



Therapy Dog Safeguarding

Cariad Pet Therapy CIC

Visits must be mutually beneficial for the dog and the client.

The handler **MUST** be sensitive to the stress signals in their own dog, be able to recognise the signals and be prepared to withdraw **AT ANY TIME**, regardless of the expectation.

The dog **MUST** be able to be able to withdraw and remove itself from an activity and this must be permitted. Off-lead visits are to be encouraged once a dog feels comfortable in its environment.

Encouraging your dog to 'sit', 'stay', 'lay-down' when it does not wish to is not to be encouraged. Be led by the dog at all times as an overly-trained dog may not be a content one as it may rely on prompts and treats, thus not engaging with, or enjoying the activity.

Visits are to be short in duration as dogs require rest and recuperation. Factor in natural breaks when the dog dictates it wants a rest.

Volunteers have to show a natural empathy towards their dog (without anthropomorphizing), towards their clients and of general dog behaviour and are selected with this in mind.

