



# The Therapet Service

## Our Area Representatives

- We have Area, or Therapet, Representatives, in many parts of Scotland. All are experienced Therapet Volunteers and fulfil their duties in a voluntary capacity.
- They are responsible for assessing potential Therapets.
- They are responsible for liaising with the institutions wishing their patients and residents to benefit from visits by a Therapet.
- They assist new volunteers to start visiting and, wherever possible, accompany volunteers on their first visits.

## Canine Concern Scotland Trust

The Trust was established in 1988. In addition to the establishment and management of the Therapet Service the aims of the Trust include:-

- The provision of an educational service to promote responsible dog ownership in Scotland.
- To further the role of dogs in Scotland.
- To promote research into the therapeutic value of dogs to patients or others isolated from normal association with pets.

For more information please contact either your nearest Area Representative or the Administrator of Canine Concern Scotland Trust at the address shown on the front of this leaflet.

***"We care for dogs...and dogs care for us"***

*"The production of this leaflet has been funded by a donation from The Society of Petroleum Engineers, Aberdeen Section"*



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**CANINE CONCERN  
SCOTLAND TRUST**

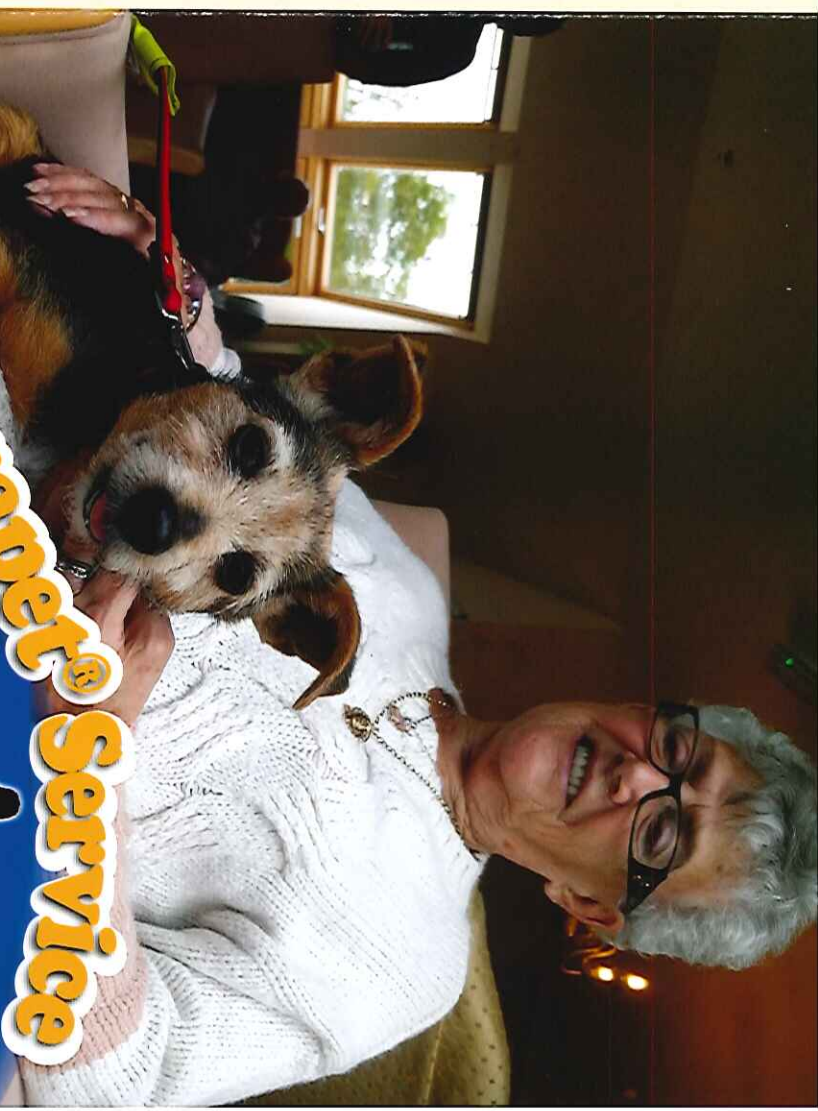
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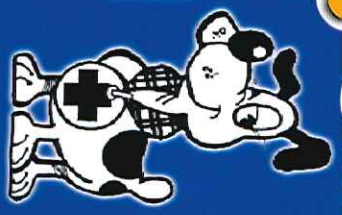
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# The Therapet Service

## The Service

- The Therapet Service was established in 1988 by Canine Concern Scotland Trust, a Scottish Charitable Trust.
- Volunteer members take their specially selected dogs (and occasionally cats) to visit patients and residents in hospitals, hospices, residential care and nursing homes, special needs schools and other institutions on a regular basis to provide Pet Therapy.
- No charge is made for the service.

## Pet Therapy

- It is increasingly being recognised how much people miss pets on going into care.
- The mere act of stroking a pet can cause interest in someone who has previously been unwilling to communicate in any way.
- Nursing Staff appreciate pet visits as a break in routine and even those at first doubtful about Pet Therapy can become very enthusiastic and welcoming.

## Phobic Patients

In recent years Therapets have successfully assisted Psychologists in helping children overcome the fear of dogs.

## Various pictures of our everyday Therapets in action!

## Our Therapets

- Therapets come in all breeds, cross-breeds and mongrels. They can be small, medium or large. Their main characteristic is a steady and happy temperament.
- Therapets must be at least one year old and must have been owned by the volunteer for at least six months.
- All potential Therapets are assessed as to their suitability by our Area Representatives or by other people well experienced in dog behaviour such as Dog Trainers or Veterinary Surgeons.
- All volunteers with registered Therapets are issued with our Therapet Health Protocol which sets out the health standards required of the Therapets.

## Our Volunteers

- Our volunteers come from all backgrounds. There are no restrictions as to age except that volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- We require all new volunteers to provide two independent references as to their character and suitability for participating in the Therapet Service.
- All volunteers must be members of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (the "PVG Scheme").

