Purina-Sponsored Research Shows Benefits of Therapy Dogs for Patients in a Mental Health Crisis

A study by researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, funded by Purina, shows the value of therapy dogs to provide emotional support to hard-to-reach patients with severe mental illness. In this qualitative study, therapy dogs offered support to patients, helping to put them at ease to participate in research about their treatment and care.





The results of this study suggest that certified therapy dogs can be used effectively to engage hard-to-reach patients in research about their treatment and care. Therapy dogs increased patients' motivation, helped them build rapport and create connections. This is the first study to show the value of using certified therapy dogs as a participatory research tool in a health setting.

camh
mental health is health

Researchers: Sikstrom L, Meyer T, Katz E, Man-Man C, Darragh M, Cutler-Palma A, Conforti T, Kalocsai C, Soklaridis S.

Click here to read the research study published in *PLOS ONE*.

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