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## **Pond Home Receives Donation of Pets**

WRENTHAM, MA... Pond Home residents recently welcomed two special members to the facility who made quite a first impression.

Dubbed Sandy and Sweetheart by the residents, the new members on the scene are Perfect Petz dogs, small stuffed animals that look and feel like the real thing, especially when they are “breathing.”

The stuffed animals were donated by Marissa Massucco and her husband Dr. Bart Massucco on behalf of their Countryside Veterinary Clinic & Boarding Kennels in Wrentham, when Marissa Massucco visited Pond Home recently with her three children, Liam, 15, Bronte, 10, and Lennox, 8 .

“The Pond Home has been bringing resident cats to us for quite some time,” said Marissa Massucco, noting that she learned through an online article that, among other things, Perfect Petz are a great alternative companion for those who cannot have a living pet.

“My family and I have always loved animals and any chance we get to share our love and compassion for animals, we do it,” she continued. “I had always heard great things about Pond Home and wanted to give back.”

Both residents and staff alike were very glad they did.

“This donation was such a hit with residents and staff!” said Fran Goncalves, Pond Home Activities Director. “They are really cute. They're just the right size for the residents, and they quickly became attached to these new pets.”

Pond Home Administrator Rebecca Annis, couldn't agree more, saying the stuffed animals were a generous donation. “So glad they thought of us, Annis said. She believes they will have a similar impact to when live animals are here calming,

grounding, relaxing some residents. I bet we will see increased social connections between residents when they are interacting with Sandy and Sweetheart!”

“Pond Home has had house cats for years,” said Annis. “The current cat in residence is Skittles, but she cannot be everywhere so these are a nice addition. They also are great for people who have allergies.”

Pond Home, located at 289 East Street (Rte. 140) in Wrentham, offers elders long term care in a beautiful, warm setting. Pond Home is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a Residential Care Facility with a Supportive Nursing Section. As such, nursing staff are on site 24 hours per day and can provide more medical support than typical Assisted Living facilities. The entire building is handicap accessible.