

AAA & AAT

Presentation 2009-11-12



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[Introduction]

Animals helping people



Photo: The Natural Connection

[Kyno-Logisch]

- Leigh Hall
- Hans Van Den Broeck
- Dog-Logic



[What is AAA & AAT ?]

- Both: use of animal-human interactions to benefit an individual
- AAA: - informal environment
 - no strict objectives set
- AAT: - clinical setting
 - well defined objectives
 - close collaboration with health care professional

[Best practices]

- Intermountain Therapy Animals (USA): R.E.A.D.® project
- Chimo Project (Canada): work in psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals
- Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind: autism dogs
- Stichting Petra (Netherlands): work with (sexually) abused children
- Ecole des Chiens-Guides d'Aveugles du Midi: visits to homes for the elderly

[Possibilities (1)]

- Social-emotional learning
 - sense of achievement
 - teaching the dog new tricks
 - getting the dog to perform certain actions
 - have a concrete goal to work towards

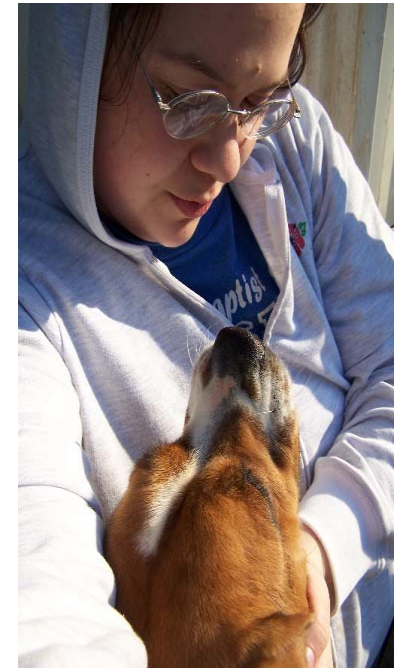


Photo: Stichting Petra

[Possibilities (2)]

- Social-emotional learning
 - interactions without judgment
 - the dog simply appreciates
 - children with reading difficulties



Photo: Intermountain Therapy Animals

[Possibilities (3)]

- Social-emotional learning
 - aware of one's own behaviour
 - body language
 - intonation
 - action and reaction
 - control over own emotions

[Possibilities (4)]

- Mental & physical disabilities
 - create a warm and safe environment
 - feel free to discuss personal issues with animal in the room



[Possibilities (5)]

- Mental & physical disabilities
 - focal point during therapy sessions
 - disconnect from surroundings
 - play with the dog during breaks
 - train cognitive skills and memory use
 - speech therapy

[Possibilities (6)]

- Mental & physical disabilities
 - role in physical rehabilitation
 - sensory stimulation
 - improve fine motor skills
 - balance
 - range of motion



[Possibilities (7)]

- Long-term illness
 - overcome social isolation
 - visits from the dog
 - walk the dog
 - dog-related activities

[Possibilities (8)]

- Long-term illness
 - reintegration into the job market
 - decision-making
 - problem-solving
 - punctuality
 - take control of a situation
 - work according to a schedule

[Possibilities (9)]

- Long-term illness
 - motivation for physical training
 - play games
 - increase in both physical and emotional health



Photo: Chimo Project

[Possibilities (10)]

- Puppy raiser project
 - raise a guide dog puppy or be a part of its socialization and training
 - learn new skills
 - sense of achievement
 - insight in own abilities



[Other possibilities]

- Horses
- Pigs
- Cats
- Birds
- Guinea pigs
- Reptiles

[Conditions]

- Defining responsibilities
- Extensive consultation
- Ongoing communication and evaluation
- Regard for animal welfare

[Expected results]

- Higher general sense of well-being
- Increased motivation
- Sense of being accepted unconditionally
- Ability to talk freely about feelings

[Thank you for your attention]



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