

Human Animal Interaction

Nordanstig 11-12 nov 2009

Ulla Björnehammar, DVM

MANIMALIS

Yesterday

- Neanderthal
- >200.000 years ago
 - * Hunters / Gatherers
 - * Importance of animals
 - food
 - rawmaterial-tools, weapons
 - source of knowledge of the surroundings

- Mesolithic hunters, gatherers
semi-domestication
feeding wildboar piglets
- Middle East 10.000 years ago
true domestication



Domestication

- **Reproduction is under human control**-Through our selection , domesticated animals have become different from their wild ancestors
- **Animals contribute with things useful to man**
 - -meat,milk,fat,leather,strength,fertilizer,communication,company,status

What has changed?

- Neoteni- childish features remain in adults
- Hormonbalance – change leading to reduced defence- and flightinstincts
- Brain size decrease - animals get less sensitive to unsuitable environments.

Today

- Industrialisation – no longer natural contact with animals
- Biophilia = Mans fundamental need to be surrounded by other living things, caused us to get companion animals

Dogs in the duty of man

- Police-, Military-, Custom-dogs
- Rescue-, Mould-, Mercury-dogs
- Hunting-, Sheep-, Sled-dogs
- Guidedog for the blind
- Signaldog for the deaf
- Service/Assistancedogs for disabled
- Supportdogs for epileptic



Animals as therapists- nothing new

- The ancient greeks believed that dogs could cure illness- therefor they kept dogs in their healingcenters. Asclepios The God of Healing used dogs to perfom his task.
- Already in the 9th century taking care of animals was used as a means for the handicapped to regain harmony in "body and soul"

Animals in therapy

- In 1790 in York, England mentally ill was asked to care for chickens and rabbits in order to practise control of their own bodies.
- In Germany in 1860 a home for epileptics used animals as part of therapy

AAA / AAE / AAT ?

- AAA = Animal Assisted Activity
- AAE = Animal Assisted Education
- AAT = Animal Assisted Therapy – a treatment program with a specific goal under supervision of a professional

AAT- a lucky coincidence

Boris Levinson 1964 – american child psychiatrist

Jingles his labrador retriever – was the key!

In 1977 psychiatrists Sam and Elisabeth Corson implemented the first pet-facilitated therapy program at a psychiatric unit at Ohio State University











Companion animals and Children

- Pets have a positive influence on childrens development of selfesteem , empathy and cognitive control
- Children growing up with pets develop a much better non-verbal language and gain higher social competens
- Empathy towards animals is directly correlated to empathy with people

Companion animals and Elderly

A Pet can:

- * give a sense of security – you´re not alone
- * give life meaning
- * give opportunity to meet people
- * increase activity level
- * decrease the need for healthcare – you don´t feel minor ailments

Sweden has been lagging but it's getting better!

- Umeå- 2 officially employed dogs in homes for the elderly
- Avesta 7 visiting dogteams
- County council of Uppland has passed a resolution to increase the use of animals in health care
- Members of parliament propose motions
- Home for the elderly in Stockholm invite people to bring

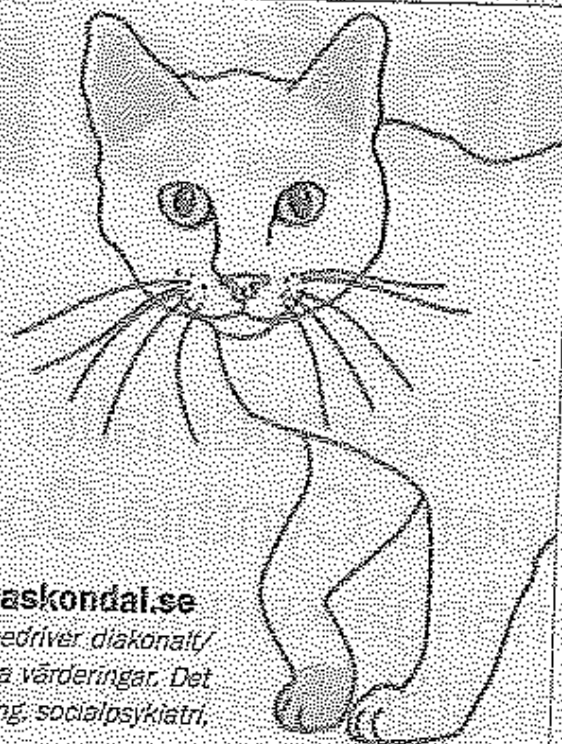
VÄLJ ÄLDREBOENDE & TA MED KATTEN!

**BO I NYBYGGDA ÄLDREBOENDET SOLGÅRDEN
10 MIN SÖDER OM STOCKHOLM CITY
ANSÖK HOS DIN BISTÅNDSHANDLÄGGARE!**

Läs mer om våra platser och boenden på www.storaskondal.se

Stora Sköndal är en ideburen, icke vinstsyftande organisation som bedriver diakonalt/ socialt arbete. Verksamheten grundar sig på kristna och humanistiska värderingar. Det diakonala arbetet bedrivs genom äldreomsorg, neurologisk rehabilitering, socialpsykiatri, seniorboende, handikappbad och annat socialt arbete.

**HERBERT WIDMANS VÄG 7, SKÖNDAL • 08-605 08 59
WWW.STORASKONDAL.SE • GÅVOCIRO: PG 90 02 04-1**



**stora
sköndal** 

Opportunity for business !

- Homes for Elderly niched with animal presence
- Riding schools focusing on autistic children anorectic teenage girls etc.

- 
- 2008 a 3-year project " Hund i vården" started with government money
 - University programme Ridingtherapy-Malmoe

Animals can make a difference !

- Quality control is essential !
- Safety for the clients
- Safety for the animals
- Professionals accountable

Economic savings

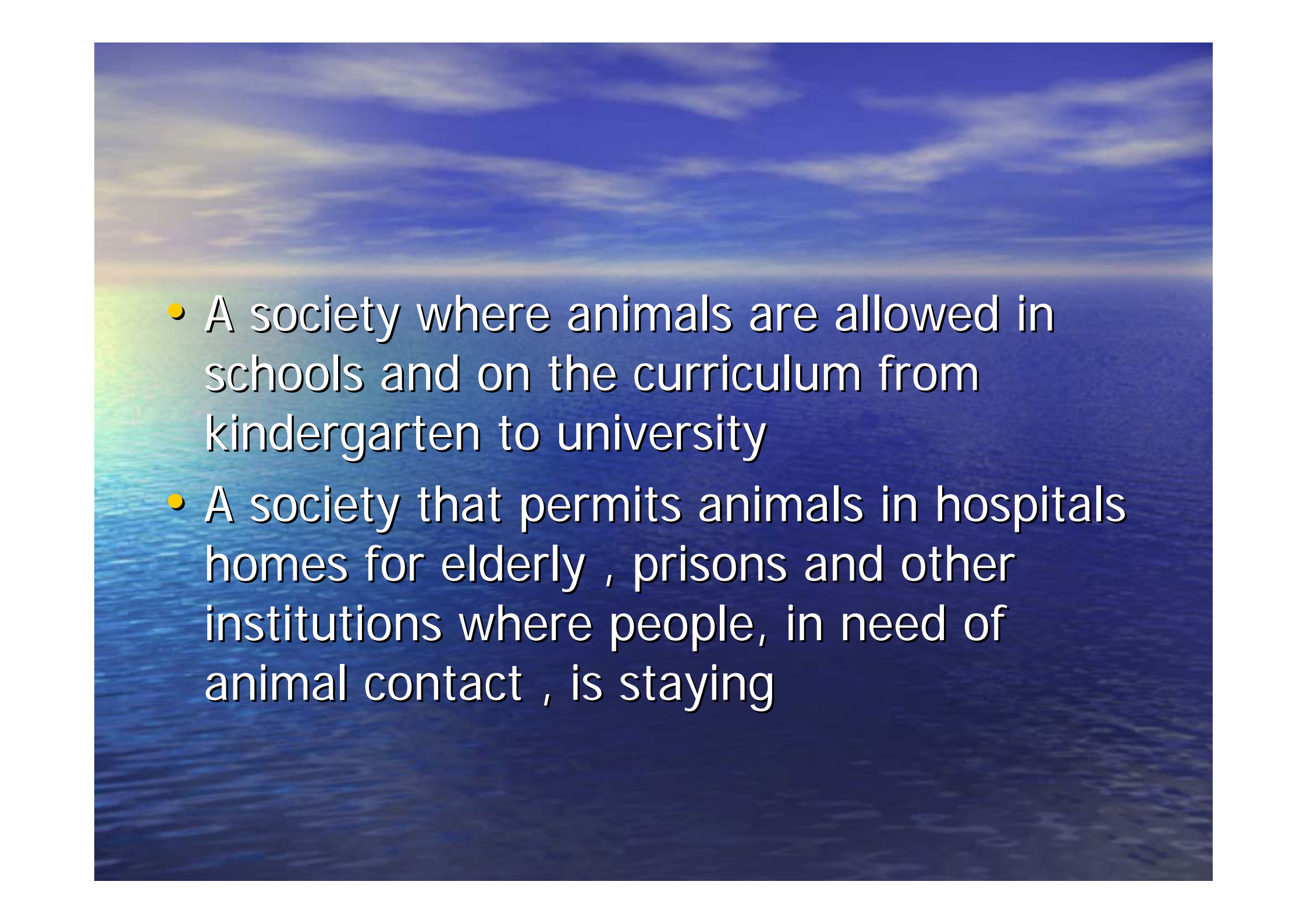
- Reduced medication
- Decreased number of doctor visits
- Less stress and conflict

Oxytocin- the magic word

- The feel-good hormone that inhibits the effect of stresshormones

The Future.....

- A society that enables people to live with pets in all phases of life on condition that the animals are treated with respect and that they don't create problems for non-animal owners
- A society planned taking into account the needs of pets and their owners

- 
- A society where animals are allowed in schools and on the curriculum from kindergarten to university
 - A society that permits animals in hospitals homes for elderly , prisons and other institutions where people, in need of animal contact , is staying

MANIMALIS

- Founded in 1990
- MANIMALIS-report 1993, updated 1995 and 2000, 2004, 2009
- Gather and Spread information
- Initiate research
- Maintain international contacts via IAHAIO

Research-conferences

- Philadelphia 1976
- London 1979
- Wien 1983
- Boston 1986
- Monaco 1989
- Montreal 1992
- Geneva 1995
- Prag 1998
- Rio de Janeiro 2001
- Glasgow 2004
- Tokyo 2007

STOCKHOLM

1- 4 juli 2010

People and Animals – For Life



Thanks for your attention !

Time for questions

ulla.bjornehammar@
telia.com

