

## **Basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions: general information**

ISAAT accredits animal species-specific curricula for the **basic qualification of people to involve different animals** in animal-assisted interventions (AAI). In contrast to the accreditation of further specialist trainings (Full Program) in animal-assisted therapy, education, coaching or activities, which is structured like part-time studies with practical components, focusing the training of humans to get specialists, or the Basic Training, in which humans and dogs are trained as a team, the **basic qualification for animals - other species** - focuses on the training of humans in a species-specific context.

The **basic qualification for animals - other species** - includes theoretical basics for humans as well as content on the practical use of the specific animal species and (preparatory) training. The curriculum includes species-specific expertise with all basic subject areas such as species-specific behavior and communication, animal husbandry, health care, animal welfare, animal/ethical aspects, species-specific forms of interventions. The specification and alignment to individual requirements is carried out via the content of the respective curriculum of the basic qualification; the qualification is not transferable to other animal species or to other persons.

The **basic qualification for animals - other species** - must also be based on a framework curriculum (sample copy for orientation at <https://isaat.org/de/akkreditierung/>), include study and examination regulations in which, among other things, the final examination criteria are listed.

All valid ISAAT standards must be taken into account as part of the **basic qualification for animals - other species** - (<https://isaat.org/de/standards-2/>).

The curriculum of the organization offering a **basic qualification for animals - other species** - must be **reaccredited after every three years**. The accreditation period stated in the logo applies, provided there are no premature changes. Changes and deviations in content or lecturers compared to the accredited curriculum must be reported to the ISAAT Board immediately and independently. In this case, the ISAAT Board decides, with the involvement of the Accreditation Commission and, if necessary, external experts, whether the quality of the accredited curriculum is still guaranteed and meets the requirements for basic qualifications; premature re-accreditation or re-accreditation may be necessary in this case.

The fees for the accreditation process for the **basic qualification for animals - other species** - amount to EUR 500, payable upon submission of the accreditation application. No separate invoice is issued. The re-accreditation fee is also EUR 500.

The annual ISAAT membership fee is currently EUR 150.

### **Procedure**

The application form must be completed in German, signed and sent as a PDF file by email to ISAAT at [info@isaat.org](mailto:info@isaat.org). The responsible coordinator on the ISAAT Board forwards the

application to independent reviewers, who report their recommendations to the case coordinator. The Board votes on the application based on the recommendation of the reviewer(s) and the coordinator. The President reports the acceptance or rejection of the application back to the applicant. If the curriculum is accredited, the applicant / organization / institute becomes an ISAAT member with voting rights.

The accreditation of the curriculum described does not mean that the other curricula of this institute/organization are ISAAT-certified - this must be clearly stated on the website and other materials. The institute/organization becomes an ISAAT member in connection with the valid accreditation, but the certification of other curricula is independent of this.

If the reaccreditation of the **basic qualification for animals - other species** -is not successful or the curriculum is not reaccredited in time (at least 3 months before the end of the reaccreditation period) within the year of the accreditation expiry, the Executive Board decides whether the ISAAT membership loses its validity.

**Application for accreditation of the basic qualification for animal - other species -, concerning the following animal species (Note: a separate application is required for each animal species)**

- Small mammals\*, namely .....
  - Cats
  - Poultry (chickens)
  - Waterfowl (geese, ducks)
  - Birds\*, namely .....
  - Small ruminants (goats, sheep)
  - Large ruminants (cattle)
  - Pigs
  - New World camelids\* (llamas, alpacas) .....
  - Donkeys
  - Horses
  - Other animal species\*: .....
- \* in more detail!

**and ISAAT membership**

**Applicant (name of the institute, organization, applicant):**

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**Name of the contact person/s:**

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**Function of the contact person/s within the organization:**

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**Address:**

.....  
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Country / State:

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Phone:

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Email address:

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Homepage:

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Legal form of the organization (association, registered association, institute, other; proof enclosed):

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Exact title of the curriculum to which the application relates

(note: a separate application for accreditation must be submitted for every different animal species)

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General information on the application for re/accreditation

1. Re/accreditation is limited to three calendar years and is not automatically extended. Any violation of ISAAT standards and guidelines during this period may lead to immediate exclusion or revocation of the accreditation of the curriculum. Members are obliged to inform ISAAT of any changes to the curriculum and/or a relevant area.
2. An application and the transfer of the application fee do not automatically lead to accreditation. The fee is non-refundable. The accreditation decisions are based on the recommendations of the independent experts and the coordinator.

3. After the first accreditation, reaccreditation must be applied for every three years without being asked and with a deadline of 3 months before the end of the valid accreditation period. **The documents for reaccreditation must** be submitted to the secretariat **electronically** (by e-mail, PDF file), **complete and updated** (changes must be marked in color), **no later than three months before the end of the accreditation period.**

Email address of the secretariat: [info@isaat.org](mailto:info@isaat.org)

or to the responsible person for accreditations: Bettina Freimut, [b.freimut@isaat.org](mailto:b.freimut@isaat.org)

### Application documents

The following documents must be enclosed and numbered accordingly:

1. Information about the structure of the organization, the provider
  1. Organization offering the curriculum (incl. proof)
  2. Persons responsible for the basic qualification and the content of the curriculum
  3. Proof of qualification of those responsible (minimum requirement: certificate of competence for the specific animal species in accordance with animal protection law, also specific trainer qualification and/or recognized, species-specific specialist AAI qualification)
  4. Spatial conditions (inside, outside), facilities and technical equipment
2. Information on the curriculum (comprehensive documentation including access links and authorization to internal learning platforms, online course forums, etc.)
3. Structure of the curriculum
  1. Number of hours of theory, practice and self-study
  2. Curriculum content and documents (literature, teaching scripts, time required per subject area) Theory and practice
4. Assessment criteria / proof of performance
  1. Participation criteria (course participation obligation, contract documents, general terms and conditions, ...)
  2. Tests/examinations (content theory, practical assessment, examination regulations)
  3. Supervised practical animal-assisted interventions carried out by humans with the respective animal species, supervision documentation; if necessary, additional internships or work shadowing
5. Lecturers  
Name, qualifications (including curriculum vitae, short CV) and topics covered by the person within the curriculum
6. Costs of the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions
7. Certificate (with the exact wording)

8. Checks, re-examination or re-certification of graduates after completion of the basic qualification as well as the required further training certificates of graduates after successful completion are **optional for the time being**, i.e. the institutes are free to make specifications here, it is not mandatory for the time being)

### **Accreditation requirements for the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions**

Please refer to the binding **checklist** (see appendix) on the minimum requirements according to the ISAAT criteria as well as the binding **ISAAT framework curriculum for the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** when preparing the application.

#### **Fees**

Accreditation fee: EUR 500,-

Date of bank transfer: .....

Annual membership fee: EUR 150

(must also be paid in the first year of membership, invoiced by ISAAT)

#### **Payee:**

BGL BNP PARIBAS SA 40, avenue J.F. Kennedy L-2951 LUXEMBOURG

Account holder: ISAAT

IBAN: LU59 0030 1237 1574 0000

SWIFT/BIC: BGLLLULL

#### **Conditions for re/accreditation and ISAAT membership**

1. Receipt of the re-accreditation/accreditation fee in full
2. Application for re/accreditation and membership with all required documents
3. The recommendation to accept the application by the reviewers and the coordinator for the attention of the ISAAT Board of Directors
4. Availability of the signed membership agreement and logo usage agreement (will be sent after successful accreditation application)
5. Receipt of the membership fee (annual)

### **Binding agreements on the application for re/accreditation**

1. I hereby certify that the information provided in this application and the enclosed materials are accurate and current.
2. I confirm that I have read, acknowledged, and understood the information and regulations for the accreditation of the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions and ISAAT membership.
3. I, or on behalf of the organization named above, hereby apply for ISAAT membership and accreditation of the curriculum described.

Name:

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Place, date:

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Signature:

.....

## **Checklist - Minimum requirements for the accreditation of the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions according to ISAAT criteria**

Please follow the checklist when preparing your application. The checklist contains the minimum curriculum requirements stipulated by ISAAT. Please use the numbering in the presentation of your application.

### **1. applicant or applicant organization**

#### **1.1 Organization offering the curriculum**

Describe the structure and legal form of the organization

- Society/association: official documents (statutes, registration, etc.), number of members
- Company: official papers/registration
- Other legal forms

#### **1.2 Persons with AAI knowledge who are responsible for the content and implementation of the curriculum**

Name, qualifications, short CV: Training in the field of therapy/education/psychology/coaching/medicine/other, related expertise Certificate of competence according to animal protection law as well as animal trainer and/or specialist for animal-assisted interventions (ISAAT certified)

#### **1.3 Rooms, facilities and technical equipment**

Rooms or training facilities and available equipment used for the species-specific basic qualification (the facilities must enable the course to be carried out adequately; the training must be adapted to the species-specific needs)

### **2. information on the curriculum**

- Describe the documents/brochures on the curriculum that are available to interested future participants. Indicate how the basic qualification is/will be advertised (flyer, homepage, advertisements, etc.)

- Enclose application forms, admission criteria, contract documents (e.g. terms and conditions), proof of attendance, study regulations, etc.

### 3. structure of the curriculum

**The ISAAT framework curriculum basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions is a mandatory part of the curriculum of basic qualifications and the application!**

#### 3.1 Minimum requirement number of hours

- At least 50 units\* (\*45 min = 1 teaching unit) Theory
- At least 50 units\* of practice, training and practical AAI units with the specific animal species
- At least 25 units\* self-study, documentation, examination/preparation

#### 3.2 Curriculum content and documents

- Contents with number of hours in units (=teaching units\*)
- Documents (literature/recommendations, manuscripts, teaching scripts, electronic, paper, etc.)
- Description of the courses/types, the content of the practical training (describe the ethical guidelines they follow, as well as the training philosophy, specific and AAI practice-related training content; training based solely on subordination as well as aversive training methods are not accepted) and the other media available to participants

#### 3.3 Minimum requirements for curriculum content basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions

##### Theoretical content:

**It is mandatory to include the following in the theory: TVT leaflets for the respective animal species (in Germany), IAHAIO white paper, Isaat standards, Animal Welfare Act (incl. animal species-specific regulations) - each in the currently valid versions**

Health care, anatomy, emergency management: first aid for animals/ for injuries caused by the animal	10 teaching units
on hygiene/risk management	2 teaching units
(animal) ethical aspects, animal welfare	6 teaching units
Law, regulations, animal welfare, liability	4 teaching units
Specific animal behavior/ethology, communication	10 teaching units
Learning behavior, training basics	8 teaching units
Transfer of theory to practice, preparation for practice	4 teaching units
Supplementary focal points required for the respective animal species (e.g. breed-specific aspects, special features, design of meeting areas for humans and animals in the context of animal husbandry)	6 teaching units



**Practical units on training, handling, animal use (required in presence; depending on the type of animal indoors, as the use here often also takes place indoors)**

- Social and communication behavior towards humans
- social/behavior towards other animals
- influence/control options, signals, handling, human-animal communication, Stress signs/regulation, conflict behavior, individual signals
- AAI-specific situations, role plays, setting sequences

**Different forms of teaching (e.g. face-to-face teaching, PowerPoint presentations, small group work, video conference-based seminars, instructional videos, etc.)**

- In the case of instructional videos, video lectures, etc. on relevant content as part of the curriculum, a final learning objective check or competency test must be included to verify that the content has been taught.

**4. assessment criteria / performance records**

4.1 Active course participation (at least 80% of the theory and practical hours must be completed; required documentation of attendance)

4.2 Corresponding examination regulations are required

Description of the number of persons and the qualifications of the examination board (who develops the theoretical and practical examinations, who conducts them) as well as a description of the requirements for admission to the examination and options for repeating the examination in the event of failure.

a) Examination on specific theoretical knowledge (to be tested in writing in at least 30 questions; must be documented and archived)

b) Assessment or examination of the human being in an operational/setting context with the respective animal species (practical examination or assessment of the human being in practical sequences that demonstrate the handling of the respective animal species as well as the presentation of setting-relevant aspects and competencies)

The participant's handling of the respective animal species as well as the setting design (also in role-plays or guided exercise units) must be assessed; depending on the animal species, the (presented) setting should take place indoors.

4.3 At least three supervised practical animal-assisted interventions must be carried out. The written planning and documentation of the interventions in accordance with professional quality criteria must be carried out by the participant in advance; supervision by the training provider's assessor/examiner can take place either in person or by viewing recorded, unedited video recordings of the practical intervention followed by a supervision discussion (also video conference-based). For the interventions, proof of a veterinary check (health certificate) must be presented, which confirms the good health of the animal(s) used and suitability for animal-assisted use.

4.4 Optionally, the training provider may also request specific internships or work shadowing in order to give the participant an insight into AAI practice.

## 5. Lecturers

Provide an overview of all lecturers in the curriculum with the relevant topics they cover and the qualifications of all lecturers (short CV, curriculum vitae).

## 6. Costs

Provide information on the cost of the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions for each participant, including examination fees and fees for retaking the examination (if required).

## 7. Certificate

Attach an example of a certificate that participants receive after successfully completing the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions. In addition to the specific animal species, the professional qualification of the person must be listed on the certificate (education, therapy, medicine, nursing, social work, etc.). If the person has no such qualification, the certificate must state "certified for animal-assisted activities".

## 8. inspections/re-examination after successful completion of the course

Checks, re-examination or re-certification of graduates after completion of the basic qualification as well as the required further training certificates of graduates after successful completion are **optional for the time being**, i.e. the institutes are free to make specifications here, it is not mandatory for the time being)

If reassessments are carried out, the training certificates and the reassessment must be documented and archived for the duration of the ISAAT accreditation.

Possible examples or options for **inspections, re-inspections, re-certifications**:

**Variante 1:** Presence shadowing in a practice setting with subsequent Consultation, minimum duration 60 minutes (30 min. practice setting, 30 min. consultation)

**Variante 2:** Video conference-based observation in a practice setting followed by a consultation, minimum duration minutes (30 min. practice setting, 30 min. consultation)

**Variante 3:** Supervised video sequences of 2 practical units: the following must be submitted 2 unedited videos of practical sequences of approx. 30 minutes each; final consultation of 30 minutes (by telephone or video conference)

The checks / rechecks could also be completed at a provider other than the original training institute, provided that this provider has a valid ISAAT accreditation of a basic training course.

Agreement between the providers is a prerequisite here; in this case, the participant must obtain a corresponding declaration of consent for the forwarding of relevant data and information.