

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis *Canistherapy in seniors* discusses the utilisation and benefits of canistherapy for elderly clients. The theoretical part of the thesis characterizes the target group of seniors, their needs, issues and types of facilities available to them. Furthermore, the discipline of canistherapy is generically described, as well as its methods, techniques and the role of canistherapy dog in this form of therapy. The practical part of the thesis interprets the data obtained through several research methods which are applied in order to examine the senior age client's perception of canistherapy, explore the availability of canistherapy in retirement homes, map the canistherapy teams target groups and present the retirement homes staff opinions on canistherapy and its effects. The aim of this diploma thesis is to describe canistherapy in relation to elderly care and to specifically depict its methods, ways of its provision, techniques and activities associated with it. An empirical research was thus made to answer the main research question: *What are the benefits of canistherapy for seniors?*