

Canine Partners visit Wilton Campus

On the 3rd of May 2018 we had a visit by Liz Downs from the Canine Partners to give an outline of the work of the Charity. Most of us will have heard of the Guide Dogs for the Blind helping blind or partially sighted people to find their way around, in a similar way, the Canine Partners train and supply dogs to help people who are considerably disabled; to do tasks that the people are unable to do themselves. In this way, the people are able to live with considerably more independence than they would otherwise be able to.

The kind of tasks that the dogs are capable of doing, are very varied - a few examples were outlined:

1. A young woman with 2 children who had broken her neck is helped to get undressed and get ready for bed; otherwise she is dependent on a carer coming to provide the needed help.
2. A lady confined to a wheelchair is now able to trust her dog to carry a bag with a note inside, up some steps into a butchers shop and wait in the queue, and be served with the meat and return it to the lady.
3. Pick up items that have been dropped and enable people to go out on their own who otherwise would be housebound.

The puppies, at 8 weeks old, are placed with a trainer until they are between 12 and 14 months old at which point they then go for advanced training and are paired with a disabled person. They remain as a help for around 12 years. The total cost of training and upkeep totals £20,000 for which there is no government funding.

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