



## VISITING TEAM APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Peata Visiting Scheme aims to bring some of the many benefits and pleasures of contact with pets to the residents and staff of care settings. The Visiting Team – i.e. handler and pet - visits the unit on a regular basis as these visits are an event for residents to look forward to and share with one another afterwards

The Visiting Scheme brings enjoyment and satisfaction to both the recipients and volunteer visitors and the pets love all the extra attention and admiration. The staff in the units also appreciate the benefits the visits bring to those for whom they care.

Volunteers must be members of Peata to be covered by our insurance, and should first complete and submit the Visitor Application Form. The annual subscription is currently €20.

In accordance with the Recruitment and Selection Procedures issued by the Dept. of Health and Children that are used by the majority of Caring Units that we service, Garda clearance is required for all our volunteers. The necessary form is enclosed and should be returned with your Peata Membership and Visitor Application Forms.

Volunteer and dog, working as a team, will be expected to pass an Assessment of Suitability.

A successful volunteer will have a caring and approachable personality and be capable of carrying out their visits constructively and in a manner that is non-disruptive to the daily routine of the unit. They should be 18 years or older. References will be required and referees must not be related to the applicant.

Dogs presented for assessment should be between 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  months and 10 years old. Cleanliness and hygiene are essential. Dogs must be well groomed, fully house trained and vaccinated, wormed and free from fleas. Visiting pets are required to be friendly and outgoing, yet adequately trained and restrained to avoid causing anxiety or accidents.

The decision of the Peata Assessors takes into account all aspects of the team's suitability for the scheme and is final. No reason need be given for their decision if a team fails to meet the standard required.

Successful teams will be matched with a suitable unit that has applied for the Peata service. This can sometimes take some time to arrange for various reasons e.g. distance, time frame of volunteer or unit etc.

Peata teams are insured against third party risks, subject to payment of the annual subscription, while visiting under the Peata Visiting Scheme.