

VISITING OLDER DOG LOVERS AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL OR IN CARE



**Wag
& Co.**

North East
Friendship Dogs

Across the North East
www.wagandcompany.co.uk

#endloneliness #wearewag

“Referring to Wag and Company is a great way for older people who can no longer care for a dog of their own to have contact with a dog and friendship with its owner.

Staying well and recovering from illness is more than just tablets and treatment, it's about having quality and frequent interactions with other humans and pets.”

Julie Leddy, Support Planner, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



About Us

Wag and Company enables professionally assessed volunteers and their special dogs to safely visit older dog lovers across the North East of England. We are currently the only visiting dog charity to visit people in their own homes as well as in Care and Medical Establishments.

Asking us to Visit

Home visits must be on referral from a professional organisation involved with social care, for instance Adult Social Services, the British Red Cross or the NHS. They make the referral online (www.wagandcompany.co.uk/ask-us-to-visit/at-home/) and accompany the Visiting Wag Team at the first visit.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Support Planners refer in Northumberland - **01670 536400**.

Many Care and Medical Establishments also ask us to visit (www.wagandcompany.co.uk/ask-us-to-visit/Care-or-medical-establishments/)

Home Visiting

- Is for dog lovers over 65, who can't have a dog of their own any more and who miss that contact
- We never charge for our service in case those most in need miss out
- We rely on donations so if you value our service and can afford to contribute, please help
- We're a Visiting Charity so no one should expect walks or outings. These are sometimes possible after clearing Wag risk assessments.

Visiting Wag Teams

“I'm so proud of my dog, she is really very special and I get to share her. I have a lovely new friend too and I really enjoy it.”

Stephanie and Nala

“They are like family to us now, we love to visit them as much as they enjoy seeing us.”

Rachel and Ballet

“It's wonderful seeing the joy that Eddie brings to Sheila. We lost my mum 8 years ago and Sheila reminds me of her so it brings me great comfort too.”

Diane and Eddie

“It's a lovely way to spend a couple of hours, we have a good chat, Jack runs to the house, he loves seeing Kitty. It really is a privilege to be welcomed into someone's home.”

Tracey and Jack

Why it Matters

“Wag & Company visits bring so much pleasure to an older dog lover. It is heart-warming to see the pleasure on their faces when you accompany the dog and the volunteer on their first visit.”

Yvonne Shanley, Befriending Manager, Age UK

“My background is secondary care, tablets, machines, doctors, treatment plans, data. All very important to staying well and reducing frailty and vulnerability. But the work that Wag is doing is just as important because when people are lonely and isolated it is next to impossible to stay well.”

David Dawson, Older Person's Specialist at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

“Everyone's safety is of paramount importance to us. Visiting Wag Teams all have Enhanced DBS checks including the Adults' Barred list, references, face to face induction sessions and dogs are assessed by a small list of highly qualified animal trainers and behaviouralists. We all operate to professional standards of safeguarding, health and wellbeing, specifically created by and for Wag & Company.

First visits are always accompanied and routine reporting and monitoring protocols are in place.

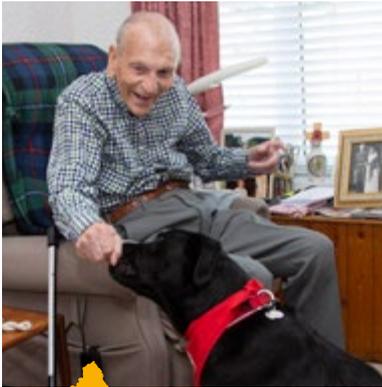
There's quite a lot to it but the most important thing is pretty straightforward, a chat and a cuddle with a lovely dog for our elderly friends, a couple of hours every week or fortnight!”

Diane Morton, Director, Wag & Company



EVERY DAY WE SEE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OUR VISITS HAVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Sheila lives in a small village outside Durham, she lost her husband 3 years ago, her only daughter lives in Wales, her health prevents her from getting out alone and she didn't feel able to have another dog of her own after her spaniel Toby died. Visiting Wag Team and best friends, Diane and Eddie the rescue lurcher, have been visiting Sheila for over 2 years on referral from Age UK. Sheila says: "I don't see many people and I really look forward to seeing Diane and Eddie each week, they brighten up my life. Diane probably does much more for me than she should and they have both made such a difference to me; it's honestly appreciated so much."



John lives in Cramlington, two years ago he lost his wife of 64 years Nora and also his 20 year old border terrier, Mick. John said when he looked around him at four walls he thought his life was 'empty'. In March 2018 Visiting Wag Team, Sean and Alfie the labrador started visiting John on referral from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; John told us:- "At the beginning of the year I had nothing and now I have a wonderful relationship with these lovely friends and my life has completely changed. I do get lonely living on my own and I couldn't manage to have a dog of my own now. This is the best of both worlds, It's fantastic, like winning the Pools!"

Jean lives in Newcastle and was the first person to benefit from a home visit from a Visiting Wag Team in 2016 on referral from Age UK. She has always had dogs but it isn't possible to have one now and she really misses that. Initially she wanted a small dog to visit but as you can see she has fallen for a Rottweiler called Nala! Jean says: "I really look forward to seeing them both every week for a chat and a cuddle with my dog Nala."

