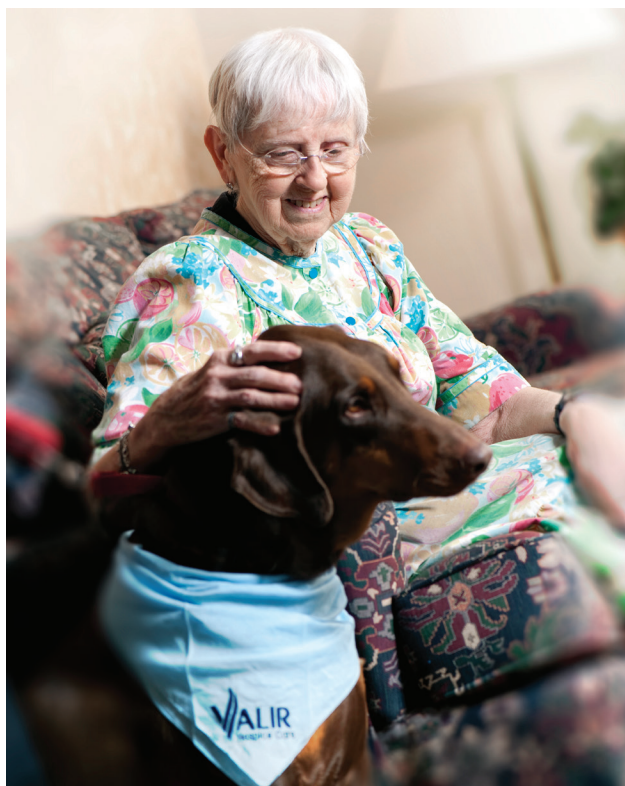




## VALIR HOSPICE HOSPETS

HosPets is Valir Hospice's Pet Therapy Program and is primarily intended for our agency's patients who reside in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Visits are made upon request and consent. This paw-warming program began in 2005 and continues to grow in popularity. Since its inception, Valir Hospice patients have received thousands of visits and tail wags from HosPets volunteers and their guardians.

Well-behaved animals, of many breeds and sizes that lend a calming presence are welcome to participate in HosPets. However, each dog must first successfully pass the Canine Good Citizen examination and the Therapy Dog International (TDI) test and have proof of current inoculations. Additionally, the pet's guardian is required to complete Valir Hospice volunteer training.



### Patients often benefit from pet therapy in these ways:

Experience a sense of comfort, warmth and normalcy.

Relax and release feelings of anxiety and depression.

Focus on something other than their illness.

Respond to a living touch.

Feel more motivated to complete tasks.

Perhaps most important of all, patients look forward to the next HosPets visit!