

17 May 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/03264

Thank you for your request concerning Animal Assisted Therapy.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**1. Do you use any form of Animal-assisted Therapy (AAT) within your Mental Health Trust?**

Yes predominately in our Older People Services.

**2. Is the AAT used primarily for patients with: (please tick the relevant box)**

<i>Depression</i>	√
<i>Anxiety</i>	√
<i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>	
<i>Dementia</i>	√
<i>Other</i>	

**3. How many instances has AAT been used for each of the above in the last 5 years?**

We do not hold this information<sup>1</sup>. We do not record the exact instances or have any record of when we started using AAT. The right of access created by the Freedom of Information Act only applies to recorded information.

However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act we are able to inform you of the AAT we do use and the current frequency. We believe we may have been using AAT since approximately 2015/16 but as stated above this is not recorded information.

- Dog Therapy - once weekly
- Rabbit Therapy - once monthly
- Bird Watching – daily on the bird feeders

<sup>1</sup> Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

**4. Do you have a standard operating procedure or protocol in place for AAT? If so, please provide a copy of this.**

Please see attached our Animals in Healthcare Premises Guidelines.

**5. How much money is spent each year on AAT within your Mental Health Trust?**

There is minimal spend on AAT; we cannot confirm an exact amount as we do not hold this information in a reportable format<sup>1</sup>.

**6. Has the Trust published any evaluation reports on the effectiveness of AAT? If so, please could you provide a copy.**

No we have not.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith  
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

