

# AAA & AAT

Presentation 2009-11-12



# [ Contents ]

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- Introduction
- Kyno-Logisch
- AAA & AAT
- Possibilities
- Conditions
- Expected results

# [ Introduction ]

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## Animals helping people



Photo: The Natural Connection

# [ Kyno-Logisch ]

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



# [ What is AAA & AAT ? ]

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- 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 ]

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- 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

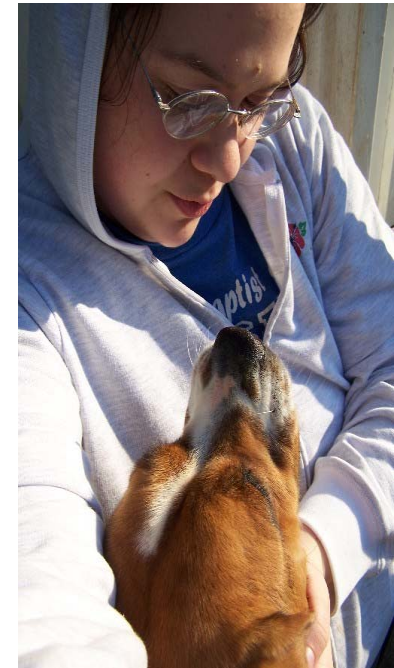


Photo: Stichting Petra

# [ Possibilities (2) ]

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



Photo: Intermountain Therapy Animals

# [ Possibilities (3) ]

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

# [ Possibilities (4) ]

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



# [ Possibilities (5) ]

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- 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) ]

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

# [ Possibilities (8) ]

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- 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 it's socialization and training
  - learn new skills
  - sense of achievement
  - insight in own abilities



# [ Other possibilities ]

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

# [ Conditions ]

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

# [ Expected results ]

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

[ Thank you for your attention ]



[info@kyno-logisch.net](mailto:info@kyno-logisch.net)