



## **SCOOTER SURF THERAPY DOG** **CIC**



Rescued from the streets of Portugal in 2015, Scooter has gone on to rescue

scores of humans as the UK's only Surf Therapy Dog. Scooter Surf Therapy

Dog CIC is a not for profit community interest company set up by Scooter's Mumma Kirstie Coy-Martin. A police officer of 27 years and keen surfer and paddle boarder she found that being on the water riding waves or just paddling along being at one with the ocean massively improved her mental health and general well-being. As Scooter was already a regular therapy dog, visiting hospitals and schools, she had a lightbulb moment and wondered if she could combine the power of the water with the magic of the mohawk. Yes that's right Scooter has a blue mohawk! After an 8 month training course to make sure Scooter was happy and confident on the board the CIC is ready to take off and is offering Surf Therapy sessions for children and young adults with physical, mental, learning disabilities and Neurodiversity in the West Sussex area.

Kirstie is a qualified Adaptive Surf Coach with further qualifications in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health, Autism, Mental Health First Aider, Peer Supporter and a Beach School teacher. Kirstie and Scooter are now taking bookings for bespoke Adapted Surf Sessions for children and small adults with physical disabilities using their specially adapted board which has a bucket seat and safety handles, or Neurodiverse children with other adapted or regular boards.

With the adapted board the participant gets to experience and feel the thrill of riding waves with Scooter on the front of the board for encouragement, Kirstie on the back steering and trained volunteers in the water to make sure the surfer is safe and happy.

For physically able participants Kirstie and Scooter combine beach school activities, talking, mindfulness and water activities into the session with Scooter there for added support.

Once an expression of interest is made Kirstie asks the parents or carers and the surfer, to complete a Pen Portrait of themselves so the session can be specially tailored to their individual strengths and challenges. They have recently taken delivery of a brand new beach wheelchair with floatation aids. The bucket seat is available to try out on its own out of the water to make sure the surfer fits comfortably in it and feels confident before the session. Life jackets and helmets (complete with mohawk) are worn for extra safety and some specially adapted wetsuits, boots and gloves are available to borrow beforehand so the surfer can get changed in the comfort and privacy of their own home.

GoPro cameras are fitted to the board so brilliant film and photos are captured to remind the surfer of this very special day. The whole family are encouraged to join in the fun. Safety is paramount.

If you would like to discuss booking a session please contact [kirstie@scootersurftherapydog.co.uk](mailto:kirstie@scootersurftherapydog.co.uk)





Surf therapy is scientifically proven to improve a person’s physical, mental and social wellbeing. Why should children and young people with disabilities have to miss out just because they are unable to access the beach, the water or the right equipment. Families with disabled children often miss out of beach days because of the accessibility issues. Scooter Surf Therapy Dog CIC has changed this and now the whole family can enjoy the magic powers of the water and surfing, especially with their huge mega sup which the whole family and friends can ride on together!! Our vision is that surfing and its magic should be accessible for all. Yeeeeeeeeeeeeew!!

Scooter Surf Therapy Dog CIC relies on donations and funding from grant applications. We are a not for profit community interest company. All money received gets ploughed back into the CIC to provide more availability, accessibility and equipment to local people.

If you’d like to make a donation you can do so at

Scooter Surf Therapy Dog CIC  
 Natwest A/C No 81166192  
 S/C 60-03-08

We are always on the look out for new volunteers too!

