



Enriching lives through animal companionship

Pets as Therapy
South Africa



13 March 2020

Dear Friends of PAT

Re: Pets as Therapy response to COVID-19

Due to the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Africa, Pets as Therapy has issued an online statement to remind all volunteers about their health safety practices during facility visits. Ensuring the health and welfare of residents has always been a priority of PAT, and this is particularly important when the elderly and children are involved, as is the case with many of the facilities that we serve.

Volunteers have been asked to reach out to their respective facilities, to ascertain whether the facility would wish to continue having PAT visits during this time. Similarly, volunteers may feel that they would prefer to suspend their visits in the interim, to avoid non-essential contact. We support volunteers who undertake this decision, but ask that the volunteers communicate this directly with their facility, including a possible date to resume visits.

PAT will continue with new volunteer assessments and facility checks, but will be monitoring COVID-19 closely and providing updates should there be a need to fully suspend our services.

Warm Regards,

The PAT EXCO