

# Implementing Robotic Pets 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 speaks 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 pets into existing work processes
- There should be 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 buy-in is important

### 2

**Outline:**

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

## Actions to Take



- Create an implementation plan that addresses 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

### 3



### Things to Consider

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

### 4

### Actions to Take



Dedicate one person to oversee the 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 the 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



### 6

### Find Out More

To find a complete list of implementation tips:

Scan this QR code

