



Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 23-D-030**

You asked:

1. Does the Health Board use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?

Yes – dogs are used as therapy at some of our Mental Health and Older People Mental Health units.

2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)

External organisations (charities) – Pets as Therapy and Cariad Pet Therapy.

3. Please could you specify how many dogs have been engaged for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by purpose. (eg. PAT / autism/ epilepsy/ diabetes assistance)

I can confirm that the Health Board does not record this information. All dog therapy in the last three years has been utilised by our Mental Health directorate.

4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.

I can confirm that this information is not recorded by the Health Board. However, it is noted that poodle, collie and mixed breed dogs have been used by the charities in the past.

5. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?

I can confirm that the Health Board does not hold this information. This would be held by the charities.

6. What was the Health Board's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?

There is no charge for utilising pet therapy charities – no budget allocated.



