

Working with Dogs in Human Services: RESOURCE

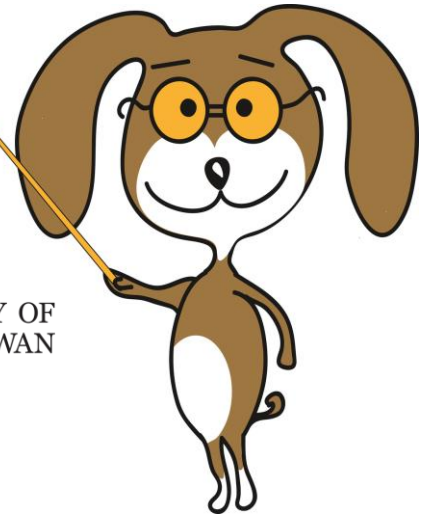
Listing of Animal Assisted Intervention education opportunities & other human-animal bond/animal training information in Canada and elsewhere.

Compiled for the November 3, 2017 **One Health Day** Community Discussion. A video recording is available at : <http://www.colleendell.ca/artwork/>

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For more information, visit: www.colleendell.ca

Note: This resource is not an endorsement of programs or a complete listing.



Currently there are no agreed-upon practice standards in Canada in the Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI). With AAIs increasing in popularity in recent years, there has also been an increase in organizations offering education and training, varying widely in what is offered and background experience to offer it.

People looking to be educated and trained in AAIs must carefully assess the options before choosing where to invest their time and money. People should seek to be educated and trained to the highest standard available before offering any of their own AAI services to the public.

Awareness of the following AAI terms are important to understanding the AAI field. According to PetPartners (<https://petpartners.org/learn/terminology/>):

Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) “are goal-oriented and structured interventions that intentionally incorporate animals in health, education, and human service for the purpose of therapeutic gains and improved health and wellness. Animal-assisted therapy (AAT), animal-assisted education (AAE) and animal-assisted activities (AAA) are all forms of animal-assisted interventions. In all these interventions, the animal may be part of a volunteer therapy animal team working under the direction of a professional or an animal that belongs to the professional himself”.

Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) “is a goal-oriented, planned, structured and documented therapeutic intervention directed by health and human service providers as part of their profession. A wide variety of disciplines may incorporate AAT. Possible practitioners could include physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, certified therapeutic recreation specialists, nurses, social workers, speech therapists, or mental health professionals”.

Animal-Assisted Education (AAE) “is a goal-oriented, planned and structured intervention directed by a general education or special education professional. The focus of the activities is on academic goals, prosocial skills and cognitive functioning with student progress being both measured and documented”.

Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA) “provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life. While more informal in nature, these activities are delivered by a specially trained professional, paraprofessional, and/or volunteer, in partnership with an animal that meets specific criteria for suitability”.

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In 2014, Leslie Stewart published the results of her doctoral work on AAT competencies. A summary is available at: https://petpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Tiered-AAI-Competencies_2016.pdf.

Canadian Animal Assisted Intervention Certificate & Other Programs

Dogue Shop Training Centre, <i>Animal Assisted Therapy</i>	Canada, Quebec (Montreal, Edmonton)	https://www.dogueshop.com/animal-assisted-therapy-program Three week full-time course will cover, but is not limited to, the canine ethogram, behaviour modification protocols, learning theories, emotional projection, legal responsibilities, program planning, design and use of animal evaluation forms, and practical AAT exercises.
Dreamcatcher Nature-Assisted Therapy Ltd. <i>Animal Assisted Therapy/Interventions</i>	Canada, Alberta (Ardrossan)	https://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com/certification.html Offers certification in animal assisted therapy, Wellness, Activities and Education as well as seminars, internships and workshops in Animal Assisted Interventions. Certifies and trains AAI animals and their handlers.
CEGEP De Saint-Hyacinthe <i>Zoothérapie</i>	Canada, Quebec	http://www.cegepsth.qc.ca/formation-continue/formations-a-temps-partiel/strategies-dintervention-en-zoothérapie-cegep-de-la-pocatière On site class offered in French
Lakeland College <i>Introduction to Animal Assisted Wellness</i>	Canada, Alberta	www.lakelandcollege.ca Offers a college certificate/diploma as an Animal Assisted Wellness Practitioner. It involves 4 college semesters and 2 weeks of hands on instruction.

Animal Assisted Intervention Certificate & Other Programs (majority offered in the United States and online)

Animal Behaviour Institute <i>Animal Assisted Therapy, Certificate</i>	USA, North Carolina	http://www.animaledu.com/Programs/Animal-Assisted-Therapy?%20d=1&d=1
Harcum College <i>Animal Assisted Therapy, Certificate Course</i>	USA, Pennsylvania	http://www.harcum.edu/s/1044/edu/index.aspx?sid=1044&gid=1&pgid=944
Animal Assisted Therapy Programs Colorado <i>Animal Assisted Therapy, Certificate of Education in Animal Assisted Psychotherapy</i>	USA, Colorado	http://www.animalassistedtherapyprograms.org/animal-assisted-therapy-professional-training

Institute for Human-Animal Connection, Animals and Human Health Certificate <i>Animal Assisted Therapy, Activities & Learning,</i> <i>Animal Assisted Social Work Certificate</i>	USA, University of Denver	https://www.du.edu/socialwork/licensureandcpd/animalsandhumanhealth.html
The Center for Human Animal Interactions <i>Animal Assisted Therapy,</i> <i>Animal Assisted Therapy Certificate</i>	USA, University of Oakland	http://www.oakland.edu/nursing/continuing-education/animalassistedtherapy http://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/nursing/files-and-documents/AAT/SON-13235_AnimalAssistTherapyBrochure.pdf

Animal Assisted Activity Programs in Canada and Elsewhere

There are many AAA organizations offering volunteer therapy dog handler team visits to communities across Canada and elsewhere. They vary in the training and testing required for the handler and dog. Some of the more common ones are listed here:

Best Friends Dog Training	Ontario	www.bfdogtraining.ca
Blue Ribbon Therapy Dogs	Quebec	www.blueribboncanine.com
Canine Good Neighbour Program	Canada	www.ckc.ca
Chimo Animal Assisted Wellness and Learning Society	Alberta	www.caawls.org
Ottawa Therapy Dogs	Ontario	www.ottawatherapydogs.ca
Pacific Animal Therapy Society	British Columbia	www.patspets.ca
St. John Ambulance	Canada	www.sja.ca
Therapeutic Paws of Canada	Canada	www.tpoc.ca

Animal Welfare Courses in Canada

International Institute for Animal Ethics, Brock University (Onsite)	Canada, Ontario	https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2016/04/animal-ethics-organization-launched-by-brock-university-professor/
Thompson Rivers University <i>Animal Welfare Certificate</i> (Distance)	Canada, BC	https://www.tru.ca/science/programs/distance/awcp.html

Listing of Colleges and Universities that offer Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Courses

Animals & Society Institute	Various	https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/courses/has-courses-in-animal-assisted-therapy/
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Listing of Universities that Offer Degrees, Certificates or Specializations Related to Human-Animal Studies

Animals & Society	Various	https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/degree-programs/
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Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

Bergin University for Canine Studies Rohnert Park California (Online and onsite)	USA, California
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<https://www.berginu.edu>

Offers degrees in human-canine relationships, canine-related businesses and leading-edge dog training and assistance dog partnerships at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The courses offered are Master, Bachelor, or Associate of Science degree with the dog as an academic subject of study.

Purdue University, Illinois	USA, Indiana
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<https://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/ohaire/opportunities.php#postdoc>

Graduate studies in either Animal Welfare or Human-Animal Interaction with the Department of Comparative Pathobiology. The objective of this program is to prepare students for careers in research, teaching, extension/engagement and service. The core aim of the Animal Welfare program is to facilitate the wellbeing of animals through understanding and applying concepts pertaining to animal ethology, physiology, psychology, husbandry and management, ethics and economics. The core aim of the Human-Animal Interaction program is to evaluate both the beneficial and adverse effects of interactions between humans and animals for both the human and animal counterparts.

Michigan State University (Onsite) Graduate Specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science and Humanities Perspective	USA, Lansing	http://animalstudies.msu.edu/specialization.php Administered by the Department of Sociology, provides graduate students with basic knowledge of relationships between humans and other animals and how they are linked together in a fragile biosphere. The graduate specialization is available as an elective for students who are enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs at Michigan State University.
University of Tennessee Animal Assisted Interventions, Veterinary Social Work	USA, Knoxville	http://vetsocialwork.utk.edu/animal-assisted-interventions This module aims to prepare social work practitioners for the unique conceptual, clinical and ethical challenges related to animal-assisted interventions (AAI). Through course readings, instructor-guided lessons, and online webinars, this module introduces trainees to practical approaches for strengthening planning and delivery strategies for evidence-based treatments incorporating animals. Note: Has two Veterinary Social Work Certificate Programs: VSW program for MSSW students at the University of Tennessee as well as a certificate program for licensed postgraduate social workers. In July on 2018, will have a third certificate program for all licensed postgraduate mental health professionals.
Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Conservation	USA, New York	https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/animal-behavior-ecology-and-conservation Course of study combining the behavioral biology of animals with issues pertaining to animal welfare and wildlife conservation. The required coursework provides strong scientific knowledge, accompanied by an emphasis on hands-on learning through lab and animal-focused field experiences.

Internship in Farm Animal, Dog, Equine, Nature Based Activities Training

Green Chimneys	USA, New York	http://www.greenchimneys.org/institute/internship/ A non-profit organization recognized as a worldwide leader in animal-assisted therapy and educational activities for children with special needs.
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International Animal Assisted Intervention Programs

CURSO BÁSICO EM ATIVIDADE, EDUCAÇÃO E TERAPIA ASSISTIDA POR ANIMAIS <i>Basic Course on Animal Assisted Activity, Education and Therapy</i>	Brazil	https://www.sympla.com.br/curso-basico-em-atividade-educacao-e-terapia-assistida-por-animais-2017_145383
Quality Assurance of Social Service Dogs	Sweden	http://dev.manimalis.com/?page_id=590

Research and Educational Opportunities in AAI

International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ)	International	http://www.isaz.net/isaz/career-opportunities
Anthrozoology	United States	https://www.carroll.edu/academic-programs/anthrozoology

Resources:

Canada

Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Support Services

<https://www.ccpa-accp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CFAS-VictorsPrgmPresent-Concordia-2016FV1.pdf>

Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association (occasionally offers webinars and courses).

<https://www.ccpa-accp.ca/chapters/animal-assisted-therapy-counselling>

International

Animal Assisted Intervention International

<http://www.aai-int.org>

Centre for the Human Animal Bond at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

<https://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/index.php>

Institute for Human-Animal Connection at University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work

<https://www.du.edu/humananimalconnection>

International Association of Human-Animal-Interaction International

<http://iahaio.org>

International Society for Anthrozoology

<http://www.isaz.net/isaz>

The Center for Human Animal Interventions Oakland University School of Nursing
<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/nursing/continuing-education/animalassistedtherapy/>

Veterinary Social Work at University of Tennessee VSW Program
<http://vetsocialwork.utk.edu/veterinary-social-work-certificate-mssw-students/>

Europe

European Society for Animal Assisted Therapy (Listing of accredited European training institutions)
<http://www.en.esaat.org>

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DISCLAIMER: Training and practice in Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) is an emerging field in North America and internationally. When seeking education in AAI, it is important to be an informed consumer. This can be challenging at times because terminology is inconsistently applied across the field. Suggested questions to ask of programs include:

- Is the program recognized in Canada?
- What are the qualifications of the program instructors?
- Does the program include a hands-on component?
- Does the program address the ethics of AAI and animal welfare?
- What are the eligibility pre-requisites? Is the program only for recognized therapists?
- What type of credential is being offered (e.g., workshop, certificate, diploma, continuing education units)?
- What is the species of animal focused on?
- How many hours of course work and hands-on training are required?
- Does the course teach about dog language, behaviour and communication?
