

## A helping paw – for clients at Memory & Wellness Center in Boca

**L**eyna, a 10-month old Rotweiler and trained pet therapy dog, along with her trainer, Jennifer Marcus, recently visited clients at the Louis & Anne Greene Memory & Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Jennifer is a volunteer with Caring Choice Home Companions, which provides services for the community via the Delta Society. As a volunteer, she provides pet therapy visits to hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

Pets are used to help calm elders who are hospitalized or in nursing homes. They take the human mind off loneliness, grief, pain, and fear. They bring about laughter and offer a sense of security and protection. They encourage exercise and broaden the circle of one's acquaintances.

Research shows that animals have a positive effect on a person's health, education and human development. Patients in hospitals and nursing homes that have regular visits from pets - whether a personal pet or those brought in from various agencies - are more receptive to medical treatment and nourishment, studies say.

This was the first trip to the Memory & Wellness Center for Leyna and Jennifer. It went so well that they are scheduled to come back twice this month, and visits will become part of the regular activity calendar.

(Melissa Korman/Special to the News)

1 – Leyna gets some attention from John Wagy, left, and Dank Goodman.

2 – A couple gives a loving nuzzle to Leyna.

3 – Rocky Rachlin gets some loving from Leyna.

4 – Leyna meets Mary Boyer.

5 – Leyna poses for the camera.

6 – Pet therapy dog Leyna is ready to meet another person.

