



Resident John Lawrence and Rachael O'Neill from Lion Learners with a snake.

## Exotic creatures visit residents

AN animal experiences company brought in a variety of animals to a Hull care home.

Lion Learners introduced the residents at Longhill House to a snake, a tarantula, a bearded dragon lizard, a Madagascan hissing cockroach, giant millipedes and African land snails, as well as the more traditional rabbit and guinea pig to a Hull care home.

Manager Adam Randall said research has shown that animal handling sessions are physically, psychologically and socially beneficial for care home residents.

He added: "To say the visit was a success is an understatement – the delight on our residents' faces said it all. Being given the opportunity to

touch, stroke and look at the animals gave them a great deal of pleasure."

"The rabbit and guinea pig brought back memories and experiences for some residents who have dementia, as they had owned these animals in the past. Some of the animals were cute and cuddly, but others like the tarantula weren't quite as adorable but were still fascinating to observe, albeit from a distance.

"Our residents benefited a great deal from the experience. For example, one resident who is usually quiet and reserved surprised everyone with her enthusiasm, alertness and animation. The hissing cockroach prompted another resident to recall his time spent with the army in Egypt."