



## DEER LODGE CENTRE

*Making lives better*

### **Research Project Summary**

**Code: DLC- 08-111(a)**

**Subject areas: Gerontology, Dementia, Social Assistive Robot**

<b>Title</b>	The use of a social assistive robot in a long-term care facility: Staff perceptions of benefits, drawbacks and concerns.
<b>Overview</b>	A current practice in some personal care homes is the introduction of animals to promote a more home-like atmosphere and provide an opportunity for residents to interact with and enjoy the company of animals. It has been suggested that the use of animals in long term care setting has therapeutic value but the evidence to date has been inconsistent. A recent development in the field of assistive therapy or assistive activities is the use of robotic animals as social assistive devices. Dr. Takanori Shibata has developed a small table-top interactive robot resembling a Canadian harp seal pup (Paro). His colleague, Dr. Kazuyoshi Wada, has explored changes in mood and social interactions of residents after exposure to Paro. He has also explored staff perceptions of changes in the quality of life of residents but he has not identified how staff members view the use of Paro in relation to perceived benefits, drawbacks and concerns.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To learn about staff perceived benefits,</li><li>• To learn about staff perceived drawbacks and</li><li>• To learn more about concerns related to the use of Paro with residents who have cognitive limitations/dementia.</li></ul>
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr. Lorna Guse
<b>Affiliation</b>	University of Manitoba, Faculty of Nursing
<b>Location</b>	DLC
<b>Subject area</b>	Gerontology
<b>Methodology</b>	Staff Questionnaires
<b>Project timelines</b>	3 months
<b>Potential benefit</b>	To gain insight in staff's perception on benefits and drawbacks of using PARO.
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Publications</b>	None as of Yet
<b>Last summary update</b>	August, 2008



## DEER LODGE CENTRE

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### **Research Project Summary**

**Code: DLC- 08-111(b)**

**Subject areas: Gerontology, Dementia, Social Assistive Robot**

<b>Title</b>	The use of a social assistive robot with residents in a long-term care facility: A pilot study of interactions.
<b>Overview</b>	This study aimed to gain an understanding of the use of “social commitment robots” (Paro) among residents with cognitive limitations/dementia who are living in long-term care settings.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To learn more about resident interactions with Paro and subsequent changes in mood and affect, and</li><li>• To learn more about family perceptions of this interaction.</li></ul>
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr. Lorna Guse
<b>Affiliation</b>	University of Manitoba, Faculty of Nursing
<b>Location</b>	DLC
<b>Subject area</b>	Gerontology
<b>Methodology</b>	Residents with cognitive limitations/dementia completed two weeks of interactions with PARO for approximately 30 minutes/day. Interactions were videotaped, and analyzed for types of interactions observed. Family members were also videotaped during interactions with PARO, and were interviewed about their perceptions of PARO.
<b>Project timelines</b>	3 months
<b>Potential benefit</b>	To gain insight into if residents and family members find the use of PARO useful.
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Publications</b>	None as of Yet
<b>Last summary update</b>	August, 2008