

Pets in Aged Care

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Lifeview

- ✓ Victorian based
- ✓ Relationship centred
- ✓ Living life to the fullest
- ✓ Celebrate ageing
- ✓ Rainbow Tick accredited
- ✓ Drive cultural change
- ✓ Create treasured moments
- ✓ Over 80% of residents living with some degree of dementia

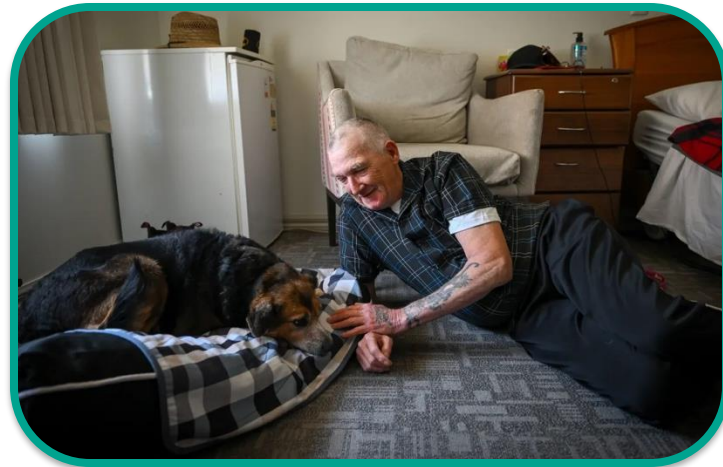


Today

- ✓ We know the human-animal bond is special but traditionally when someone moved into aged care their beloved pet could not come with them, causing further heartbreak for both
- ✓ This situation is however slowly changing (18% of providers now accept pets)
- ✓ Lifeview's experience of having pets move into care - overcoming objections, changing the narrative and improving resident wellbeing

Meet Paul & Bonny

- ✓ Originally came into care mid 2022
- ✓ Eventually left against all advice
- ✓ Moved back late 2022
- ✓ Confided could not live without Bonny and this was causing him to be unsettled and depressed
- ✓ Bonny moved in early February
- ✓ “My mental health has improved, this is my forever home, I can really settle now”



House of Wellness

- ✓ Here from Paul about his experience living in care with his dog Bonny
- ✓ [House of Wellness](#)

Why Pets?

- ✓ Eden philosophy
- ✓ We are pet lovers
- ✓ Understand the bond between pets and people
- ✓ Need to offer what the market wants
- ✓ We have seen the benefits



What is truly Pet Friendly?



- ✓ Residents can have their own pets live with them
 - dogs, cats, birds, rabbits
- ✓ Not just visiting pets – pet therapy
- ✓ Not just one shared pet in a facility
- ✓ Home has its own policies and procedures on pets
 - ✓ Pet policy
 - ✓ Pet application form and care plan
 - ✓ Resident agreement (terms and conditions)

The Rules

- ✓ No pets in the dining room; on lead
- ✓ Resident must be able to care for the pet inc. cleaning up after them
- ✓ All vaccinations must be up to date and a vet must clear the pet to live in a communal environment
- ✓ Must be a plan in place should the resident no longer be able to care for the pet – no dumping

CAN and ACIPC



- ✓ Companion Animal Network Australia  |  Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control
- ✓ Celebrate the human-animal bond and promote responsible pet ownership
- ✓ Mid-2022 collaboration began when we filmed the TV show Pooches at Play featuring resident Daphne and Annie
- ✓ Via CAN and ACIPC providers can access ready made policies; ideas and support
- ✓ CAN currently running a Pet Friendly Aged Care campaign and survey to better understand the role of pets in healthy ageing

Positive Press Coverage

✓ Constantly striving to tell positive aged care stories



Nine News

- ✓ Here from Paul and Daphne about their experience living in care with their dogs Bonny and Annie
- ✓ [Nine News Pets in Aged Care](#)

Impact of Pets in the Home

- ✓ Easier transition for the resident to care
- ✓ Less loneliness, isolation, depression
- ✓ Resident maintains independence and mobility
- ✓ Other residents benefit from regular pet interactions
- ✓ Pets are not surrendered to shelters



Strengthened Standards

- ✓ Aligns with Strengthened Standards
 - 1.1: Person-centred care
 - 1.3: Choice, independence and quality of life
 - 3.2: Delivery of care and services
 - 7.1: Daily living
- ✓ Higher Everyday Living Fee
 - Opportunity to provide specialist pet services for a fee such as visiting groomers
 - Assistance with caring for the pet when the resident can no longer – keeping them together

Learnings and Tips

- ✓ Resident must own pet prior to moving in
- ✓ Self cleaning litter boxes; Baby gates
- ✓ Cat run; pet friendly garden spaces
- ✓ Don't stress – big change for resident and pet
- ✓ Staff can cope – they have a heart
- ✓ Ask why not – don't be a glass half empty person
- ✓ Use free resources to overcome objections

Links

CAN Pet Friendly Aged Care Survey

<https://petfriendlyagedcare.com.au/surveys/>

Join the list of pet friendly providers, contact

– Trish Ennis, CEO CAN tennis@australiacan.org.au

ACIPC Resources

<https://www.acipc.org.au/resources/companion-animals-in-aged-care/>

Questions

