



#teamcariad

## Are you interested in volunteering with your dog?

How to apply to join our award winning therapy dog organisation  
Cariad Pet Therapy

January | February 2023  
[www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk](http://www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk)



GWOBRAU  
ELUSENNAU CYMRU  
WELSH CHARITY  
AWARDS

Enillydd | Winner 2022



Animal Loneliness Champion 2021



animal  
assisted  
intervention  
international

ASSOCIATE MEMBER 2022





# Mission of Cariad Pet Therapy

The mission of Cariad Pet Therapy is to play a part in the wellbeing of the community in Wales by providing long-term impactful volunteering opportunities. This will lead to a more healthy, prosperous, resilient, and equal society for present and future generations.

This is achieved by collaborating alongside public, private and third sector agencies, and involving the community and volunteers to develop its services.

Cariad Pet Therapy demonstrates a positive impact on health and wellbeing, poverty, loneliness, and equality, through its services which are:

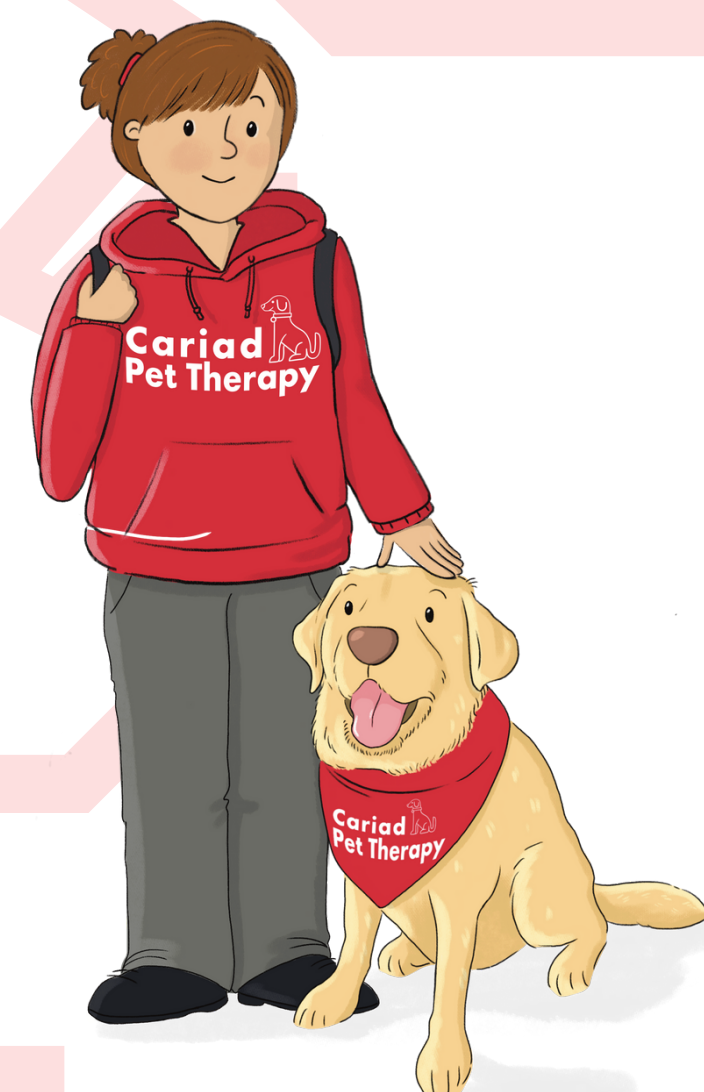
- Volunteer and therapy dog wellbeing visits and activities across Wales to healthcare, education, workplaces, outdoor health social prescribing, and in tackling loneliness in the elderly.
- Inclusive workplace volunteering opportunities for people who are long-term unemployed who are identified as having a barrier to employment, such as work limiting health conditions and/or disability, carers, or are from minority communities.
- Tackling poverty and inequality in our communities with a pet food bank and signposting service.
- Working towards a bilingual service and developing volunteering opportunities using the Welsh Language.

Cariad Pet Therapy is a Disability Confident Employer and has started working towards the Investing in Volunteer award, from October 2022.



Robert Thomas  
Quality & Development Manager

Welsh Charity Award winner 2022  
'Wellbeing in Wales'  
WCVA



# About Cariad Pet Therapy

Cariad Pet Therapy facilitates the magic connection of the human-animal bond by bringing together compassionate owners and their affiliative natured dogs with members of their local community.

This connection enables a feeling of calmness, joy, comfort, and a sense of collectiveness which can be impactful on wellbeing and long lasting.

We are passionate about animal welfare and promote a dog-first, nature over nurture ethos, with consent to be shown from the therapy dog.

Volunteers are central to our organisation, and we highly value their time, experience, and dedication to improving the lives of others whilst advocating for their dog's welfare.

We are proud to be at the forefront of developing innovative ways to support our communities. Recently we have introduced and donated 64 robotic memory pets, set up a pet food bank, and offer employability opportunities by creating a diverse workplace as a disability confident employer.

Our main stakeholders are the NHS, Amazon, private hospitals and care homes, schools, universities and colleges and referrals to combat social isolation in the elderly.

We have been recognised with the following awards:

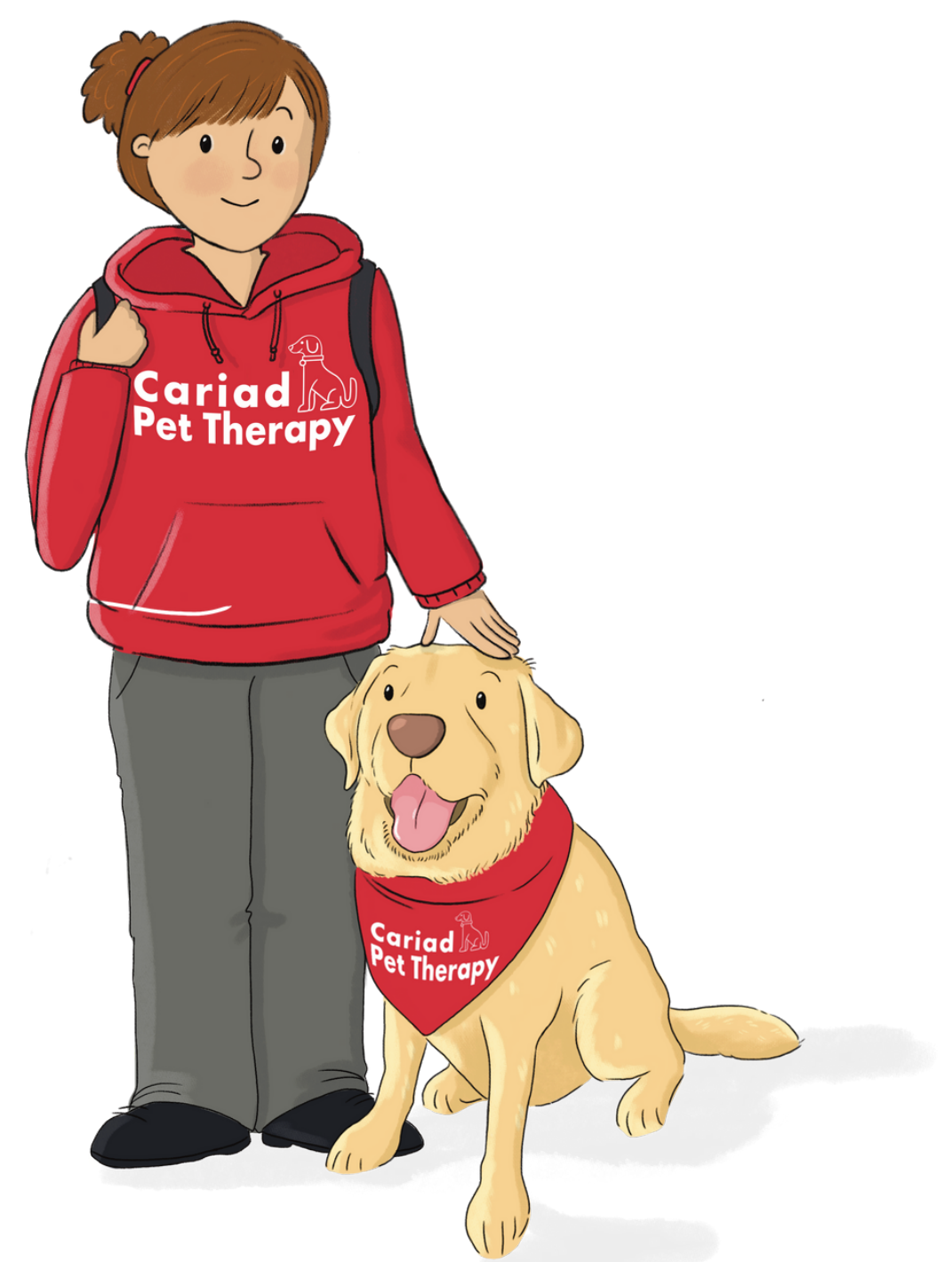
Wellbeing in Wales Award – The Welsh Charity Awards, 2022

Animal Loneliness Champion – 1 million minutes ITV GMB, 2021

Mental Health & Wellbeing Award – Health & Care Awards, 2020

Cariad Pet Therapy is a registered not-for-profit Community Interest Company established in September 2018, and we currently have over 80 therapy dog teams in the following areas:

Ceredigion  
Pembrokeshire  
Carmarthenshire  
Flintshire  
Swansea  
Bridgend  
Cardiff  
Rhonda Cynon Taff  
Newport  
Bristol  
Swindon  
Luton  
Dunfermline







# **I am interested in becoming a volunteer with my dog, what do I do next?**

Thank you for showing an interest in joining our wonderful team of therapy dogs at Cariad Pet Therapy.

This document will guide you on how to start your journey in making a difference with your dog within your local community.

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR GIVE US A CALL**

Please look at our website and if you think you and your dog are suitable, please complete the online expression of interest form on the website [www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk/volunteer](http://www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk/volunteer)

You can also call us on 01437 723628 to talk about the role, and how to apply.

**See information sheet 1: What do we look for when recruiting a therapy dog?**

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I APPLY?**

### **INVITE TO ONLINE CHAT**

After you apply via the expression of interest form on the website, you may be asked to attend a short online chat about the role where we can ask you questions about you and your dog. It is also a chance for you to ask us any questions.

We may also email you to ask further questions based on your expression of interest form before we invite you to an online chat.

The online chat can also be done over the phone or in person if you do not have access to a smart phone or pc/laptop.

### **INVITE TO THERAPY DOG ASSESSMENT DAY**

Following the online chat, you may be invited to attend a therapy dog assessment.

**See information sheet 2: What happens at a therapy dog assessment?**

**See information sheet 3: What happens next if we pass the therapy dog assessment?**



# 1 What do we look for when recruiting a therapy dog?

## ANIMAL WELFARE

We look for dogs that are understood as being sentient beings with rights and feelings, whose owner can always look through their eyes and advocate on their behalf.

## YOUR BOND

We look for dogs that have a close bond with their owner and spend quality time engaging in activities such as exploring walks, relaxing together and socialisation within the community.

## ENJOYMENT

We look for dogs that positively move forward and visibly enjoy meeting people new to them, whilst showing consideration and empathy.

## NATURE

We look for dogs that naturally engage and share the love, and don't need food prompts or training to do so, thus demonstrating their consent.

## TEMPERAMENT

We look for dogs that can walk in a relaxed manner on a lead, have good social etiquette and demonstrate paws being on the floor.

## TIME

We look for owners who are team players who have the time to give to volunteering which tends to be weekdays at a frequency that suits the volunteer, but we ask for a minimum commitment of once a month for a visit.





## What happens at a therapy dog assessment?

### HOW LONG DOES THE ASSESSMENT LAST?

You will be asked to attend a venue at a specific time. Please exercise your dog beforehand so that they have been to toilet. The therapy dog assessment will take up to 45 minutes to complete.

### WHO CAN ATTEND?

Only the person who would be taking the dog on therapy dog visits is to be with the dog, so no family members, children or partners.

### WHAT TYPE OF LEAD SHOULD I USE?

We prefer a dog to be on a fixed lead, so no extendable leads. We also prefer a dog to be attached by a neck collar, not a harness. If your dog will walk well on a harness then that is permitted. Please note that harnesses can prevent a dog from being smoothed in certain areas when on a visit.

### WHAT HAPPENS ON THE ASSESSMENT?

We simply spend time with you and your dog. We film and confidentially store the assessment as video evidence. You will be informed before you leave as to the outcome of the assessment. Please do not bring any food, toys or treats with you.

### WHO CARRIES OUT THE ASSESSMENT?

We are very friendly and relaxed in our manner and in our approach. There may be several senior staff members and directors from Cariad Pet Therapy, and on some occasions another dog. One person will take the lead with the assessment.

### WHAT WOULD BE A FAIL?

The main reasons for a fail in the assessment are the dog jumping up onto strangers, mouthing, excessive licking of hands, not happy to meet new people, not being under control, excessive pulling on a lead, growling, or visible stress signals shown in their body language. If you do not appear to bond with your dog or you are unable to converse and talk about your dog this can be a reason for a fail. If your dog goes to toilet during the assessment - this can be seen unfavourably as we expect your dog to have been exercised beforehand and this may show a lack of awareness of your dog's needs.





# What happens next if we pass the therapy dog assessment?

## **WE WILL TAKE YOUR ID PHOTOS**

We will have an opportunity to take a photo of you and one of your dog for the ID card at the end of the successful assessment.

## **WE WILL INVITE YOU ONTO OUR APP**

We use an online app for our onboarding and therapy dog procedures which can be accessed on your phone and/or your computer. This can be done with paper copies.

## **WE WILL ASK YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR ONBOARDING**

This includes:

- Completing a registration form
- Formal online training on your role and responsibilities, with quiz
- Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Enhanced DBS check
- Safeguarding Training
- Confidentiality Training
- Dementia Training
- Clothing order
- ID badge
- Providing a copy of your dogs vaccination/titre test record
- Support Structure / Communications / Surveys / Feedback

## **REGISTRATION FEE & ID**

There is a £20 registration fee payable before you receive your ID badge. This goes towards the cost of your ID and visit insurance. ID is valid for 1 year and yearly ID renewals are at no extra cost.

## **WHEN MY ONBOARDING IS COMPLETED**

You will be ready to commence visits such as within the NHS, healthcare, education and to employers. This will be in liaison with Christine Thomas, Administration Manager at Cariad Pet Therapy. Head Office number 01437 723628, email [hello@cariadpettherapy.co.uk](mailto:hello@cariadpettherapy.co.uk).



# Therapy dog assessment days

January | February 2023

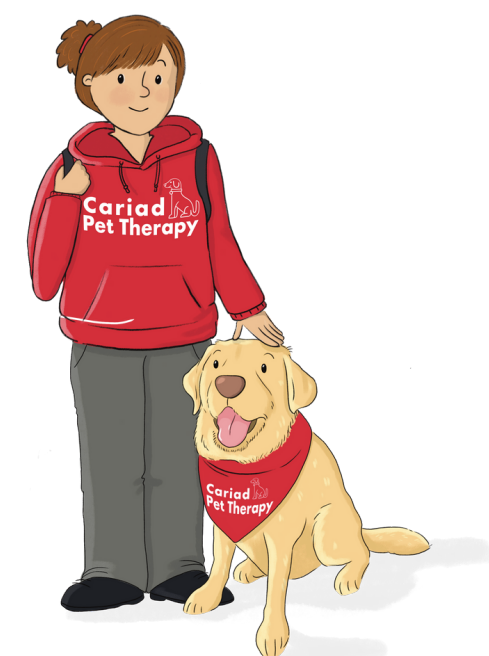
## Wrexham

Friday 3rd & 4th February  
Pentre Gwyn Community Centre

## Aberystwyth

Friday 27th January 2023  
Llanon Village Hall

Cariad  
Pet Therapy



## Whitland

Thursday 16th February  
Whitland Memorial Hall

## Swansea

Tuesday 31st January  
Pontlliw Village Hall

## Cardiff

Sunday 22nd January  
Morganstown Village Hall













## CONTACT

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website: [www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk](http://www.cariadpettherapy.co.uk)  
Company number: 11656368

