



Interesting Case from our web site www.fairfield-vets.co.uk



"Jeanie" - Bearded Collie - "Pets As Therapy" dog.



Jeanie

After many years coping admirably with a close elderly relative suffering from Alzheimer's disease Mrs Bruce decided to use the assistance of the Allambie Court Nursing Home.

"Jeanie" her beautifully groomed and extremely well behaved Bearded Collie had too been feeling the strain. Together, both Jeanie and Mrs Bruce made regular visits to the Nursing Home to meet their relative and greet the other patients.

As a consequence of the regular trips to the nursing home everyone has benefited.

Mrs Bruce has been helped by others easing the strain of looking after someone with Alzheimer's disease.

"Jeanie" has benefited both from the social visits to the home but also the peace and routine that has been re-established in the family home.

Additionally all the residents and the carers at the Nursing facility have looked forward to the interaction with the four legged canine visitor.

The effects of companion animals on elderly Alzheimer's patients living in private homes were examined recently. Patients exposed to a companion animal had less episodes of verbal aggression and anxiety compared to those not exposed.

Pets As Therapy (PAT) - a national charity founded in 1983 (www.petsastherapy.org) - is unique in that it organises therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes by volunteers with their own friendly, temperament tested and vaccinated dogs. Every year new dogs join in this charitable work.

At Fairfield one of our nursing staff, Tracey, is a qualified PAT dog assessor.

Patients often feel isolated and even the most withdrawn seem to open up and let the barriers down when their regular PAT hospital visiting dog is on the ward. The constant companionship of an undemanding animal, who gives unconditional love, is often one of the most missed aspects of their lives. PAT was formed to help make this loss more bearable and to speed recovery. Voluntary PAT visitors and their dogs work amongst those of us most in need of a little extra boost.

Pets like "Jeanie" look after us, make sure like Mrs Bruce, you look after them.

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care