FAMILY

# Heartwarming: Dogs in Pajamas Visit Patients at the Texas Children's Hospital for the Holidays

By bestfolkmedicine · 04/01/2022 · 2 min read





*The cutest four-legged visitors brought the holiday spirit to the patients in the Texas Children's Hospital. The hospital shared photos of the lovely visitors on their Facebook page.*

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*They were dressed in matching Buffalo plaid pajamas and walked the hallway with their handlers who wore matching PJs.*

*The dogs, all golden retrievers named Pinto, Pluto, Elsa, and Bailey are the ambassadors for the Texas Children's Pawsitive Play program.*

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*It's created to boost the emotional health of patients and their families.*

## Dogs in Pajamas Bring the Holiday Spirit in a Children's Hospital

The dogs also brought holiday cards for the patients and one mom said that she immediately noticed a difference in her daughter after the dogs' visit. Since her daughter has been here due to a stroke, her expressions weren't many.

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However, when Pinto came in, she jumped out of the bed and it was amazing seeing this according to the girl's mom. The dogs aren't usually wearing pajamas; however, they're full-time employees at the Texas Children's Hospital thanks to their Pawsitive Play program.

## What Kind of Program Is the Pawsitive Play?

This program is created to better the emotional well-being of the patients of this hospital and their families.

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It's animal-assisted therapy with therapy dogs that provide the necessary support to the people having a hard time dealing with their hospital stay, a new diagnosis, or some medical procedure.

These dogs are specially bred and later trained to work as service dogs in a pediatric hospital environment and get a year and a half of training before starting their working roles at the hospital.

They work alongside specialists for child life and are also in coordination with a multi-disciplinary team and provide therapeutic interventions and emotional support for the patients, their families, and the staff.

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Same as other employees in the hospital, these dogs also have a badge and their lunch break.

They spend their time outside of their vests playing with their toys and with each other. To ensure they’re always good-looking, these dogs are groomed on a weekly basis and their paws are wiped daily.

Data from studies show that animal-assisted therapy has plenty of benefits, including better emotional health, happiness, relaxation, healing, and adjustment to hospitals, higher self-confidence, and reduced anxiousness and perception of fear, isolation, and pain.

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Sources:

TEXAS CHILDREN’S

BOSTON 25 NEWS

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