



*The Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Innovation Exchange*

Submission

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Title of Innovation:	Benched All Group Dog Show
Topic for Submission:	Quality of Life
Audience:	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing (HUD, tax credit, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Home & Community Based Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Communities (CCRC or fee for Service) <input type="checkbox"/> All of the Above

Description of Innovation:

Pet Therapy has been an important component in the Therapeutic Recreation program at Menorah Manor for many years. Our staff knew that the first annual Benched All Group Dog Show would be a success, based on the fact that the residents always respond so positively to visits from people in our community who bring their pets to visit at Menorah Manor.

The Show featured seven different breeds. It was organized to be an authentic dog show. The dogs were all show dogs, there was a ring built and set up for the dogs to walk around, knowledgeable judges were present, and there was even a photographer to take pictures of each winning dog with its owner and trophy. As each dog was paraded around the ring, a description of that breed was read aloud. Residents from our nursing center, adult day health center and assisted living residence attended. The judges chose a "Best in Show" and a big trophy was awarded to the owner. One hour prior to the show, the dogs were on display for the residents to see. They were able to enjoy watching the owners "primp" their dogs for the show. It was amazing to watch the response on the resident's faces as they interacted with the pets.

In preparation for the Dog Show, a PowerPoint about each breed that would be represented at the dog show was presented to the residents. A presentation of the different criteria used in judging was also discussed.

This event created a wonderful opportunity for Menorah Manor staff, volunteers and residents to enjoy an activity together, which benefited everyone. There was so much excitement that everyone pitched in and wanted to participate, and therefore, there was really no budget. It was an activity that was supervised by the Therapeutic Recreation department, and all of the dog owners volunteered to participate, as well as the judges. There were residents who attended the show that are not able to communicate; the looks on their faces during this show were priceless. There was one resident, a stroke victim, who has been in the nursing center for many years, and is basically non-communicative and doesn't respond to anything. Seeing one of the dogs affected her in such a way that she broke out in a huge smile and her eyes teared up. Many members of the staff who have known her for many years couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was remarkable. The day following the show, there was a full page of pictures in The St. Petersburg Times.

The dog show was so successful that it is now an annual event with a new twist that was added the second year. A few days before the actual dog show and judging, various staff members are asked to bring their purebred dogs to the home to explain to the residents the origin, use and characteristics of each breed. In 2009, the following Groups will be represented:

SPORTING – Weimaraner owned by a volunteer and a Cocker Spaniel owned by a maintenance man
TOY – a Pug owned by the Public Relations director, a Papillon owned by the wound care nurse, a Poodle owned by the volunteer director, a Havanese owned by the administrator
HERDING – a Collie owned by the son of a resident care coordinator
WORKING – a Siberian Husky owned by the son of the administrative secretary
HOUND – a Dachshund owned by our auxiliary president, a Greyhound owned by the HR director
NON- Sporting – a Tibetan Terrier owned by the sister-in-law of a patient

Totally different dogs will compete in the actual dog show at Menorah Manor... and then it will be time to watch the Westminster Dog Show on television. The advantage of these modifications is that staff has the opportunity to show off their own pets – and also gain a better understanding about the breed. In addition, the residents get to know the human side of the staff as well as have a couple more days of good time with the dogs.

A PowerPoint presentation is also included with this submission which was shown to the residents.

2009 Update - Menorah Hosts Second Annual Dog Show

Last year was Menorah Manor's First Annual Benched All Group Dog Show. It came together in spite of initial concerns regarding risk and safety. The event was so successful that it was held again this year, but with a different twist -- staff members with pet dogs participated. The aim was to get dogs representing each of the AKC groups and to have each owner explain the function, origins and characteristics of that breed to residents.

The action occurred on two separate days before the REAL conformation event – the Second Annual Benched All Group Dog Show. Representing the Sporting Group was a Weimaraner owned by a volunteer and an American Cocker owned by a maintenance worker. Representing the Toy Group

were: a Pug owned by the PR Director, 2 Papillons owned by an RN, 2 mini poodles owned by the Volunteer Director and 2 Havanese owned by the Administrator. The Herding Group was represented by the Rough Collie owned by an RN's granddaughter. The Working Group was represented by Peggy Newton's Samoyed and the Siberian owned by the Assistant to the CEO. The Hound Group was a Dachshundt owned by the President of the Auxiliary and a Greyhound owned by the Assistant Administrator. The Non-Sporting Group was represented by a Tibetan Terrier owned by the Admissions Director's aunt. Each owner, using a microphone, concisely articulated his breed's background as the dog was displayed on a grooming table beside him.

After a week of preparation and discussion (Therapeutic Recreation incorporated the dog theme in word games and discussion at other times), the residents were ready for the Second Annual Benched All Group Dog Show. A Golden Retriever, a Ch. Samoyed, a Greyhound, a Great Dane, a Skye Terrier, a Standard Poodle in show clip and a Ch. Papillion were put through their paces. The Papillion won. The newspaper photographer was again present and the photos again appeared in the St. Petersburg Times. The residents' faces said it all – four legged creatures can make a difference, especially when combined with an interesting and fun event.

Budget:

None