

Therapy Dog Visits in a Burn Unit: The Positive Effects on Patients and Staff



CONCLUSION

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

A DOG THERAPY PROGRAM IS ONE EXAMPLE OF COMPLIMENTARY INTERVENTIONS TO HELP HOSPITALIZED BURN PATIENTS COPE, WHILE HELPING NURSES TO FOCUS ON THEIR PATIENTS IN A UNIQUE AND INTERACTIVE WAY.

Hospitalized burn patients encounter multiple stressors including pain, lack of sleep, concerns about outcomes, and an unfamiliar environment that can impact

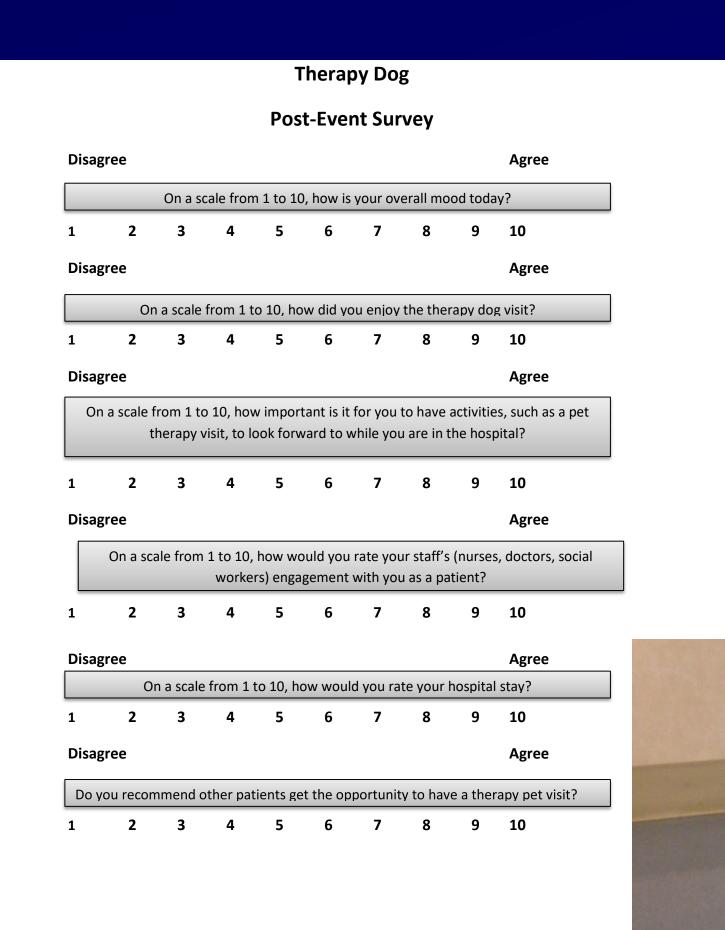


- All staff reported positive interactions with the dog therapy and an improvement in their mood.
- All patients answered that they enjoyed the therapy dog visit with 13/15 indicating an improvement in their mood.
- All participants believed it is important to have activities such as dog therapy during hospitalizations with 32/39 rating the importance at 10/10.
- All participants recommended other patients and staff have the opportunity to have a therapy dog visit.

their experience, well-being, and recovery.

DATA SOURCE/POPULATION

- A therapy dog visitation protocol was developed which included literature supporting therapy dog visits and patient exclusion criteria.
- Post-visit surveys were recorded for both patients and staff.
- 15 patients and 24 staff members





completed the survey.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The dog therapy program allowed for positive interactions for both nurses and patients and improved patients' mood.
- Through this connection, nurses were able to help patients' recovery in a way that is different from the



more traditional approach, which may also improve staff morale.

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