



EMMA MARSHALL  
Counselling Services

## Canine Assisted Therapy Working Agreement

**This document is to be read in conjunction with the Canine Assisted Therapy Framework**

If Canine Assisted Therapy is to commence there are a few rules I would like you to remember and abide by to ensure that our work is safe and ethical for all parties, especially Bentley.

1. When greeting Bentley please hold both hands in front of you, palms up and get down to his level. This is a sign for Bentley that you are happy for him to approach and he will sniff your hands (a behaviour all dogs do!) Please remember though it is an invite that Bentley can turn down if he wants to.
2. Although instinctively people reach to stroke a dog's head or face, they don't actually like it. For dogs, someone reaching down towards them can be perceived as threatening behaviour. Therefore please make sure your first strokes are either to Bentley's chest, sides or back.
3. Please use a gentle voice, no shouting or screaming. Gentle voices are a great cue for friendship for dogs.
4. Be gentle when stroking Bentley's ears and don't crumple them as it can damage the ear cartilage.
5. If Bentley moves away, please respect his boundaries and give him space. Dogs are more comfortable if they are allowed to come to you in their own time and move freely.
6. If Bentley goes to his rug please leave him alone.
7. Finally, be calm!

**Client name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(please tick) I can confirm that I have read and understood the conditions set out in this Canine Assisted Therapy Working Agreement and the Canine Assisted Therapy Framework and I agree to abide by them.

**Failure to comply with these rules and the conditions of the Canine Assisted Therapy Framework will lead to the session being terminated and no further sessions will be offered.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

