



53044 RR #213 Ardrossan, Alberta, T8G 2C4 Ph: (780) 809-1047 Fax: (780) 809-1046
Email: info@dreamcatcherassociation.com Website: <https://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com>

ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTION (AAI) OR CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Written by: Eileen Bona
53044 RR #213 Ardrossan, Alberta
T8G 2C4 780-809-1047
eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com

The following is a list of a number of North American programs practicing AAI. Each AAI practitioner tends to practice differently, based on background, qualifications, scope of practice, preference for animal species, personality, setting, demographics and many other factors. It is interesting to understand all the different types of practitioners, settings, species and methods in which animals are incorporated into the helping professions.

This list is not exhaustive. Although it highlights many well-known programs, especially in North America, there are hundreds (if not thousands) of programs across the globe incorporating animals into professional therapeutic practice.

CANADA

Dreamcatcher Nature-Assisted Therapy Ltd.

Specializing in all ages and those with organic brain dysfunction and multiple diagnoses, Dreamcatcher programs are implemented by psychologists and social workers who partner with a variety of species to conduct Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT).

Eileen Bona – Owner and Founder

53044 RR #213 Ardrossan, Alberta T8G 2C4 (780)809-1047 eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com
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Hope Heels

“Hope Heels is a charitable organization that helps individuals with mental health disabilities to be involved in the training of a service dogs to mitigate their disability. Our specialized programming combines the benefits of AAT and service dogs into one innovative application. In the process of training, the trainer (the person with the disability) learns skills needed to help them work beyond the bounds of their disability and when they need help, their service dog is there. We work with people with mental health disabilities to help them train their own service dog. We have expertise in the areas of depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder/operational stress injury.”

Kristine Aanderson

Edmonton, AB <http://www.hopeheels.com/>

Fawg Forest Therapeutic Farm and Counselling Services

“Fawg Forest is a private counselling service located 30 minutes south of Ottawa, on a 93 acre property which includes pine forest, rolling meadows, and traditional farm atmosphere. This provides the opportunity for a unique counselling experience which combines the outdoors and therapeutic farm milieu to facilitate the adolescent’s counselling and learning experience. Through the combination of animal facilitated therapy and outdoor education, adolescents learn about themselves and the world around them. A traditional counselling approach with the focus on wellness, life-skills and positive coping strategy is used. The comfort of the ‘alternative’ atmosphere facilitates the therapeutic relationship and enjoyment of the 1:1 counselling sessions. The session may include horseback riding lessons, nature arts & crafts and outdoor activity. The clinical approach is client centered, and builds on individual mastery and enjoyment.”

RR #2, County Rd #43, Mountain, ON, K0E 1S0
(613)989-5678
<http://www.fawgforest.com/Pages/Staff.html>

Lambs for Children

“Lambs for Children is a 90 minute per week, eight week program which supports and empowers children who are grieving. The program builds on the diversity and inclusiveness of each individual loss. The program utilizes baby lambs (seasonal) or baby bunnies to encourage touch, discussion, and awareness of the cycle of life through the human-animal bond. Since 2001, Lambs for Children has served over 100 families in the Toronto & Durham area, and over 40 families in Prince Edward County. Programs are held at the Edith Fox Centre in Northport, Prince Edward County, in the Pig House. Each program is delivered by a clinical psychotherapist and trained volunteers who remain with the group throughout its entire series of sessions, ensuring important and non-threatening continuity in what are often discontinuous and shattered lives.”

Kathleen Foster-Morgan 1931 Northport Road, Prince
Edward County, Ontario (613)476-1128
kathleenfm@willowshore.ca
<http://www.edithfoxcentre.org/lambs.html>

SALI’s Farm

“SALI’s Farm provides a safe haven for at-risk children and rescued farm animals to bond, learn and heal with one another. Young children who have experienced or witnessed violence attend SALI’s Farm and engage in animal assisted and horticultural activities. Our farm program is rooted in the realization that one of the most common components of violence is a lack of empathy. Caring for animals and plants teaches the children empathy, non-violence and that all living beings deserve to be loved and cared for. Our goal is to break the cycle of violence.” This program currently conducts therapeutic animal assisted activities.

Keryn Deroche Langley, BC
<http://www.sali.ca/index.php?page=SALI-s-Farm>

Le Bel Agneau*, Ferme Thérapeutique / Therapeutic Farm

“Le Bel Agneau’s multidisciplinary approach which we call “shepherding” combines zotherapy**, equitherapy, yoga, massage therapy and creativity workshops. Our approach encourages the development of social skills, leadership, teamwork and communication. Working closely with the sheep, horses, and other animals that inhabit the Farm, participants develop greater self-awareness and learn the skills they need to successfully ‘shepherd their own lives’.

The Therapeutic Farm offers three specialized programs for children and adolescents with pervasive development disorders (Asperger, autism) and slight neurological and intellectual issues. For all therapeutic programs, participants are selected from hospitals, youth centres and other institutions, and must be evaluated by health professionals prior to commencing the program in order to form homogeneous groups.”

*The term "Le Bel Agneau" means "the beautiful lamb" **note: they use the word "zotherapy" to refer to "animal-assisted therapy" (they confuse "zotherapy" with "zoothérapie", the French word for AAT and AA Interventions).

Marc Bélanger, Suzanne Martel, Eric Fombonne, Gilbert Pinard, Vicki Tagalakis, and Jack Strulovitch 16, Mizener, Bolton Ouest, Cantons de l'Est, QC (450)539-0939
therapeutique@lebelagneau.com <http://www.lebelagneau.com> - (bilingual & with the option for an English version.)

Ranch

It appears that this program offered ‘Equitherapy’ in the past. It is undergoing changes that have yet to be seen. This is what it offered several years ago : Translated mission statement: To provide a site that offers multiple services to marginalized individuals, persons with disabilities or who are sick, prisoners, delinquents, youth, and children in the custody of child welfare services, with the goal of improving their life situation and/or their health or to teach them skills that could facilitate their reintegration to society. Services: therapeutic riding, animal-assisted therapy, educational farm/companionable zoo, and horticulture.

227 Rang Lepage, Ste-Anne des plaines, QC J0N 1H0
1-800-539-3903 nclark@hintercom.com /
zoothérapie@295.ca <http://www.ranchplus.org>

The Chimo Project – now CAAWLS

“Chimo AAT is an innovative, not-for-profit initiative that assists in the development, planning, and implementation of AAT at a wide variety of facilities.”

Ann Campbell – Program Manager
Suite 202, 10544-114 St. Edmonton,
Alberta T5H-3J7 (780)452-2452
<http://www.caawls.org/>

CHAAPS

“CHAAPS was founded in May 2006 and is a charitable/non-profit society located in Quesnel, British Columbia. The program offers educational and therapeutic programs with horses and dogs –Therapeutic Riding and AAT.

Our program can assist people from diverse backgrounds including; intellectual disabilities, cognitive challenges, chronic mental illness, emotional difficulties, acquired brain injury, autism, developmental delay, cerebral palsy, and physical disabilities. We are committed to improving the quality of life for children, youth, adults, and seniors with these challenges.

CHAAPS is a certified Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA Centre) offering the highest standards for safety and program quality. We are also members of the BC Therapeutic Riding Association (BCTRA), and Horse Council of BC (HCBC).”

www.chaaps.ca

UNITED STATES

Green Chimneys

Green Chimneys is a residential treatment center and school serving inner city youth from New York City. In operation for more than 65 years, it and conducts AAT, AAE AAA internships and more.

Mary Poris (845)279-2995 New York State

http://www.greenchimneys.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1

The Delta Society – now Pet Partners

The Delta Society provides training, guidelines, certification and materials for AAA and AAT. Delta has much material on the human animal bond and typically specializes in AAT rather than equine facilitated practices.

Bellevue, WA

<https://petpartners.org/>

PAN (People Animals Nature Inc.)

PAN is an organization which conducts AAI for children and youth at risk or with behavioral/emotional challenges. <http://www.panfarm.com.au/index.html>

Creative Therapy Care

“Our mission is to support children and adults with special needs through the use of occupational, physical and speech therapies incorporating animals. We provide education for the public regarding therapeutic benefits and advantages of occupational therapy incorporating animals. In addition we raise funds to provide these therapies for persons with special needs, regardless of ability to pay.”

<http://monasark.org/>

EQUINE PROGRAMS

Healing Hooves

Healing Hooves provides Equine Facilitated Mental Health and AAT to children, youth and adults with mental health and other issues, by partnering with horses and other animals.

Sue McIntosh – Owner and Founder PO Box 417 Cremona, AB T0M 0R0 (403)637-2053
sue@healinghooves.ca www.healinghooves.ca

Generation Farms

“Enhance your life and well-being by drawing on the natural attributes of the horse. Generation Farms provides Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy, Empowerment through Horsemanship, Way of the Horse Workshops, Leadership & Youth Programs and training in Equine Facilitated Wellness for both the equine and mental health professional.”

Deborah Marshall – Owner and Founder
Nanaimo, B.C. www.generationfarms.ca

Equinewise

Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) is the approach used at Equinewise, located in Camrose, Alberta. The team consists of a psychologist and a horse professional and they offer family and marriage therapy, personal development workshops and corporate team building.

Angie Jensen and Dale Pierce
(780)662-3275
learnmore@equinewise.com
www.equinewise.com

Turn Around Ranch - Equine Assisted Counselling (EAC)

Wendy Tredger Rocky
Mountain House, AB
wtredger@hotmail.com

Horse Spirit Connections - Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP)

1034 10th Sideroad, RR4 Tottenham, On L0G 1W0 (905)
936 4450 wendy@horsespiritconnections.com
<http://www.horsespiritconnections.com/efp/contact.html>

Eileen Bona is a Registered Psychologist and the Owner/Founder of Dreamcatcher Nature-Assisted Therapy, a private practice that partners with animals and nature to help children, youth and adults who have neurodevelopmental disabilities or mental health diagnoses. For more information, visit online: www.dreamcatcherassociation.com or call: (780) 809-1047