at a minimum age of 12 months old and results supplied to Dogs NZ. Any parent whelped before January 1st February 2011 may be excluded. Frozen semen dispensations may be requested.

#### 10.14.5

The Sire AND Dam of every litter must have a DNA genotype (DNA profile) provided from an approved laboratory and results supplied to Dogs NZ.