



## School Visits and Animal Centre Tours

SPCA Otago visits preschools, primary schools and high schools to give presentations on a diverse range of SPCA and animal welfare topics. SPCA animals are often brought along to meet the students, to highlight the work we do and the lives we save. Groups can also visit our Animal Centre for a tour of our facilities and first-hand experience of the work we carry out on a daily basis.

## SPCA Dog Squad

Our team of dedicated volunteers and their friendly dogs often visit local rest homes and hospitals to offer pet therapy. This is gratefully received by the residents, patients and staff who experience great joy at these special visits. It can provide a welcome escape from any trauma or discomfort they may be experiencing.

## Puppy Time

In collaboration with OUSA – Otago University Students' Association – we offer puppy-cuddling opportunities to university students during exam time. This provides some light relief to students during a stressful time as well as an opportunity for our staff to answer questions and promote the work of SPCA Otago.

## Classroom feedback from SPCA Otago's Education Programme:



*It was a very informative session. I learnt a lot more than I knew and I think more people should be aware of what hard and good work the SPCA does.*

*I found the SPCA talk really interesting, it gave me an insight on what really happens to all these animals. Since then our family have decided to adopt a new family member (a cat) from the SPCA. I found it really informative and would love to hear more. The talk has also made me decide to volunteer.*

*The visit was really good because it showed what the SPCA actually does. When I thought of the SPCA I always just thought that it was about dogs that weren't wanted, I didn't know they actually saved animals.*



## Ask us about:

- Education resources
- Birthday parties
- Group presentations
- Dog safety talks
- One-on-one sessions
- Fundraising ideas for schools and community groups
- SPCA Otago Junior Membership Fun Days



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# Live and learn

Educating people of all ages about animals



## Empathy Education

SPCA Otago has been dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals since 1882. Education plays a key role in cruelty prevention. Our education programme strives to create awareness in our community to ensure that people take a caring attitude towards animals and people. We endeavour to teach empathy towards animals and by doing so we believe we play a part in teaching overall community values such as kindness and compassion to everyone; this is one of the SPCA's most important objectives.

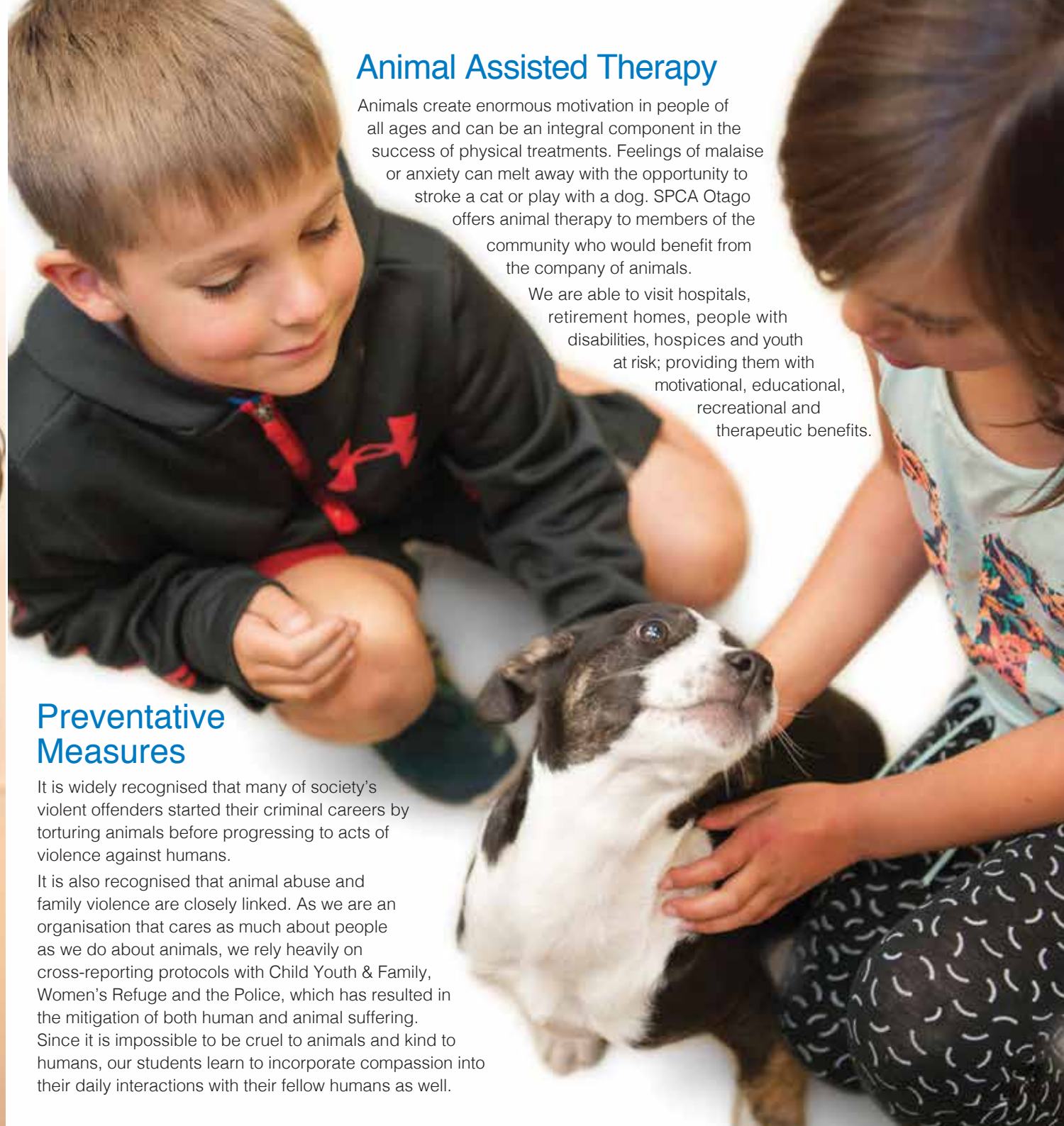
Our Empathy Education programmes have been well received throughout the Otago region, with children and adults alike describing the message as informative and thought provoking.



## Animal Assisted Therapy

Animals create enormous motivation in people of all ages and can be an integral component in the success of physical treatments. Feelings of malaise or anxiety can melt away with the opportunity to stroke a cat or play with a dog. SPCA Otago offers animal therapy to members of the community who would benefit from the company of animals.

We are able to visit hospitals, retirement homes, people with disabilities, hospices and youth at risk; providing them with motivational, educational, recreational and therapeutic benefits.



## Preventative Measures

It is widely recognised that many of society's violent offenders started their criminal careers by torturing animals before progressing to acts of violence against humans.

It is also recognised that animal abuse and family violence are closely linked. As we are an organisation that cares as much about people as we do about animals, we rely heavily on cross-reporting protocols with Child Youth & Family, Women's Refuge and the Police, which has resulted in the mitigation of both human and animal suffering. Since it is impossible to be cruel to animals and kind to humans, our students learn to incorporate compassion into their daily interactions with their fellow humans as well.