

**"A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed."**

**Proverbs 15: 13**



# **PET VISITS**



**"DOGS MAKE A HAPPY HEART"**

## **ACTIVITY: Pet Visits**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

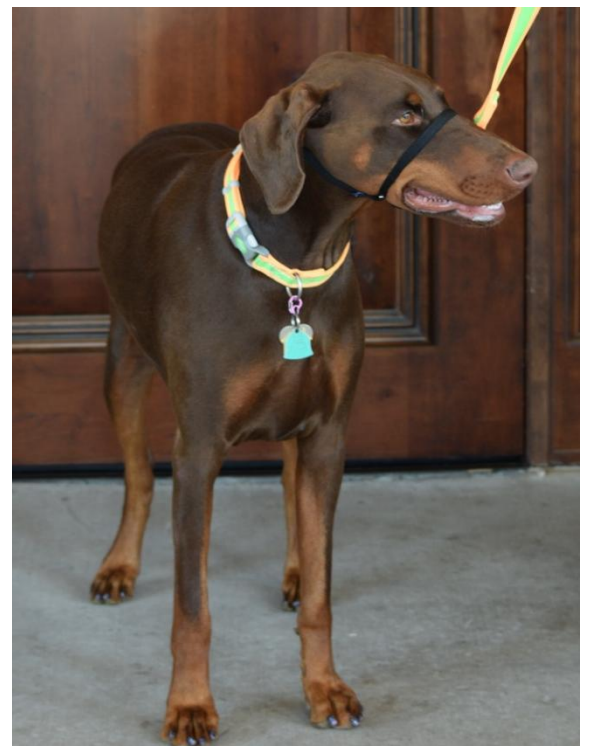
**\*\* Dogs--** (Organizations that offer pet therapy often come to the nursing homes free of charge simply as a charitable endeavor or out of the need to allow their dogs to be around people for training purposes.) Community members love the opportunity to share their dogs with residents; including an added benefit of performing tricks. Some pets are so specialized that they are trained to visit bedridden patients.

**Directions:** Pet Visiting is an activity that can be offered inside or outside; depending on the season. If organized outside, it offers the added feature of allowing the residents to enjoy some fresh air simultaneously.

**Goal:** Even as far back as 1859, Florence Nightingale wrote that a small pet "is often excellent for the sick and for long chronic cases especially." In addition, numerous studies have been conducted that show positive results regarding the impact of pet therapy on the emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing of institutionalized elderly people.

Since many residents have experienced the joy of pet ownership, it not only allows a chance to share precious memories, but also offers an opportunity for them to ask the owner questions about those in attendance; thus promoting exercise for the brain.

*Precious K 9s* brought out a Great Dane, Doberman, and two small dogs to this residential care facility just so they could get accustomed to being around people. As you enjoy the reactions on the next page, please bear in mind that, not only the handlers were in charge of the animals, **but the two activity directors were right in the middle of the activity talking to the resident/s about the animals in order to promote engagement.**



# 💕💕 "Best Friends Forever" 💕💕



This gentle man held the little puppy throughout the pet therapy session. The two became one!



*Faces of love!*



**Resident works as a team with trainer as they get this little dog to settle down a bit. There is nothing like being able to contribute.**



**TREATS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR!**

***"I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE! WHERE  
HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?"***



**"ASK ME NO QUESTIONS & I'LL TELL YOU NO LIES!"**





# OLIVE

*Meet Olive owned by Erinn and Doug Johnson, Pet Therapy of The Ozarks, that goes from room to room to visit with residents. Her sweet personality draws them like a magnet. They get to interact with her on a personal level.*

*Then, when the visit has concluded, she says her prayers and departs gracefully!*



# WALTER ARRIVES!



*Walter, Olive's brother just passed mustard and was allowed for the first time to visit residents in the health care facility. His personality is one of loving life to the fullest and wanting to get acquainted with everyone he meets. After meeting Wilma for the first time, he loved being invited to rest on her bed and behold her face. By the way, a kiss was part of the interaction.*

*Did his sister, Olive, feel left out? Absolutely not! Since her personality is quiet and reserved, she was thrilled for her brother to take over the "contact" part of the visitation. What a team! Their behavior served as a reflection of all God's creatures great and small, including mankind. How uniquely we have been made!*