



caninefriends
pet therapy
 Dogs helping people



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 supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Around the regions — Rotorua

We currently have 13 members visiting rest homes, one member visiting a rehab centre and one as a reading buddy. Most of our rest homes have two volunteers visiting on a roster basis, some weekly and some fortnightly.

We are not visiting the local hospital at this stage but have had a couple of enquiries which will require a special dog and handler.

Sadly we have had a few dogs pass away in the last couple of years, including two of my own dogs.

I started with Canine Friends back in 2010 with an English Pointer called Cindy. Cindy passed away in 2014. Since Cindy, I have had two more dogs: a Rottweiler named Penny and a Greyhound named Sunny. Both have also since passed away.

I have been the local Liaison Officer for a couple of years and have been the assessor for Rotorua for a number of years. When I am assessing a dog I am looking for a friendly gentle dog who is not a 'jumper' but is interested in people.

We have an assortment of dog breeds including: Golden Retriever, Bull Mastiff cross, Jack Russell cross, ex-racing Greyhound, Miniature Schnauzer, Maltese cross, Whippet cross, Rottweiler, Springer Spaniel, and an ex-guide dog Labrador. In the past we have had a Great Dane and a Newfoundland.

In the last couple of years we have been asked to take dogs to the polytech to support students just before exam time. This has been a great success, with both students and dogs enjoying the experience.

I accompany each new member on their first visit and have never been disappointed by how both the member and dog react to various situations. This also gives the member confidence to visit on their own. 🐾



Founder's Day 2021 at Centennial Park/Rotorua Tree Trust.



George relaxing in the sun after his first visit.

*Julie Cowell,
 Liaison Officer & Dog Assessor, Rotorua*



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



Above, left to right:
Sunny on his final Xmas visit.
Ajax enjoying his first visit and so relaxed.
Toby relaxing after his first visit.

Blake and Puff enjoying cuddles at the polytech.



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