



ABOUT DELTA SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

Delta Society Australia is a national not for profit organisation whose mission is to promote and facilitate positive interaction between people and companion animals. Delta operates with one core belief: that the human animal bond can overcome anything. The Delta Society's work focuses on using that bond to comfort the sick in hospitals and aged care facilities, develop more confident children, teach children about dog safety, and promote reward based training methods to develop happy and contented pets. Currently, Delta delivers on its mission and vision through four core activities:

- The Delta Therapy Dogs program
- The Delta Dog Safe program
- The Delta Classroom Canines program
- The Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services - Canine Good Citizen

THE DELTA THERAPY DOGS PROGRAM

Delta Therapy Dogs is a heart-warming program that brings the joy of animal companionship to those who need it most. We are the largest provider of dog therapy in Australia with 14 State Therapy Dog branches and over 1,000 volunteers.

Companion animals bring joy to the lives of twelve million Australians and now there is evidence they are also literally good for your health and wellbeing!

Through our world class Therapy Dogs program, the Delta Society aims to bring these benefits to the sick and infirm – children and adults who are in hospitals and nursing homes around Australia. We recruit and train suitable volunteers and their beloved pet dogs to become dedicated Therapy Dog Teams. The Delta volunteer and their adorable four-legged friend are then assigned a facility where they make weekly visits to spend time with residents and offer a chat, a floppy ear to listen and paw to shake.

There are currently over 700 facilities involved nationally ranging from aged care through to acute care hospitals for children and adults as well mental health, prisons and dementia specific facilities.

THE BENEFITS OF PET THERAPY

"Delta Therapy dog teams have encouraged residents to leave the confines of their rooms for the first time in months, to extend their hand post-stroke or surgery, to walk, to talk, to smile, to laugh, to remember, to forget, and to reminisce about their own animals"

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PETS AND THE ELDERLY

Pets have been shown to increase quality of life, including:

- Reducing tension, fatigue and confusion
- Increasing enthusiasm, interest and inspiration
- Pets delay the ageing process through increased physical exercise and socialisation, and increased mental functioning – through talking to and caring for them
- Pets boost activity levels, and dogs help people keep an active routine, providing a reason to get up in the morning
- Pet owners are less likely to report feeling lonely

WHY PET THERAPY HELPS IN AGED CARE

- Elderly pet owners who must enter aged care facilities report feelings of loss when they have to leave their pets behind
- Pets provide one of the few interventions capable of permanently lifting the atmosphere of hospices and nursing homes
- Pet therapy has been proven to provide many of the benefits of pet ownership

(Data courtesy of the Australian Companion Animal Council)

SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN BENEFITS OF PET THERAPY

- Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses
- Social – a visit with a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion and promotes focused interaction with others
- Cognitive – Canine companionship stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing
- Emotional – an adorable four-legged visitor improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, calming effect, lifts mood often provoking laughter.
- Environmental – a dog in a facility decreases the feeling of a sterile environment, lifts mood and this continues after visit.

INFORMATION FOR FACILITIES:

Have you been considering having an animal visit the residents in your care facility?

Whether you're from an aged care facility, mental health facility, adult's hospital, children's hospital or other health care facility, animal assisted therapy can have an amazing effect on your patients' and residents' health and wellbeing.

Our dedicated Therapy Dog Teams not only bring the wonderful benefits of pet therapy to patients, but also provide a welcome distraction for family members and staff. Staff can become incredibly attached to their facility's assigned Delta Therapy Dog and this has a wonderful impact on staff satisfaction and morale, which in turn reflects on the ongoing care provided to patients.

As a non-profit organisation, the Delta Society relies heavily on sponsorships, community support and donations from participating facilities to make this service available. We ask facilities that wish to participate in the Delta Therapy Dogs program to donate \$550 per year for each Therapy Dog team visiting your facility. This donation is in no way related to the services of the volunteer, who receives no remuneration for their participation. All donations are fully tax deductible and used specifically for the ongoing support and expansion of the Delta Therapy Dogs program.

It's very simple to join our program and you can do this all online at www.deltasociety.com.au.