

2016

Disability Service



happy paws
happy hearts



Happy Paws Happy Hearts

Postal address: PO Box 73, Stones Corner, QLD 4120

Entity type: Registered charity, advancing social or public welfare and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI)

Legal structure / ABN: 53 604 090 271

Website: www.hphhfoundation.org

Contact Details

Name: Ms Zoe Black

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 0428 208 061

Email: zoe@hphhfoundation.org

Location: 139 Wacol Station Road, Wacol QLD 4076





Happy Paws Happy Hearts in a snapshot.

We provide positive interactions for socially isolated Australians and rescue animals.

The people involved feel a renewed sense of purpose and their self-confidence grows with each session whilst simultaneously the animals receive training and socialisation to improve their chances of adoption.

HPHH Disability Service

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Happy Paws Happy Hearts?

Happy Paws Happy Hearts is a “unique person-centered approach” to animal assisted therapy with precise therapeutic objectives. People with a disability have the opportunity to interact with a suitable animal waiting for adoption at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Queensland shelter. The focus of our service is to support people with a disability and their families to meet their individual goals and potential in a controlled environment with clear and measurable outcomes.

The other benefit of this innovative service is that animals waiting for adoption at the RSPCA QLD shelters have a wonderful opportunity to experience positive people interactions.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts ultimate goal is to offer a high quality of service to people with a disability and to make long lasting positive social interactions between people and animals.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts team

We have a range of highly skilled volunteers and staff facilitating our therapy sessions. The majority of volunteers are psychology and social work third year students from the University of Queensland. Our group facilitators have years of experience working with people with a disability and delivering service aimed at supporting people with a disability to achieve their potential.

What are the benefits for people with a disability and animal assisted therapy?

Our service offers a unique way of building individual capacity so that participants can learn skills that are transferrable, practical and enduring.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts offers skill development in these five categories:

- 1/ Social skills and interactions – the service offers an opportunity for participants to come together and develop natural friendships with other peers and community members that have a similar interest in animal welfare
- 2/ Fine and gross motor skills – participants are taught how to handle and tend to the animals using a caring and nurturing approach
- 3/ Everyday life skills – participants are given the opportunity to learn and practice skills in paying attention, following instructions and modeling tasks
- 4/ Communication and language skills – participants will be involved in practical communication opportunities and encouraged to expand existing methods of communication to meet the demands of everyday life
- 5/ Responsibility and good citizenship skills – participants learn to contribute to their community by caring for animals in need, being part of a team and participating in community activities

Our service is exceptional in that participants are encouraged to contribute to the welfare of the community by caring and handling animals in need of companionship and in turn learning characteristics of good citizenship such as: compassion, affection, kindness, respect and sensitivity.

HPHH Disability Service

Who are our Target groups?

Happy Paws Happy Hearts is accessible to any person with a disability with a genuine interest and appreciation for animals. If you have any questions regarding our service you can visit our website or contact us via hello@hphhfoundation.org

How does our therapy service work?

We offer group sessions weekdays from 9 am to 3 pm. Participants can join either the three hour or six hour group sessions once a week over a 12-week period. Check our website for updated information on availability and service schedule.

Our service combines animal interactions and animal welfare education (including dogs, kittens, farm animals and wildlife) with purposeful activities and exercises that contribute to achieving a person's goals and aspirations.

All animals selected for the service have undergone a behavioral assessment to determine suitability. Our preference for group sessions is to give participants the opportunity to make natural friendships, learn from each other and learn good relationship skills imperative everyday life.

Before commencing the service, we will meet with each person to determine if animal therapy is appropriate and to discuss the individual's needs and goals. At the end of the 12-weeks we invite the participants and their family to review the participant's achievements and to evaluate effectiveness of the service.

To be considered for Happy Paws Happy Hearts each person must complete an enrolment form and send it back to the team either via email or mail (contact details below). The information will help us determine if our service is suitable to your situation and needs; and appropriate to supporting you meet your goals.

Enrolment form can be submitted online at: www.hphhfoundation.org

Please note: Submission of an enrolment form does not guarantee or secure participation in Happy Paws Happy Hearts as further discussion will need to occur with relevant individuals.

After receiving the enrolment form, a member of Happy Paws Happy Hearts will contact you to discuss your expectations, requirements and answer any questions.



How much does the service cost?

We believe every person should have access to our program and exposure to the benefits of interacting with animals. As such we offer a range of options depending on each person's circumstances and specific support needs. Please refer to our website for updated information on our fees or contact us to discuss your circumstances.

Groups with own support worker/carers can also access our service, please contact us to discuss if this is applicable to you.

The funds raised will go towards ensuring the

continuation of the service and guarantee a high quality of service delivery to our participants.

Where is the service located?

Happy Paws Happy Hearts operates from the RSPCA Brisbane Animal Care Campus in Wacol Queensland. Our facilities are air-conditioned and wheelchair accessible. Participants and guests can take advantage of our onsite café or walk through our adoptions area to see other pets waiting to be adopted.

just some of our...



happy smiles

