



Wonder dog Wolfie brings joy

By Gail Norcliffe

Five-year-old German Shepherd Wolfie knows when he's needed. A certified therapy dog, Wolfie and his owner Sarah Michaels are regular visitors to Hammerson House care home in The Bishops Avenue, N2. Former concert pianist Sarah plays recitals for residents while Wolfie specialises in providing emotional support to those who need it most.

Sarah says: "Wolfie has a real gift for sensing who needs him most. I've seen him rest his head on someone's knee, and within minutes they're smiling or opening up in a way they haven't in weeks. He brings people back to themselves. It's incredibly moving."

Intensive training

Winner for three years of the Primrose Hill Dog Show's most handsome male dog, beautiful Wolfie has the most lovely of natures. He has a tremendous rapport with Sarah and never strays far from her side.

Training for Wolfie's therapy role included an advanced obedience course, requiring a daily hour of intensive work with a trainer for three months. Having successfully completed this training, Wolfie progressed to achieving certification by the charity Canine Concern which supports therapy dog visits across the UK.

Therapy dogs like Wolfie have been proven to help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and can improve communication in people with cognitive or emotional challenges, such as those with dementia. Wolfie's temperament makes him perfect for this work. Sarah is also looking into how he might be able to help support children with special needs.

Music lover

Music has played an important



Perfect partnership: Therapy dog Wolfie with owner Sarah Michaels provide emotional support in carehomes.

Photos Mike Coles

role in Sarah's life, so much so that she named Wolfie after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Classical music is known to have a calming effect on dogs and Wolfie is no exception,

having been soothed by music since puppyhood, with his bed kept under Sarah's grand piano.

Sarah comments: "From the time he was just eight weeks old, Wolfie has been surrounded by

classical music and his sensitivity to music is striking."

During Sarah's piano recitals at Hammerson House, Wolfie will sit calmly in the audience with Sarah's husband. However,

when his favourite piece Cinema Paradiso is played, Wolfie makes a point of going to Sarah and resting his head on her knee, much to the delight of everyone.

During their therapy visits, Wolfie performs a few entertaining tricks and spends time greeting and supporting those who welcome him. A particular friend is a resident of 106 who speaks to him in German. Wolfie's presence in the care home eases anxiety, sparks memories and brings moments of joy.

Sun shines on care home

Residents and guests enjoyed an afternoon of classic fair games when Hammerson House care home in The Bishops Avenue, N2, held its summer fair. The sun shone on the event, which also featured an extensive raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, and music from eight-piece Simply Grey.

Are You a Qualified Lawyer Looking to Move Jobs? or an owner of a Law Firm looking to hire ?

We specialise in moving Senior Lawyers (Partners, Of Counsel, Legal Directors) within Private Practice and regularly work with some of the largest and most prestigious Law Firms in the country assisting in their hiring needs.

If you (or anyone you know) are job-hunting, hiring or simply interested to hear what is going on within your practice area, our experienced recruiters operate and deliver results with discretion, precision and speed.

Get in touch on 0203 930 1003 or
info@segalplacements.com