

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7662

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Pet therapy.

You asked:

- 1) Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?*
- 2) If your Trust has used such services how have they been provided to the Trust i.e. Voluntary or funded by the Trust and has this remained the same or changed between voluntary and funded?*
- 3) What do you estimate the cost to be to the Trust of using animal assisted therapy by year for the last 5 years (if applicable?)*
- 4) Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?*
- 5) What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?*
- 6) What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?*

Trust response:

- 1) Yes, used the Pets as therapy
- 2) Voluntary
- 3) Not applicable
- 4) Voluntary Services Department, under the advice of Infection control
- 5) All Pets as Therapy Animal owners need to go through full recruiting process to become a Trust Volunteer this includes enhanced DBS check, occupational health and mandatory training. The Pet must be registered with the Pets as Therapy organisation and have the associated paperwork, in accordance with Pets as Therapy Establishment Guidelines and Trust policy and procedure for the Management of Animal Visitors.
Currently we have only utilised the service of Dogs and their owners.

6) All Pets as Therapy owner need to go through full recruiting process to become a Trust Volunteer this includes enhanced DBS check, The Pet must be registered with the Pets as Therapy organisation and have the associated paperwork including the temperance assessment, in accordance with Pets as Therapy Establishment Guidelines and Trust policy and procedure for the Management of Animal Visitors. Currently we have only utilised the service of Dogs and their owners.