



Scottish Charity
No. SC014924

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Coronavirus Update—5th March 2020

Dear Therapet Volunteers

As you will be aware, the Corona Virus, Covid 19, has now reached Scotland. This is not a cause for us to panic and suddenly stop all of our visits, however, a sensible approach will need to be taken. The spread of this virus may result in some of the places we visit closing wards or areas to limit the spread of infection as they would with any outbreak of conditions such as seasonal flu or Norovirus. It is vital during the coming weeks and months that you take every precaution when visiting the elderly, sick and immunosuppressed as well as to schools and other institutions, to maintain good hygiene practice and regularly wash your hands. Please also use the hand sanitiser that is provided in many places on entry and follow the processes that they may have implemented to minimise risk of infection.

In addition to this, if you have any symptoms of cold or flu, please cancel any Therapet visit you may have by contacting the place you visit and taking appropriate action as you would with any such illness. If you have recently travelled to any of the affected areas or been in contact with anyone who has, you should suspend your visits by informing the place (s) you visit that you will be temporarily unable to visit and contact NHS24 for advice. It would help us greatly if you would let us know either by contacting your Area Representative or our office in Edinburgh if you are having to suspend your visits for any duration.

Regular updates and more information about the virus are posted on the NHS Inform Website <https://www.nhsinform.scot/> and we will continue to monitor this and update our procedures accordingly.

Having lived through the SARS outbreak while in Singapore in the early 2000s, I know that this is something that will be managed more effectively if we all play our part and follow the medical guidelines issued. At the same time, we are providing a service for people who really benefit from our visits so we will visit where we can but not against medical advice for us, our Therapets or those we are visiting.

Please do proceed as you feel comfortable and keep in regular communication with the places that you are visiting in case they do change their routine. If you have any questions that I may be able to assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Hughes'.

Mel Hughes
CEO

Trustees:

I Allan Sim BSc CA,(Chairman), Dr Stewart Donald MRCVS
George Leslie BVMS, James Macdonald, Dr Valerie J Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH,
A Douglas Ruthven BEM FRSC, Lynsey G Thomson BSc(Hons) OT, Diane Wood Dip RMS,
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