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/

Compiled by Ann Campbell, with assistance from Darlene Chalmers & Colleen Dell. Dreamcatcher Nature-Assisted Therapy Ltd. provided valuable guidance.

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 AAI's 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 AAI's 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”.

NOTES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dogue Shop Training Centre, Animal Assisted Therapy</td>
<td>Canada, Quebec (Montreal, Edmonton)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dogueshop.com/animal-assisted-therapy-program">https://www.dogueshop.com/animal-assisted-therapy-program</a></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEGEP De Saint-Hyacinthe Zootherapie</td>
<td>Canada, Quebec</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.cegepsth.qc.ca/formation-continue/">http://www.cegepsth.qc.ca/formation-continue/</a> formations-a-temps-partiel/strategies-dintervention-en-zootherapie-cegep-de-la-pocatiere](<a href="http://www.cegepsth.qc.ca/formation-continue/">http://www.cegepsth.qc.ca/formation-continue/</a> formations-a-temps-partiel/strategies-dintervention-en-zootherapie-cegep-de-la-pocatiere)</td>
<td>On site class offered in French</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Behaviour Institute Animal Assisted Therapy, Certificate</td>
<td>USA, North Carolina</td>
<td><a href="http://www.animaledu.com/Programs/Animal-Assisted-Therapy?%20d=1&amp;d=1">http://www.animaledu.com/Programs/Animal-Assisted-Therapy?%20d=1&amp;d=1</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institute for Human-Animal Connection, Animals and Human Health Certificate

**Animal Assisted Therapy, Activities & Learning, Animal Assisted Social Work Certificate**

USA, University of Denver

[https://www.du.edu/socialwork/licensureandcpd/animalsandhumanhealth.html](https://www.du.edu/socialwork/licensureandcpd/animalsandhumanhealth.html)

The Center for Human Animal Interactions

**Animal Assisted Therapy, Animal Assisted Therapy Certificate**

USA, University of Oakland

[http://wwwp.oakland.edu/nursing/continuing-education/animalassistedtherapy](http://wwwp.oakland.edu/nursing/continuing-education/animalassistedtherapy)


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**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](http://www.bfdogtraining.ca)

- **Blue Ribbon Therapy Dogs**
  - Quebec
  - [www.blueribboncanine.com](http://www.blueribboncanine.com)

- **Canine Good Neighbour Program**
  - Canada
  - [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)

- **Chimo Animal Assisted Wellness and Learning Society**
  - Alberta
  - [www.caawls.org](http://www.caawls.org)

- **Ottawa Therapy Dogs**
  - Ontario
  - [www.ottawatherapydogs.ca](http://www.ottawatherapydogs.ca)

- **Pacific Animal Therapy Society**
  - British Columbia
  - [www.patspets.ca](http://www.patspets.ca)

- **St. John Ambulance**
  - Canada
  - [www.sja.ca](http://www.sja.ca)

- **Therapeutic Paws of Canada**
  - Canada
  - [www.t poc.ca](http://www.t poc.ca)

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**Animal Welfare Courses in Canada**

**International Institute for Animal Ethics, Brock University (Onsite)**

Canada, Ontario


**Thompson Rivers University Animal Welfare Certificate**

Canada, BC

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals &amp; Society Institute</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td><a href="https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/courses/has-courses-in-animal-assisted-therapy/">https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/courses/has-courses-in-animal-assisted-therapy/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Listing of Universities that Offer Degrees, Certificates or Specializations Related to Human-Animal Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals &amp; Society</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td><a href="https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/degree-programs/">https://www.animalsandsociety.org/human-animal-studies/degree-programs/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergin University for Canine Studies</td>
<td>USA, California</td>
<td><a href="https://www.berginu.edu">https://www.berginu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rohnert Park, CA</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue University, Illinois</td>
<td>USA, Indiana</td>
<td><a href="https://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/ohaire/opportunities.php#postdoc">https://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/ohaire/opportunities.php#postdoc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Website</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University (Onsite)</td>
<td>USA, Lansing</td>
<td><a href="http://animalstudies.msu.edu/specialization.php">http://animalstudies.msu.edu/specialization.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee</td>
<td>USA, Knoxville</td>
<td><a href="http://vetsocialwork.utk.edu/animal-assisted-interventions">http://vetsocialwork.utk.edu/animal-assisted-interventions</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Animal Assisted Intervention Programs

CURSO BÁSICO EM ATIVIDADE, EDUCAÇÃO E TERAPIA ASSISTIDA POR ANIMAIS
Basic Course on Animal Assisted Activity, Education and Therapy
Quality Assurance of Social Service Dogs
Brazil


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

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

NOTES:

DISCLAIMER: Training and practice in Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) is an emerging field in North America and internationally. When seeking education in AAs, 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?