

Press Release

Puppy love as Bowser meets water company's top dog

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Managing Director Roger Harrington and fellow staff at Sembcorp Bournemouth Water meet Bowser for the first time



Woofability's Jenny Clarke receives the sponsorship cheque from Roger Harrington, SBW's Managing Director

Cute puppy Bowser met a fellow top dog when he was introduced to water boss Roger Harrington.

The two came together at the offices of Sembcorp Bournemouth Water (SBW) which is part-sponsoring the training of Bowser as an assistance dog.

The third generation goldendoodle - originally bred from a golden retriever and a standard poodle - was born in June and is being trained by the Ferndown-based charity, Woofability.

He'll then live with a disabled person and assist in day-to-day tasks from emptying the washing machine and picking up the post to even helping them dress and undress.

The idea to sponsor a Woofability dog was originally suggested by long-serving SBW staff member Sue Tomei. Her daughter, Tara Fowler, is a socialiser/trainer for the charity.

The company also held a competition to name the puppy with the winning suggestion, Bowser, entered by Andrea Todd from SBW's graphic design company, GetSet.

Mr Harrington, SBW's Managing Director, said: "We try to support a range of local charities but this is the first time we have helped Woofability.

"Although Bowser is a really cute and loveable puppy he will be spending his life supporting a local disabled person to lead a more independent life so his training is vital.

"I'm delighted that his new name has a watery connection and won't be too embarrassing when he is being called in the park!"

Woofability is run by Andy and Jenny Clarke from their Ferndown home and trains assistance dogs for disabled people in Dorset, Hampshire and South Wiltshire.

Jenny said: "We're thrilled to be supported by the staff at Sembcorp Bournemouth Water and our thanks to everyone who kindly participated. By sponsoring Bowser's training the life of not just one person, but a lot of people in the community, will change."

It will take about two years to train Bowser fully at a cost of about £5,000 with a further £6,000 for back-up over the next ten years.

SBW staff will be kept up to date with Bowser's training progress. Further visits are planned so they can track his development into a fully fledged assistance dog.