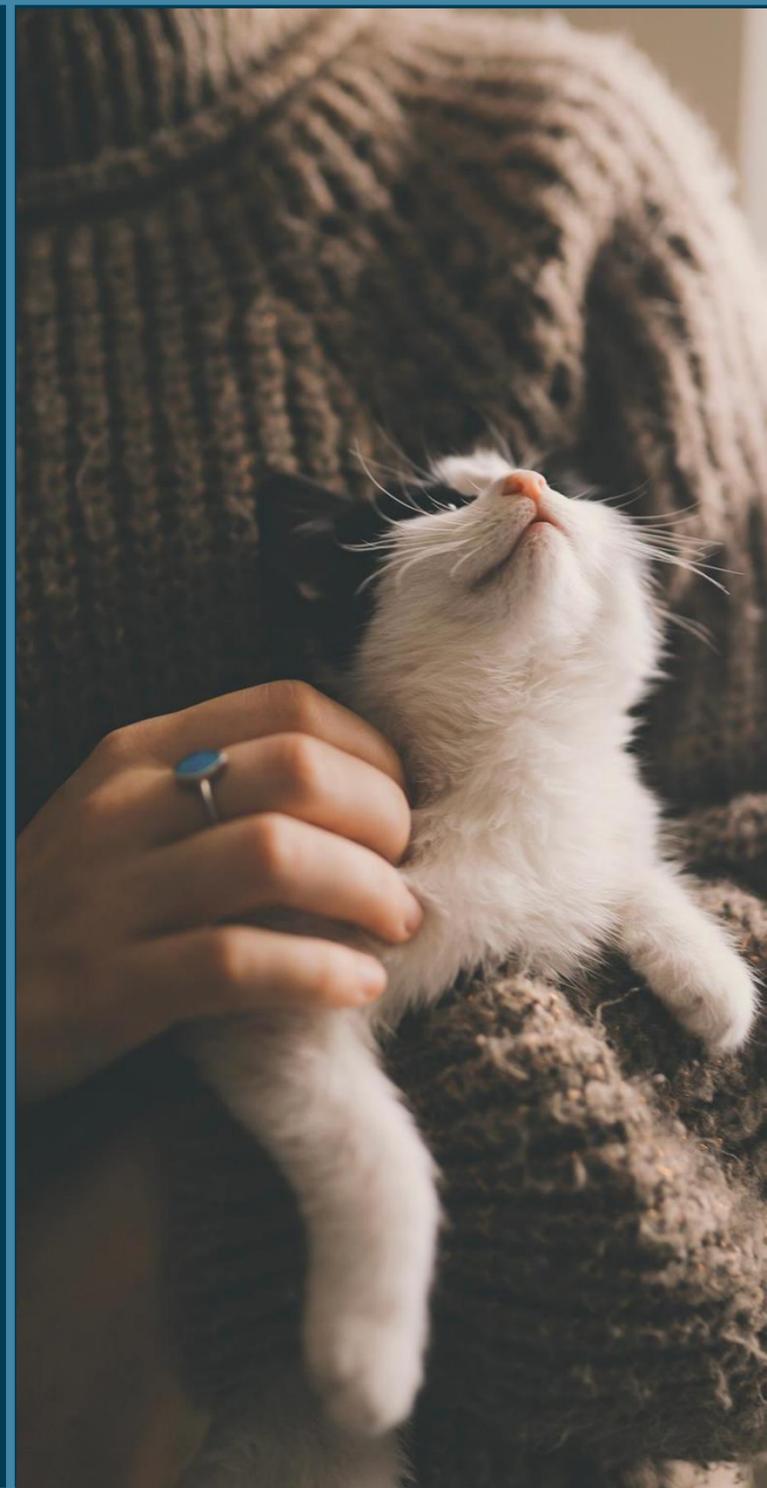




ZOONOSIS AND INFECTION PREVENTION

**THE ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL-ASSISTED
INTERVENTION PROFESSIONALS
(AAAIP)**



Dr. Elizabeth Lynch



Taylor Chastain Griffin, PhD



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS



Pet Partners[®]
Touching Lives, Improving Health

Services for Volunteers who Register with their Pets to Become Therapy Animal Teams: *coursework + evaluation for insurance and AAI support*

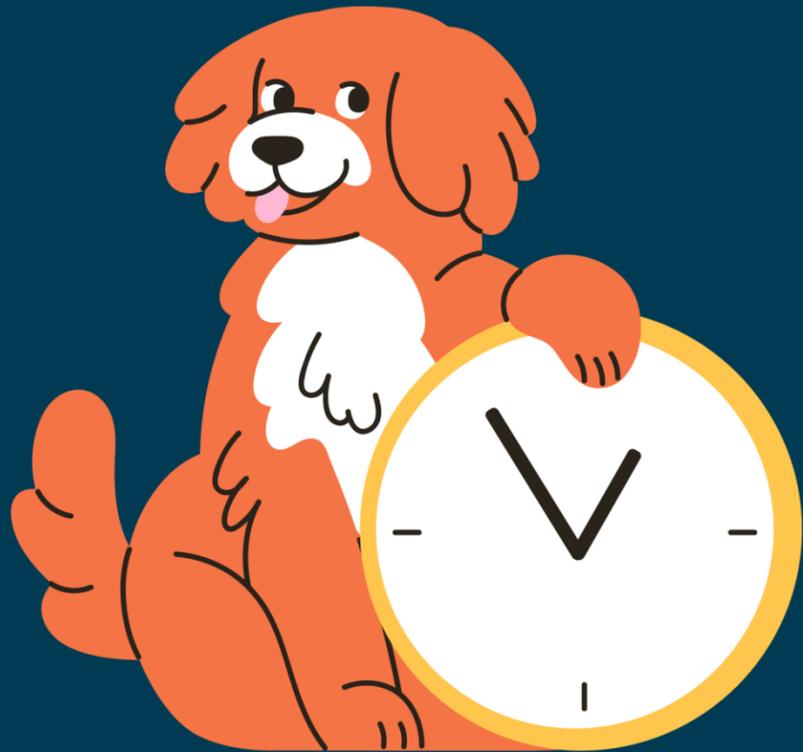


AAAIP

Association of Animal-Assisted
Intervention Professionals

Services for Professionals who Integrate Therapy Animals into their Vocational Work: *online courses, resources, professional community, liability insurance*

Agenda



1

Key Terminology

2

Common Risks

3

Mitigation Practices

4

Documentation/Response

5

Q/A Session

*Disclaimer: though this presentation will provide an overview of related information, this is not to serve as a substitute for medical advice

Zoonosis

Transfer of
disease from
animals to
humans

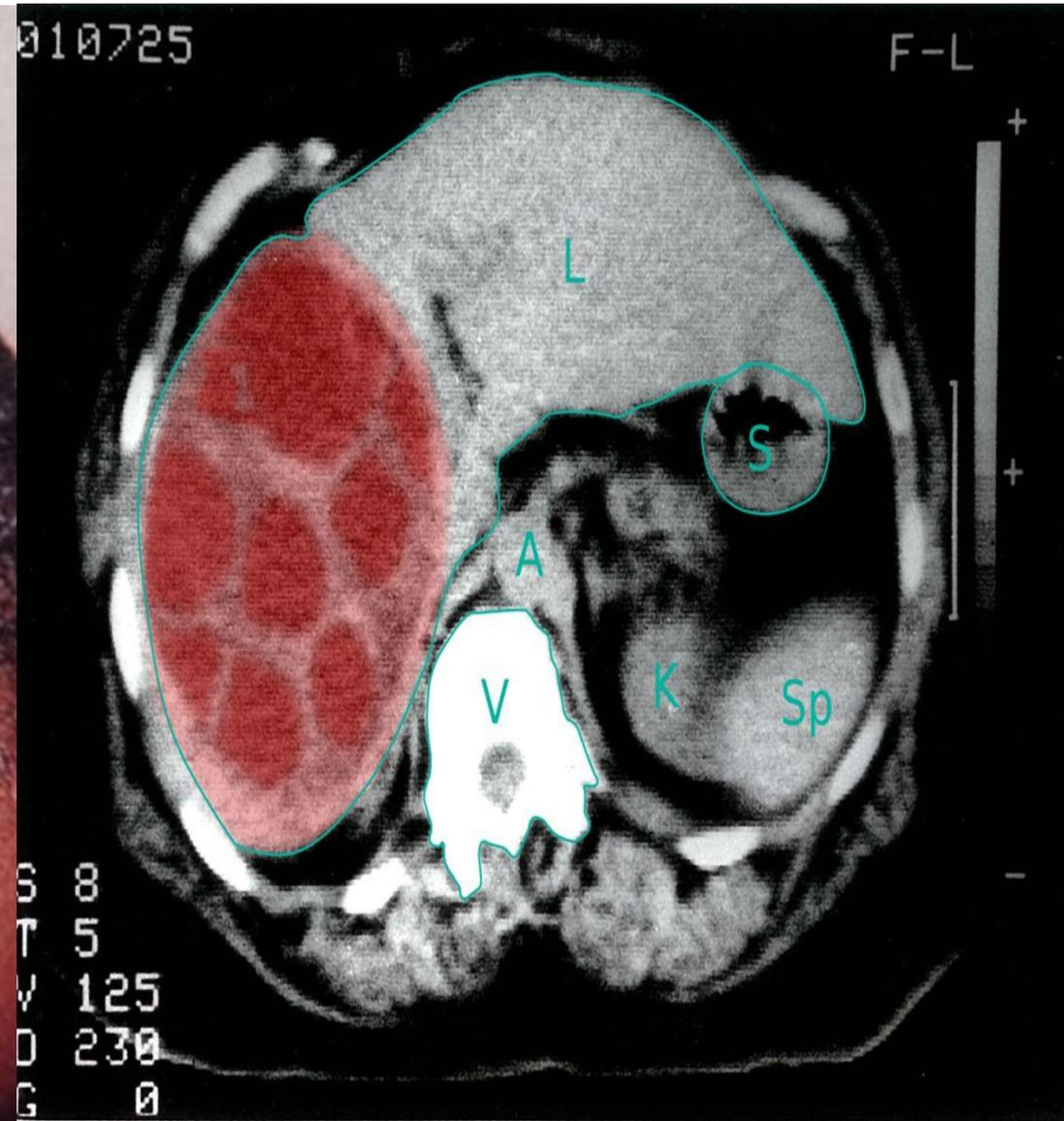


Reverse Zoonosis

Transfer of
disease from
humans to
animals



Zoonotic Diseases: Ringworm, Tapeworms, MRSA



Common Risk Factors

age and immune status	internal & external parasites	raw food diets
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Common Modes of Transmission

saliva, urine and feces	animal's coat or equipment	Insect vectors
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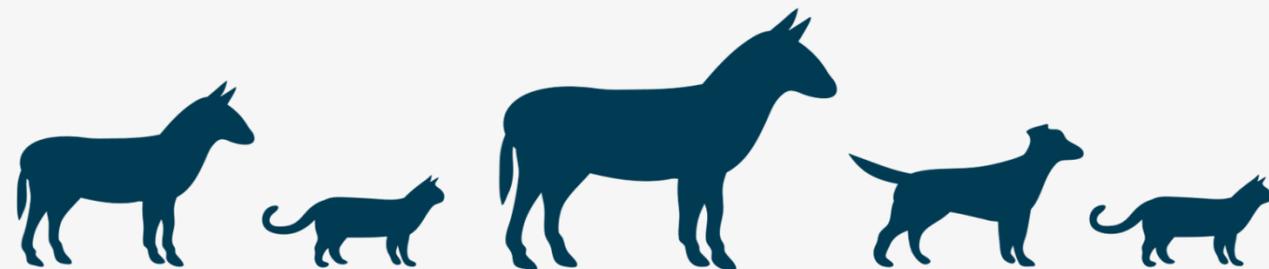
Rabies	Parasites
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viral disease• Causes fatal inflammation of the brain• Passed by bites or scratches of infected animals• Mostly contracted from wildlife• Vaccination is highly effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• External: fleas and ticks• Internal: roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, giardia, & toxoplasmosis (cats)• Preventative medications available• Prevent interaction with wild animals

Some of the most commonly cited concerns...

Salmonella	Avian and Swine Influenza
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be contracted from animals.• Mostly acquired from contaminated food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bird flu: contact with wild birds, poultry, and raw milk.• Swine flu: A mutated strain of swine virus, mostly transmitted from human to human.

Some of the most commonly cited concerns...

How do we
decide which
species are
appropriate
for AAI?



**Understanding of species'
behavior/ability to ensure
wellness**

+

**understanding of zoonosis
and infection prevention**

Dogs

- Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Capnocytophaga
- Cryptosporidium
- E. coli
- Leptospirosis
- Lyme Disease
- MRSA
- Rabies
- Ringworm
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms
- Salmonellosis
- Sarcoptic mange
- Streptococcus, equi zooepidemicus
- Tularemia
- Yersinia, pestis

Cats

- Avian Influenza
- Bartonella sp.
- Campylobacteriosis
- Covid-19
- Cryptosporidium
- MRSA
- Pasteurella, multocida
- Rabies
- Ringworm
- Roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms
- Salmonellosis
- Streptococcus, equi zooepidemicus
- Toxoplasmosis

Horses

- Cryptosporidiosis
- Leptospirosis
- Salmonellosis
- Rabies
- Ringworm
- Streptococcus, equi zooepidemicus
- West Nile Virus

Rabbits	Pigs	Birds	Small Mammals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encephalitozoon • Rabies • Ringworm • Salmonellosis • Tularemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthrax • Brucellosis • Campylobacter • Cryptosporidium • E. coli • Erysipelothrix • Influenza • Rotavirus • Norovirus • Leptospirosis • MRSA • Roundworms • Sarcoptic Mange • Streptococcus, suis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blastomycosis • Chlamydia, psittaci • Coccidiomyces • Cryptococcosis • Histoplasmosis • Mycobacterium, avium • Salmonellosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hantavirus (Seoul virus) • Lymphocytic choriomeningitis • Leptospirosis • MPox • Ringworm • Salmonellosis • Streptobacillus, moniliformis • Trichophyton mentagrophytes

Prevention is Key

Vaccines

**Frequent
Health
Screening**

**Hand-
washing**

**Preventative
Medications**

**Careful
Waste
Management**

**Animal
Bathing/
Equipment
Cleaning**

Prevention is Key

**Housing/
Contact with
wild animal**

**Feeding
Practices**

**Obtaining
Animals from
Reputable
Sources**

**Prevent
licks, bites
and
scratches**

**Reduce
Stress**

**Quarantine
new animals**

- **Hand hygiene before and after**
- **Train and practice with treats outside of session**
- **Consider type of treat**
- **Consider client capabilities**
- **Alternative strategies**



Feeding Treats in Session

MAKING CLIENTS AWARE OF RISKS

- **Improved client participation in mitigation procedures**
- **Reduced legal liability**

Included in Informed Consent:

- information on risk**
- mitigation protocols**
- client responsibilities**
- species-specific information**
- client health confirmation**

CLIENT SCREENING



immune status



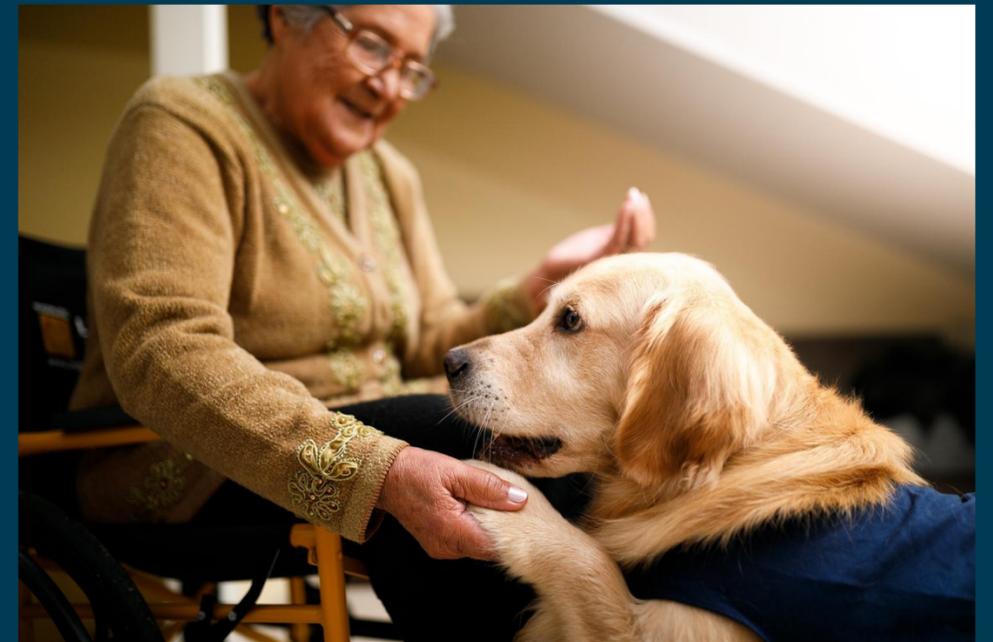
allergies: to animal & products



client characteristics



cultural considerations



THE MYTH OF THE HYPOALLERGENIC DOG



While certain breeds may be low shed or hairless, there is no such thing as a hypoallergenic dog. These breeds might provoke fewer issues related to allergies, but they still might not be a safe choice for someone with severe allergies, given the fact that allergens are not exclusively caused by a dog's hair and dander.

**Any incident, perceived
or real**

Precise details

**Associated zoonosis
and infection risks**

**Mitigation steps &
future directions**

REPORTING INCIDENTS

Perspective- Setting

Most cases of reported zoonotic disease are seen in individuals who work closely in animal-handling occupations: farmers, slaughter house workers, shelter employees, and vets.

When following best practices, risks can be significantly mitigated. The benefits outweigh the risks.

Their safety is in your hands.

Take AAAIP's course, "Zoonotic Disease Prevention" for professionals in AAI.



Your profession. Your passion for animals.

They come together at AAAIP.



Bringing together professionals from all disciplines to share knowledge and advance the field

Join a network of professionals who are interested in the safe, ethical, and effective practice of animal-assisted interventions. Together we will develop standards of care, champion the well-being of the animals, and build a stronger future for AAI.

Free Professional Resources: Guiding Documents for Competent Practice



Field Terminology

The field of animal-assisted interventions (AAI) has often been characterized by confusion surrounding terminology. Over the years, numerous terms have been proposed, leading to a lack of clarity and consistency in communication. Recognizing this issue, AAAIP champions [clear and standardized terminology](#), as established by leaders and practitioners in the field.



Competencies for the Ethical Inclusion of Therapy and Facility Animals

This document outlines attitudes, knowledge, skills, and abilities for the professional AAI practitioner. Whether you plan to incorporate your own animal or partner with a paraprofessional or volunteer to bring AAI to your clients, the competencies articulate that which is specific to AAI in addition to the competencies unique to your vocation. [View the Competencies](#).



Animal-Assisted Intervention Specialist Practice Analysis

AAAIP facilitated the process of determining essential knowledge that a professional should have before partnering with a therapy animal. This resource articulates 115 statements in five different topic areas that have been deemed essential by the field. The content assessed on The Animal-Assisted Intervention Specialist (AAI-S) certification exam is based on this document.



Standards of Practice for Animal-Assisted Interventions

AAAIP has identified competencies and essential knowledge for AAI professionals, but there are also standards of practice for volunteers operating as handlers.



Understanding Liability Insurance

It can be difficult to understand what kind of insurance coverage you need when working in this space. This short video will help you understand where to look in your existing policy and who to contact should you have a need for more coverage.

DESIGNATE YOURSELF AS QUALIFIED TO WORK WITH ANIMALS



- Created in collaboration with certification experts
- Intentionally measures baseline knowledge
- Anyone can sit for the exam, no pre-requisites
- 120 questions, proctored online

Free practice test



UPCOMING EVENTS

8/29 Professional Competencies Mini-Conference

9/17 AAI w/ Youth Mentoring Circle

9/26 AAIS Study Group Mentoring Circle

10/29 Program Evaluation Zoomies Session

11/12 Therapy Dog Trainers Mini-Conference



OVER 20 HOURS OF
PREVIOUSLY
RECORDED EVENTS
AVAILABLE TO
MEMBERS

DISCOUNT CODES

"30offAAAIP"

to receive

\$30 off membership

"apahaiweb4"

to receive

50% off

Zoonosis course

***valid through**

10/15



QUESTIONS? DISCUSSION

Let's Stay in Touch!

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Connect with me on
LinkedIn

THANK YOU!