



Hearing Dogs for the Deaf presentation

Today we had a visit from Grahame and Beck (Charity representatives) and Jo (PPG member), Elliott and Farrell, talking about the charity, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. This was done in preparation for the work we'll be doing in the surgery, week commencing 6-12th May for Deaf Awareness Week (more about that later!).

Both Beck and Farrell were on their best behaviour, whilst Grahame informed the group of the training that was involved in developing a puppy into becoming a fully fledged assistance dog.

Grahame explained how the 'reward based training' worked, encouraging good behaviour by rewarding the puppy when they get things right. Rewards included tasty treats and fuss and cuddles, depending on what the puppy enjoys the most. Unwanted behaviour is just ignored, which encourages the puppy not to do this again, also known as positive reinforcement.

Beck demonstrated how on demand he could follow commands such as laying down, walking to heel and alerting his owner of various things from telephone calls to alarms going off in the home.

The group found the talk and demonstration very interesting and Beck and Farrell got lots of cuddles and strokes at the end.

The charity also received £61 worth of donations from the patient group members, so a big Thank You to everyone for their support.



Deaf Awareness Week 6 – 12th May

At the meeting, Jo volunteered to bring in the stand at both Leven and Beeford sites so to have a presence in the surgeries that week. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the stands please let me know.

We are also to have a notice board filled with information related to Deaf Awareness.

I am currently trying to source some Deaf Awareness training for the staff.

If anyone else has anymore ideas, please let me know at terriwardell@nhs.net

Next PPG meeting: Wednesday 1st May 1pm Beeford