

# 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 specialized training streams.

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

Learn about the different models, techniques & intentions of AAS & when to implement directive & non-directive canine assisted play therapy into sessions. 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 Into 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 AAT for 125 hours with 10 hours of direct one-on-one supervision time and recommendations for certification.

#### 10 Maintain Certification

Maintain certification through continuing education.

### Want more information?

Email: [info@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:info@dreamcatcherassociation.com) | Ph: 780-806-1047 ext. 1

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