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

Leyla, a 10-month-old Rottweiler and trained pet therapy dog, along with her trainer, Jennifer Nusen, recently visited clients at the Boca Raton Memory & Wellness Center of Florida Atlantic University. Jennifer is a volunteer with Caring Choice Home Companion, 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 loss. 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 one brought in from referral agencies – are more receptive to medical treatment and nursing, studies say.

This was the first trip to the Memory & Wellness Center for Leyla 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.

Additional Notes:

1. Leyla gets some attention from John Boggis, Bill, and Zack Goodman.

2. A couple gives a loving nuzzle to Leyla.

3. Rocky Broad shows some loving to Leyla.

4. Leyla visits Mary Boyett.

5. Leyla poses for the camera.

6. Pet therapy dog Leyla is ready to meet another person.