



IC – AAI PROVIDER EDUCATION GROUP

Education/Continuing Education Criteria – Outcomes from Matrix spreadsheets



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INTRODUCTION

2020: AAII & IAHAIO began collaboration about professionalism in AAIs



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INTRODUCTION

2020-2021

Set international goals to:

- Identify components of professionalizing AAI practices
- Establish transparency in several areas of AAI practices
- Identify current challenges
- Create international consortium for ongoing work in the area



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Introduction

- April 2020- AAI & IAHAIO Collaboration
- June 2021 ISAZ- ½ day workshop; IC-AAI formed
- September 2021- Presented outcomes at IAHAIO conference and AAI monthly forum
- January 2022- Working groups formed.


Note: Open call for participation from individuals and representatives of several organizations from different countries.



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WORKING GROUPS

- TERMINOLOGY (Practitioners/handlers)
- TERMINOLOGY (Animals)
- GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS FOR AAI
- EDUCATION / CONTINUING EDUCATION CRITERIA




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Terminology Group Product
 Headed for journal review:
 APA Human-animal Interaction Bulletin (CABI)
 October 2023 Special Edition

**Recommendations for Uniform Terminology
 in Animal-Assisted Services (AAS)**

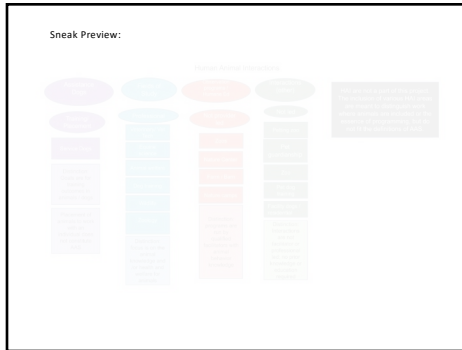
By: Amy Johnson Binder, Nancy Parish-Plass, Meg Kirby, Melissa Winkle, (Alpha order) Laura Ackerman, Cindy Brosig, Wendy Coombe, Esther Delisle, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, Jo-Ann Fowler, Laura Hey, Tiffany Howell, Michael Kaufman, Mariana Kienast, Miyako Kinoshita, Debbie Ngai, Daniela Plesa Skwerer, Brigitte Wijnen



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Today's HAI Webinar:
Education Group Content


IDENTIFIED THREE THEMES:

1. AAS Educator Qualifications (Formal programs, CE delivery, etc.)
2. AAS Delivery – Required Training/ Competencies
3. Measuring Competencies in AAS Training and Continuing Education




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- Group considers that since there is not an international governing board, terms such as 'certifications' are avoided as those are typically offered within individual organizations for members of THAT organization.
- 'Certifications' may not carry merit from one organization to the next.
- Some offer evaluation of theoretical knowledge, others have more emphasis on demonstration of actual clinical skills for example.
- 'Certification' means different things to different groups. Ex: Certified OT, Degreeed, 6-12 months internships, Assessment via Board of OT,s speciality training/professional development for different areas, ongoing CE requirement.....



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1. AAS Educator Qualifications
2. AAS Delivery – Required Training or Competencies
3. Measuring Competencies in AAS Training and Continuing Education



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Dog Skills Knowledge

- Manners/Obedience
- Understanding dog learning theory
- Understanding dog emotion
- Animal behavior



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Dog Communication Knowledge


- Consent/choice making
- Signs of fear
- Aggression vs. communication
- Sociability (social and proxemic preferences, etc.)
- Evasive/avoidance behaviors
- Mental stability
- Specific observational behaviors of animals
- How to evaluate behavior changes in animals



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Animal Health, Welfare and Well-being
 - Ethics
 - Enrichment, play, etc.
- Supervision and mentoring in animal welfare, AATx, theoretical foundations, AAE, etc.
- Species specific education (animal behavior, welfare, care of animal)



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Dog and Human Team
 - Understanding how to create a successful human-dog team
 - Making a good match for dog and clients/patients/students
 - Making a good match for dog and activities
 - Relationship development and cooperative work with the animals
 - Basic species-specific training skills, social skills



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Theoretical Knowledge
 - Taxonomy & Terminology
 - HAI, HAB, impact of human-animal relationships/interactions, dog behavior and training
 - Understanding of historical and current literature in the field



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS


- Theoretical Knowledge
 - Qualifications in several fields (ethology, dog and human communication, horsemanship, animals, anthrozoology)
 - Qualifications in a field from social sciences, health sciences or humanities
 - Understanding benefits of AAS
 - Contraindications (Anicare, etc.)



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Theoretical Knowledge
 - Ongoing continuing education
 - Formal/continuing education in related areas of one's field (animal welfare, AATx, theoretical foundations, AAE, etc.)
 - Recognize scope of practice within your professional field
 - Supervised experiential knowledge



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Theoretical Knowledge


- Program development
 - Policy and procedure development
 - Human resources
 - Program proposal, evaluation and development
 - Business and administration
 - Risk assessment and management
 - Work environmental documents
 - Hygiene
 - Zoonosis
 - Security issues
 - Laws
- Knowledge of legal issues related to AAS
- Documentation
- Understanding of how to evaluate clients for appropriateness of AAS
- Understanding of how to evaluate and re-evaluate animals and their appropriateness for different aspects of AAS
- Outcome of AAS



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Theoretical Knowledge
 - Certification in professional licensure/degrees (OT, PT, speech, psychotherapy, etc.)
 - Knowledge in reward-based training methods
 - Professional recognized qualifications and **experience** in the fields they are teaching (ex. AASP, AATx, AAE)




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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Practical Knowledge

- Professional skill development in one's field before incorporating AATx
- Practical experience in their implementation (assessment, evaluation, monitoring...)for a minimum of 10 years? 5 years?
- Several years of hands-on experience (working in the field) in ethology, dog and human communication
- Ability to merge theoretical, practical and soft skills
 - Delivery method: diamond vs. triangle model
- Academic experience in practical sessions



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge/experience in research
- Understands and follow standards of practice
- Competencies
 - Understand requirements to achieve competency
 - Is there a hierarchy of competencies?
 - Trainer/Educator has been trained in AAS (specific to training content)
 - Trainer/Educator has experience (or qualification) in supervision



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AAS EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Interdisciplinary/Intradisciplinary
 - Collaboration with other AAI personnel in similar fields
- Education
 - Understand scope of practice/teaching methods
 - Graduate degree or equivalent in education?
 - Higher level of education within pedagogics
 - Higher level of education within care (OT, PT, speech)
 - Teachers should also have practical experience in the field
 - Ability to define expected learning outcomes and teaching goals
 - 'Certified' learning area of education, personal development or organizations



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1. AAS Educator Qualifications
2. AAS Delivery – Required Training or Competencies
3. Measuring Competencies in AAS Training and Continuing Education

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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

- Different levels of education for those choosing to practice AAls
 - Country regulations
 - Species specific training
 - Existing 'certifications'/licences available in one's region

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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES


- Depends on educational qualifications
 - Therapist, supervisor, instructor, paraprofessional/associate, support specialist

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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

- Levels within each practice category
- Minimum standard, university degree
 - AASP – senior in high school may be eligible
 - AATx – practitioner within area of expertise
 - AAE – teacher, education in pedagogics
 - AAC/AAP – discipline specific program inclusion as specialty (ex: animal assisted counseling or psychology)



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

- Tiered system in which initial courses speak to AASP, AAE, AATx, etc. with general theoretical foundations, knowledge of animals, animal welfare and well-being, and ongoing advanced education for human and healthcare service providers for evaluation and treatment of clients that incorporates AATx & AAE



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

Initial training/introduction to AAS

Entry level content that all of us have in common in AASP, AATx, AAE, other professional programs, etc.



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Health/Animal Welfare to 4.4.16

- Taxonomy and terminology (differences in AASP, AAE, AATx)
- Standards of practice
 - For practitioners
 - For animal handlers
 - Animal welfare and well-being
- Goals, session or treatment planning



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Health/Animal Welfare to 4.4.16

- Understanding the difference between goal setting and treatment planning
- Formal risk assessment & management plan
- Impact of zoonosis/disease transmission & hygiene procedures
- Species specific behavior and communication
- Stress recognition, indicators, relief and prevention



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Health/Animal Welfare to 4.4.16

- History of AAS
- HAI, HAB, relationships, animal health, welfare and well-being
- Ethology/Ethograms (different kinds of behaviors demonstrated by animals)
- Roles and responsibilities of any AAS delivery system



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
What Learning Objectives to 4.4.1

Theory includes

- Anthrozoology
- Ethics
- Ethology
- Terminology
- Standards & Competencies
- Animal welfare
- HAI
- Risk assessment
- Evaluation and planning



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
What Learning Objectives to 4.4.1

- Insurance/liability/informed consent
- Evaluation of clients, environment, activity
- Program proposals, development and evaluation
- Simulations/hands-on/Supervision/Mentoring
- Health and safety aspects of interactions



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
What Learning Objectives to 4.4.1

- Ethics of animal inclusion in AAS (welfare/advocacy)
- Safety plans for clients & animals in emergencies
- Treating individuals/groups with AAls
- Psychology of human animal interactions
- 5 freedoms/One Health /One Welfare/5 domains
- Animal care/husbandry



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Assisted Services/Providing Services to Clients

- Animal-related issues/concerns for AAS
 - Desirable characteristics
 - Selection and evaluation
 - Preparation and socialization
- Identifying additional team member for selection and evaluation (ethologist, animal behavior specialist, etc.)



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Assisted Services/Providing Services to Clients

- First aid for human and animals
- Animal studies, animal learning, enrichment, interspecies relations
- Animal's contribution to client change
- Neuroscience and Trauma informed practice for mental health providers



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Assisted Services/Providing Services to Clients

- Legal issues
- Supervision and Mentoring
- International organizations/Governmental Requirements



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

Animal Training/Handling

May be a healthcare or human service provider handling their own dog OR may be dog handler



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

Animal Training/Handling

- Best practices/standards of practice
- Animal health, welfare and well-being
- Animal care
- Species specific interaction expectations
- Fundamentals and characteristics of the human-animal relationship



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

Animal Training/Handling

- Animal perspectives in AAS
- HAI, HAB, relationship
- Animal communication/consent
- Ethics
- Handlers educated for populations they work with



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Training/Handling

- Human-animal cooperation (One Health, One Welfare, 5 freedoms, 5 domains)
- Communication, stress signals, choice and control
- Reward-based training
- Healthy boundaries/animal advocacy



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Training/Handling

- Animal cognition and emotions
- Animal human mutual beneficial interactions
- Animal and client safety
- Animal learning and training
- Communication and expression



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Training/Handling

- Species-specific behaviour
- Inter-species relating
- Senses, stress and movement
- Eating behaviour, diet and nutrition
- Physical care
- Enrichment



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
Animal Training/Handling

- AASP (Human and dog providing visitations)
- AAE/AATx/Mental Health Providers (incorporating into their licensed/degreed positions)
- Other professional programs/special programs that do not need a healthcare or human service provider
- COLLABORATIVE AAE/AATx/Other programs (handler and dog working with healthcare and human service providers)



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AASP

- HAI safety
- Screening and engaging with different populations, environments, etc. That they visit
- Facilitating interactions
- Assessing risk/safety for people and animals etc.
- Ethological and psychological needs of species
- Evolution and behavior of animals



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AASP

- Social and communication systems of animals
- Intra and inter species communication/nonverbal
- Safety and comfort
- Role of animal helper
- Evaluation and monitoring the welfare of animals
- Basic dog training



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

AASP

- Training plans for AAAs
- Stress signals and human responses to stress
- Policies and procedures, risk management
- Animal health, welfare and well-being
- Human-animal relationships
- Ethics
- Human-animal cooperation



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

AASP

- How to set up a visit
- Set minimum requirements
- Animal choice and control, consent
- Risk assessment & management
- Documentation for AASP observing animals in novel situations
- Participant safety protocols
- First aid



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES

AAP/AAI/Other programs

- Best practices/standards
- Animal health, welfare & well-being
- Animal care
- Communication and behavior
- Professional development planning
- Supervision and mentoring
- Client evaluation
- Environment and activity analysis



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AAG/AAG2/Other programs

- Developing, implementing and evaluating intervention plans
- Measuring and documenting client progress
- Ethics
- Measuring animal behavior (techniques and technological issues)
- Tools and assessments in AAls (evaluation of clients, animal welfare etc.)
- One-to-one vs. group sessions
- Team roles



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AAG/AAG2/Other programs

- Characteristics of triangle vs. diamond model
 - Split attention
- Qualifications for running sessions with or without an animal and how to incorporate an animal into sessions
- Client evaluation treatment and re-evaluation
- Competencies
- Human-animal cooperation
- Advocacy and safety of animals



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AAG/AAG2/Other programs

- Animal selection, preparation, socialization, training and evaluation
- Animal documentation
- Risk assesment and management
- First aid for humans and animals
- Animal control, choice, consent
- Policy amd procedure development
- Supervision and mentoring
- Interships for X amount of hours



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
AAI/AAE/Other programs

- Discipline specific governing body requirements (for Aais or alternative/complementary practices)
- Population specific training
- How to facilitate interactions
- How to develop programs or plans based on client goals



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AAS DELIVERY – REQUIRED TRAINING & COMPETENCIES
COLLABORATIVE AAI/AAE/Other programs

- Training/certification for working with specific species
- Cross-training between team members
- Population specific training
- Privacy practices and ethics
- More....



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1. AAI Educator Qualifications
2. AAI Delivery – Required Training or Competencies
3. Measuring Competencies in AAI Training and Continuing Education



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Existing standards and/or address competencies

- AAI Standards, Competencies (includes welfare and preparation of animals). Adopted and modified Dr. Leslie Stewarts competencies
- IAHAIO White Paper Review
- Dr. Leslie Stewart Competencies
- American Psychological Association/American Counseling Association
- International Community of Anthrozoology (ICofA)
- International Institute of AA Play Therapy
- Ann Howie, Cynthia Chandler....
- Association of Animal Assisted Intervention Professionals (AAAIP)

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MEASURING COMPETENCIES

AAII and IAHAIO have informally discussed and proposed setting industry standards, competencies and evaluation of those competencies with active input from several stakeholder organizations.

Goal is to make it accessible for as much of the world as possible- cost effective, available form several sources. Similar to how different disciplines do (AOTA, APTA, etc.)

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MEASURING COMPETENCIES

- Together, how do we measure competencies (could be different levels) in AAI training and continuing education AROUND THE WORLD?
 - University program
 - Private company offering CE
 - Webinars
 - Post-professional rotations
 - Internship
 - ...

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MEASURING COMPETENCIES


- Coursework/CE
 - Annual Continuing Education (minimum of X hours)
 - Coursework should have quizzes/tests & hands-on evaluation (at least 85% to pass)
 - Database of approved, reputable registered courses/instructors through AAIL and IAHAIO (International Consortium for AAls)



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MEASURING COMPETENCIES

- Evaluation
 - Evaluation during supervisory process
 - Evaluation of mock and real sessions
 - Internships
 - Post-professional rotations




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MEASURING COMPETENCIES

Qualifications

- Certifications should include goal setting, practicum (hands on), testing and continuing education
- Define and clearly operationalize theory knowledge, years of practice in the field, different settings, different animals, different experiences/education background of practitioners/handlers
- International Accreditation for AAI Curriculum components to offer titles
- International Certification Exam that several organizations come together for, widely available in several channels (university programs, several organizations), several stakeholders rather than one organization
- Work on content together with sections for the people (handlers/healthcare/teachers), participants (clients, students, patients), dog content, and team components.
- Easily accessible with more than one organization benefiting, affordable, possible to offer similar testing content through organizations, universities, etc.??



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MEASURING COMPETENCIES


We hope this presentation offered
insight to educational areas in
professionalizing AAS.

More to come!



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Thank you for coming!



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