

Therapy Beardies

Licking Loneliness

Perfect Partners

**CH Chriscaro Call To the Piper, CD, HS
Am/Can CH Gailegend's Sweet William, Am/Can CDX**



"Patrick" gets a big hug from a special needs child.



"MacDuff"

When we moved back to Seattle, our Beardie Piper (CH Chriscaro Call To the Piper, CD, HS) was registered with the Delta Society in the late 1990's.

When we moved to Oregon he visited assisted living centers, rehabilitation hospitals, and was an active participant

in the Parents and Pals group here in Brownsville, OR. He attended all their events and read with the children at the library.

Participating in therapy work was both a rewarding activity for us and for Piper and MacDuff.

— Kay and Carl Widell



"Piper"

Ways our therapy dogs help others

Physical Therapy. Many patients will "exercise" their afflicted limbs by throwing a ball for a dog to retrieve. They'll brush or pet a dog with an arm that's been rendered almost useless by a stroke or injury, but will not move that same arm for a "human" therapist. Patients in need of walking will do so if a dog walks with them; otherwise they won't leave their wheelchairs or beds.

Mental Therapy. Patients who have been withdrawn and non-communicative will show interest in a furry friend they can hug and express love and tenderness to. Many times, people who have not responded to anyone since being institutionalized have spoken, touched, and smiled at our beardies. Why? Because they give total, unconditional love and are not judgmental.

Validation Therapy. Our beardies work as "ice-breakers" for us and help initiate conversation. A resident/patient will often start talking of the pets they have known and loved. Often, we're the only visitors some of these folks will ever have.

Check out these pet therapy websites.

www.holistic-online.com/stress/stress_pet-therapy.htm

www.tdi-dog.org

www.caringcanines.org/links.html

www.dmoz.org/Recreation/Pets/Animal_Assisted_Therapy

YouTube videos of pet therapy in action.

www.youtube.com

Search "about therapy dogs" for amazing, emotional and enlightening videos about pet therapy.

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