

Feline fun found at Wearne House

A new 'purr-fect' addition to Amana Living's Wearne House family in Mandurah has put a smile on the face of many residents.

Meg the kitten has proved a huge hit with residents as well as the organisation's care staff, who are united in their view that the benefits of pet therapy in aged care facilities are numerous.

"We have had a number of dogs visit Wearne House before, but having a cat come to visit regularly is a new thing for us and I have to say that Meg has slotted in perfectly," says Sharon Maitland, Care Manager at Wearne House.

"Meg was actually bought for me by my husband so she is officially my cat. But although I am responsible for feeding and caring for her, she will come to work with me every day to enable the residents to reap the rewards of her company and of having a regular pet in their lives."

According to Ms Maitland, Meg has already singled out many of Wearne House's cat loving residents – and has succeeded in putting a smile on many of their faces.

"The effect she has had on a number of our residents has been amazing; many of them look forward to spending time playing with her and also relaxing with her while she sleeps on their lap."

"The effects and benefits of pet therapy on the elderly are well documented, yet witnessing it first hand is actually quite remarkable," adds Ms Maitland.

It has been agreed that Meg will travel to work with Sharon during the working week to maximise the time she spends with residents. Her standard clocking on times will be much the same as Sharon's, the only difference being that her 'working' day will involve more than the occasional cat-nap.

Amana Living operates 17 retirement villages, 10 hostels, five nursing homes and three day clubs throughout Western Australia. It provides specialised care for residents with dementia and their families, as well as a wide range of community services to people living in their own homes.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Note to editors:

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