

# **Social Impact Report 2025 - 2026**



**Therapy Dog Services  
Assistance Dog Training  
General Obedience Training  
North-East Scotland**

**SC054252**

## **Deveron Way Care Home, Huntly**

*Each weekly Therapy Dog visit brings so much joy and fun for our Residents. Canine and Able volunteers are friendly, professional, and very respectful - it feels as though they have always been a part of our Home!*

*They are very knowledgeable about dogs and training, and this is evidenced by how well behaved and calm their Therapy dogs are with our Residents. We would recommend their services to anyone!*



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## Message From Our Chair

Canine and Able achieved charitable status in May 2025, but has been running since January 2025. What a (positive) whirl-wind of a first year we've had!

The numbers in this report illustrate how busy we've been, however, I don't think any of us anticipated the amount of demand that lay hidden within our local communities - especially for Therapy Dog sessions.

The board of trustees and our pool of volunteers, continue to meet this challenge head on - by rapidly developing the charity to keep pace with demand. Like any organisation in the first few years of operation - there is still a mountain of work to do - but we are confident we can create a successful project with longevity.

We are delighted by the amount of support we have received so far from funders, partners, clients, and the community. It's heart-warming to think how many new friends we've made in such a short space of time - the participants in our sessions, their staff/carers, and of course the very special four-legged ones!

We are looking forward to a bright future and also look forward to our dogs creating many more smiles over the years ahead.



## About Us



**Canine and Able** aims to improve the mental wellbeing of the elderly, people with an illness or disability, young people struggling with education, or those dealing with stress in the workplace by providing Therapy Dog sessions within the North East of Scotland.

We also aim to raise public awareness of the benefits and laws surrounding Assistance dogs and specialise in helping owners and their Trainee-Assistance dogs pass a recognised certification for Public Access.



# Our Services

## Services

## Details

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### Therapy Dog Sessions

Sessions for nurseries, schools, hospitals, care homes, workplaces, community groups  
Therapy dogs are able to provide many benefits, improving physical and mental health across a wide spectrum of the community.

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### Assistance Dog Training

Confidence and behavioural training for Assistance dogs (and their humans) in public places and on public transport to the required standard set by the Assistance Dog Assessment Association (ADAA).

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### General Dog Training

Our affordable social-enterprise activity to help fund our therapy sessions. Puppy confidence, obedience, heelwork, recall, socialisation, and more.

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### Other Services

Educational talks regarding the roles of Therapy dogs and Assistance dogs and the Laws surrounding access rights.



# The Year in Numbers...



## ***Therapy Dog Sessions***

**for Care Homes, Hospitals & Nurseries**



## ***Dog Contact Hours***

**with participants**



## ***Assistance Dog Training Sessions***



## ***General Obedience Training Sessions***



**8 Regular Care Homes**



**4 Nurseries**



**2 Regular Hospitals**

# The Year in Numbers...

1 Qualified Assistance Dog with 3 in training.

7 Therapy dogs working regularly (3 in training)

39 Sessions training our Therapy dogs.

12 Regular volunteers.



**Funding for training our  
volunteers in Human, Mental  
Health , and Animal 1st Aid**



**Koehler**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Funding for volunteer  
and Therapy Dog  
uniforms**



## Our Impact in Words



Glenisla Care Home

January 28 at 5:33 PM · 🌐

What a lovely wholesome day we've had here at Glenisla 😊

We loved pup cuddles from Ember & Tinkerbelle this morning! They sure do bring joy, happiness & remind us of cherished pet memories 🐾❤️

I am an activity coordinator at a Morayshire care home. I struggled to find a company that would adapt pet therapy into our routines until I came across Canine & Able. The team all provide an exceptional & professional service. They make our residents feel at ease with them and the dogs.



Another visit from the amazing team at Canine and Able to our [Flexible Childcare Services Keith](#) setting.

Therapy dog visits create a calm, nurturing environment that helps children build confidence, develop empathy, and strengthen communication skills. For shy or anxious children, the presence of a therapy dog can provide safety and reduce stress, promoting a sense of belonging.

These connections with our local community are so valuable, a huge thank you to the team and of course Minnie, Tinker and Jess!

My confidence that I would be able to manage my boisterous 18 month old rehomed dog was at rock bottom. But thanks to Canine and Able we are making great progress and my relationship with my dog has improved massively.

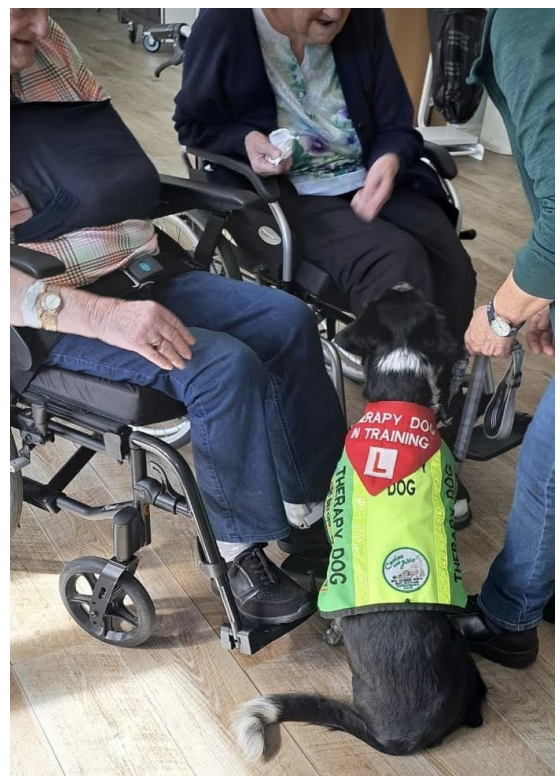


## Case Study



Feedback from one of the cottage hospitals we visit weekly, was that our presence had the following benefits:

- 1) Patients were uplifted by our visits.
- 2) Staff morale was higher.
- 3) Patients often mobilised more - getting up out of bed through to the day room to interact with our dogs.
- 4) Bed-bound patients found much comfort from stroking/cuddling the dogs.
- 5) Patients with infrequent visitors (from family/friends) - enjoyed interactions with our volunteers as well as the dogs, and felt less lonely/isolated as a result.
- 6) Transitions from cottage hospital to care home were less daunting as the patients knew they would see familiar faces and could look forward to our visits there too.



## Looking to the Future



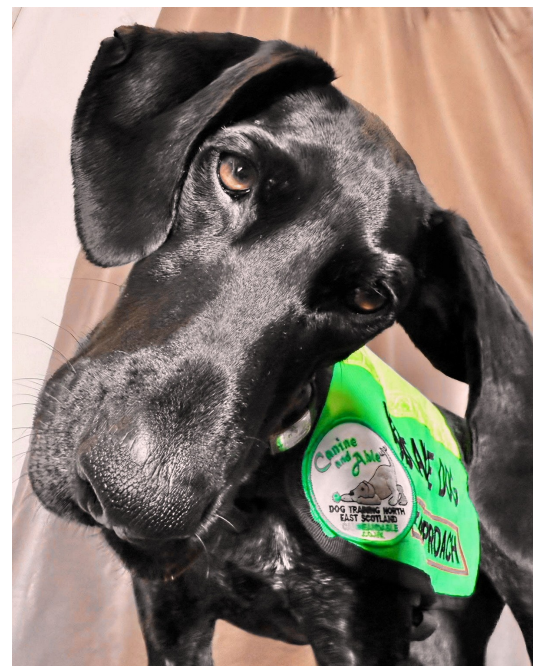
Like any new organisation, it takes time to develop a client base, our services, and a reputation for the benefits we bring.

This year, we have carried out customer surveys to shape our services and how we offer them. Reviews have been very positive and through recommendations (particularly through the care home industry), we have greatly increased our number of clients.

We are now averaging 5-7 Therapy Dog sessions a week, and with frequent new enquiries, the projection is that we will at the very least, double the figures we achieved in our first year.

The development of our website and social media presence, is also helping to raise our profile for all our services, including our social enterprise activities (which helps to self-fund the project).

Our key focus for the next two years, is to develop our volunteer pool, and the skills of the people and dogs within it.





**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
SUPPORTERS, FUNDERS,  
VOLUNTEERS, & OUR  
WONDERFUL DOGS!**

