HOW ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS CAN IMPACT THE WORK WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY HELPING PROFESSIONS

SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 2020

Presenters: Dr. Debra Mims, Dr. Rhondda Waddell, & Dr. Nancy Wood
Learning Objectives

• Define human animal bond (HAB)

• Explain how HAB plays an interdisciplinary role across disciplines

• Discuss how animal-assisted interventions can be incorporated in your classroom
The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both. This includes, but is not limited to, emotional, psychological, and physical interactions of people, animals, and the environment.

- The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)
The importance of human-animal bonds has been documented throughout history, across cultures, and in research. In the late 1970s, the term “human–animal bond” was coined by Leo Bustad and Michael McCulloch. The human-animal bond is deeply intertwined with our health and well-being.

These bonds or shared connections between people and animals can take many different forms which has led these bonds to be found in various settings in a therapeutic way. Animal-assisted interventions are goal-directed interventions designed to promote improvement in physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive functioning of the person(s) involved and in which a specially trained animal-handler team is an integral part.

AAI can be found in hospitals, eldercare settings, innovative schools, prisons, farms, the workplace, community programs, the list continues.
Interdisciplinary Approaches: Service & Therapy Animals Course

This course provides an overview of how human-animal interactions (HAI) and the human-animal bond (HAB) can impact animals, society, and work with interdisciplinary helping professions. Topics include: the social, physical and emotional/psychological impacts of HAI with interdisciplinary helping professions; educational benefits, therapeutic roles of animals; ethical and animal welfare considerations; and the connection between violence toward people and violence toward animals.

- Open to all majors as an elective course
- Co-instructed by faculty from various disciplines (i.e., criminal justice, social work, human services)
- Invite speakers with AAI expertise
Interdisciplinary Approaches to Service Therapy Animals

Contact -
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The Human Animal Bond Dr. Micah Kohles
The Clinical Practice with Animals: Pets as Healers

- Fish tanks offer soothing supports and increase alertness to patients with Alzheimer’s.
- Pets off social lubricants for the lonely and emotionally/physically challenged.
- Pets have been demonstrated to lower B/P, cholesterol and triglycerides, increase survival after a heart attack, reduce stress, support weight loss.
The Role of ATT in Health Care Settings

- AAT offer distractions from pain and worry
- Normalization of the health care environments
- Provides unconditional support and affection
- Increase stress reduction and tolerances
- Elevates moods for joy and happiness
- Increases opportunities for social interactions
- Affects future orientation positively
How Elderly Benefits from Pets

• Pets provide companionship and support
• Pets increase activity levels
• Pets increase socialization
• Pets provide support during loss and grief
• Pets tune into sensory losses (i.e. hearing, mobility, mental changes)
How Children Benefit from Pets

- Pets provide a sense of security and increase self-esteem
- Pets facilities play and exploration
- Pets promote responsibility, nurturing, empathy, caring, sharing and unconditional love.
How Special Populations Benefits from Pets

- Homeless people with pets find caring for a pet as a normalizing experience when they have suffered loss and displacement.
- Humans that can protect those they love are empowered.
- People that are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum challenges are assisted with their pets when coping with emotional overload, offered as social lubricants in interactions with other people and find security enhanced.
AAT and PTSD
YouTube Video
Criminal Justice
K9’s and Law Enforcement

How about K-9?
STAND STILL

DO NOT MOVE
SAR: Search and Rescue

- The Bloodhound is one of the oldest dogs that hunt by scent.
- A Search and Rescue Dog is trained to find living humans
- Takes about 600 hours of training for
- A dog to be field ready.
HRD dogs
Human Remains Detection
HRD Facts

- Well-trained cadaver dogs will not flag a living person or an animal.
- Cadaver dogs 95 percent accurate
- Dogs can pick up scents that are diluted to 1 or 2 parts per trillion; this allows them to smell things buried as far as 40 feet underground! In one experiment, a dog was capable of sniffing out whale poop floating in Puget Sound from a mile away, according to Nova.
Explosive Detection K9
Narcotics Detection Dogs
Activity

BREAKOUT ROOMS

Discuss how animals have impacted you personally and professionally.

Explain how you might bring Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) to your classroom.
# Micro credential – Coming Soon

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<th>Badge</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>One</strong></td>
<td><strong>Animal Interventions Micro credential</strong></td>
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| | **Skills** - Demonstrate knowledge of animal communication (Module 1)  
| | Create animal intervention programs (Module 2)  
| | Demonstrate business proficiency in animal related services |

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<td><strong>Two</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good Citizen Training Micro credential</strong></td>
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| | **Skills** - Exhibit basic dog training skills  
| | Complete good citizen training |
Lessons Learned

- Special ways animal *serve* and *love* humans routinely:
  - Companion animals
  - Animal assisted therapy
  - Service animals
  - Equine therapies
Questions
Resources

