

# PARO

THERAPEUTIC ROBOT

Companion Robot for Quality of Life



*Kowa*

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**Non-pharmacological therapy without side-effects**

## What is PARO ?

A therapeutic companion robot with the appearance of a baby harp seal developed by Professor Takanori Shibata, a researcher at Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology.

PARO blinks and coos in response to affectionate touch and voice.

It is a new style of animal therapy regardless of time and situation.

## Why PARO ?

helps to improve sociability and communication between patients and caregivers.

reduces anxiety, depression, loneliness and aggressive behavior.

reduces Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD).

stimulates and engages people with dementia and individuals.

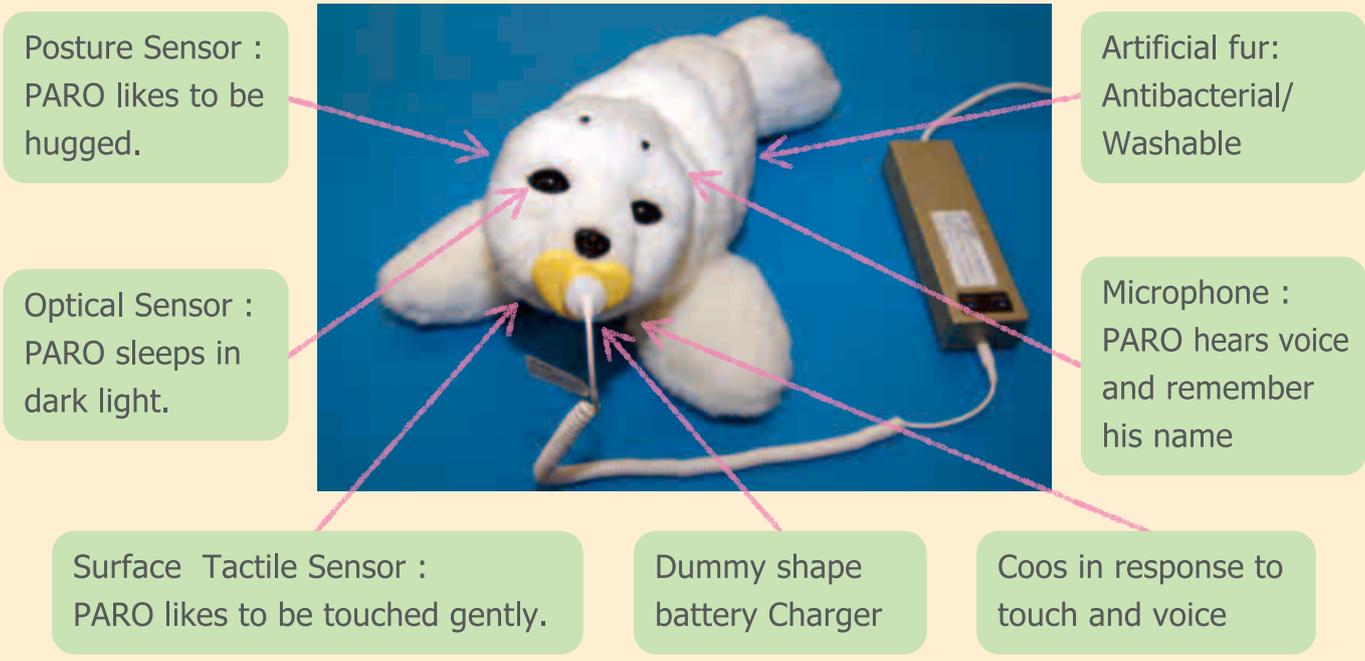
helps to improve quality of sleep and prevent patients from wandering.

No risk of animal infection or injury



Certified as a medical device by the United States and Food Drug Administration in 2009

Artificial Intelligence : Learning Function



Size	57cm
Weight	Approx. 2.5kg
Electricity consumption	Approx. 9W (Electromagnetic Shield)
Power	AC100 – 240V 1.3 – 0.7A
Working hours	3 – 5 hours in fully charge

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People with dementia may present with agitated behaviours that cause stress for the person him/herself, those who care for them, and other residents in care facilities. Apathy, loneliness and depression are also common consequences of dementia and can make it challenging for care staff to engage this population in meaningful activities, which in turn places them at high risk for further cognitive and functional decline. Following our successful pilot trial 1 our group received over one million dollars from the National Health and Medical Research Council to explore the effect of PARO on people with dementia<sup>2</sup>. The cluster randomized controlled trial randomizes residential aged care facilities to one of three conditions, (PARO, Plush Toy, or Usual Care). The research compares the three conditions in terms of reducing emotional and behavioural (agitation) symptoms of dementia, the acceptability of PARO for staff and family, the relationship between the three conditions and physical activities, sleep duration and agitation. The project will also conduct a comparative cost analysis of PARO as a non-pharmacological method to manage and reduce agitation, and improve engagement and mood states in people with dementia. The three-year project commenced in 2014 and is being led by Professor Wendy Moyle from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.



1 Moyle W, Cooke M, Beattie E, Jones C, Klein B, Cook G & Gray C. (2013). Exploring the effect of companion robots on emotional expression in older people with dementia: A pilot RCT. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 39 (5), 46-53. DOI:10.3928/00989134-20130313-03.

2 Moyle, W, Beattie E, Draper B, Shum D, Thalib L (AIs Jones, C, O' Dwyer S, Mervin C. (2013). Effect of an interactive therapeutic robotic animal on engagement, mood states, agitation and antipsychotic drug use, NHMRC Project Grant APP1065320, 2014-2017, \$1,115,683.50.

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