

Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Wellness Academy

Animal Assisted Human Services Certification Process



dreamcatcher™
animal assisted
wellness academy

Levels of Certification

- **Animal Assisted Therapist (AAT - Master's Level Helping Professional):** Mental Health Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Nurses, & other Master's level professionals in a therapy setting. Must be 21 years or older at the time of certificate granted.
- **Animal Assisted Practitioner (AAP - Undergraduate Level Helping Professional):** Child & Youth Care Counsellors, Rehabilitation Practitioners, Addictions Counsellors, Life coaches, Educator, & other Bachelor's level helping professionals. Must be 21 years or older at the time of certificate granted.
- **Animal Handler (No Helping Professional Qualifications):** Must be 18 years old or accompanied by parent/guardian. Process under construction.

Professional Distant Learning Courses

1 Introduction & Exploration of Animal Assisted Services

Learn about the theoretical & basic foundations of AAS.

2 Law & Ethics in Animal Assisted Services

Study how safe & ethical human-animal therapeutic interactions occur by understanding animal behaviour, welfare, disease, screening, training, & more.

3 Animals in Practice

Determine which animals to partner with in practice by learning how to choose, screen, & certify a wellness or intervention animal. Learn the general ethics of animal handling.

4 Choose Your Professional Stream: Part A or Part B

Explore how to ethically & effectively integrate animals into your professional setting. Work within your scope of practice by choosing between 2 professional training streams.

Part A: Applications of AAS in Counselling (AAT Stream)

Learn about the different models, techniques & intentions of AAT & when to use directive & non-directive canine assisted play therap. Understand how to introduce your animal to its new office setting & how to set it up for success.

Part B: Applications of AAS in Education (AAP Stream)

Discover the benefits of AAS for students & how to get educational institutions & administrators on board for AAS education. Learn about the different models of AAS & how to maintain balance in both indoor & outdoor environments.

Experiential Learning

5 Exploring Animal Assisted Services - Internship

Attend a 3-day internship to learn how to incorporate what you have learned into your practice by participating in group discussions, activities, & demonstrations of AAS. Options to attend in-person or online are available.

6 Further Education/Practice of Integrating Animals

Practice & document time spent working with your own animal in practice or attend other seminars/learnings in AAS.

7 Completion of Animal Species/Behaviour Course

Take a hands-on animal handling course in animal ethology to learn animal husbandry, language, anatomy, stress signals, body language & communication.

8 Integrating Animal Assisted Services Practices

Implement your knowledge & skills in practice through role playing scenarios in the AAS medium & obtain 10 hours of video footage working with animals & clients in practice to gain valuable feedback.

9 Practicum Hours

Work under the supervision of an approved AAP for 125 hours with 10 hours of direct face to face supervision & get recommended for certification.

10 Maintain Certification

Maintain certification through continuing education.

Want more information?

Email: info@dreamcatcherassociation.com | Ph: 780-806-1047 ext. 1

AAS Certification Webpage: <https://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com/aascertification.html>