

Implementing Robotic Pet Therapy in Continuing Care for Persons Living with Dementia in Canada: Tips for Organizational Leaders



All care staff should be familiar with how to use robotic pets and their purpose and benefits as they may come into contact with them!



Before Implementation

1 Things to Consider

When buying robotic pets, look for:

- A mute option
- A pet that converses in the local language if it has language response capabilities

When planning to implement:

- Protocols should be simple, care staff may feel burdened by using a new technology
- Try to incorporate robotic pet therapy into existing work processes
- Ensure there are enough care staff to implement/monitor robotic pet interactions (or recruit volunteers)
- Cleaning protocols should be able to be completed quickly
- Care staff and decision-maker engagement is important

2

Actions to Take

Outline:

Roles/responsibilities of care workers; intervention goals; use techniques and intended effects; cleaning protocol



- Implementation plan should address key local barriers
- Conduct education/training sessions for care staff, providing printed educational materials for staff/caregivers
- Champions should model use of robotic pets to encourage care staff to use them
- Acquire funding and batteries/battery chargers to support implementation

During Implementation

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Things to Consider

It is important to have supportive management and a supportive learning environment during robotic pet implementation

4

Actions to Take



One dedicated person should oversee implementation of robotic pets



Encourage care staff to use robotic pets, but refrain from incentivizing

After Implementation/ Sustaining the Program

5 Actions to Take

Acquire sufficient funding to support both implementation and sustainability of the robotic pet program



Residents who experience positive outcomes may be provided with a robotic pet of their own to prevent cross-contamination, funds permitting



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Find Out More

To find a complete list of implementation tips:

Scan this QR code

