

PAWS'n'Hooves – Facility Information & Application

Thank you for your interest in the PAWS'n'Hooves Program, a program delivered by PAWS Pet Therapy, offering safe, structured pet therapy visits using specially selected and trained ponies.

About PAWS'n'Hooves

PAWS'n'Hooves brings the unique benefits of pet therapy directly to facilities, providing meaningful interactions that support emotional wellbeing, connection, and engagement.

All PAWS'n'Hooves teams consist of:

- A trained PAWS Pet Therapy volunteer handler who has met all PAWS requirements (including Police Check, WWCC, and full training)
- A carefully assessed pony, tested for health, temperament, and suitability for therapy environments

Our program is delivered with a strong focus on safety, hygiene, and positive experiences for all involved.

The Unique Nature of Horses

Horses and ponies are incredibly intuitive animals and are known to mirror human emotions and energy. They respond honestly and immediately to how a person is feeling, which can help individuals become more aware of their own emotions in a gentle, non-judgemental way.

This natural feedback can:

- 🐾 Encourage emotional awareness and self-regulation
- 🐾 Help people feel calmer and more grounded
- 🐾 Build confidence and trust
- 🐾 Create a strong sense of connection and presence in the moment

For many people, simply standing quietly with a pony, stroking them, or observing their calm behaviour can be a powerful and reassuring experience. Ponies often evoke a sense of curiosity and wonder, making them especially impactful for children, aged care residents, and individuals with additional needs.

Visit Overview

- Visits are typically 60–90 minutes
- All interactions are fully supervised by the handler
- Ponies remain under the handler's control at all times
- Sessions can be tailored to suit your clients (e.g. group visits, individual interactions, special events)

How does PAWS'n'Tales differ from Equine Therapy?

PAWS'n'Hooves and equine therapy both recognise the powerful connection that can develop between people and horses, but they serve different purposes.

PAWS'n'Hooves provides supportive pet therapy visits focused on companionship, comfort, engagement and general wellbeing. Visits are delivered by trained volunteers who have demonstrated safe and competent horse-handling skills and met PAWS Pet Therapy's standards. Participants may enjoy patting, grooming, observing, reading to or simply spending quiet time with a horse or pony.

Equine therapy is a structured therapeutic intervention delivered within the professional scope of an appropriately qualified practitioner. It usually works towards identified clinical, psychological, physical or developmental goals.

Both approaches offer valuable opportunities for connection and growth. PAWS'n'Hooves complements professional services by providing a welcoming, non-clinical experience that encourages confidence, inclusion, calm and joy through meaningful interaction with horses and ponies.

Facility Requirements

To ensure safe and successful visits, facilities are asked to:

- Provide a suitable outdoor or accessible ground-level area
- Ensure staff are present to assist with client participation and supervision
- Avoid scheduling during mealtimes or busy transitions
- Encourage participants to interact in a safe, respectful manner
- Notify PAWS of any specific risks or client needs

Facility Application Form below...

Facility Application Form – PAWS’n’Hooves

Facility Name:

Address:

Contact Person:

Position:

Phone:

Email:

Service Details

Type of Facility:

- ☐ Aged Care
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ School
- ☐ Disability Service
- ☐ Community Group
- ☐ Other: _____

Client Group (please describe):

Preferred Visit Day(s)/Time(s):

Estimated Number of Participants per Visit:

Preferred Visit Format:

- ☐ Group session
- ☐ Individual interactions
- ☐ Combination

Site & Safety Information

Is there suitable space for a horse float to enter the grounds and turn around as needed, with room for access/egress for pony via the tailgate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the area accessible for a pony (flat, safe, minimal obstacles)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are there any known risks (e.g. allergies, mobility issues, behaviours)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please confirm that staff will be present to support sessions?

☐ Yes

Additional Information

Please provide any additional details to help us tailor the visits:

Agreement

By submitting this form, you acknowledge that:

- PAWS'n'Hooves sessions are conducted under strict safety and welfare guidelines.
- All interactions are guided by trained handlers.
- Placement for this service is dependant on team availability at the requested time.
- You and your staff will work with PAWS staff and teams to provide a safe environment for everyone.
- The PAWS volunteer will monitor pony welfare, and overall safety, and conduct visits accordingly.

Please return completed forms to:

 Sharon.paws@hotmail.com

If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you. We look forward to bringing the joy of **PAWS'n'Hooves** to your facility.

PAWS Pet Therapy

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