Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI): general information

For a limited period, ISAAT accredits animal species-specific curricula for the **basic qualification of persons to involve different animals** in animal-assisted interventions (AAI), **if professional AAI and special trainings/courses are not popular or implied yet in their country** (Pioneer Work). This temporary accreditation is not comparable to the accreditation of specialist trainings (Full Program) in animal-assisted therapy, education, coaching or activities. The full programs are structured like part-time studies with practical components, focusing on the education of the persons to become an AAI-expert practitioner. Also the Basic Qualification Programs, in which humans and dogs are trained as a team or the basic qualification for other animal species, focus on the training of humans in a species-specific context. To be eligible for the temporary accreditation, the applicant´s word must be regarded as pioneering work in their respective country, which just started to establish professional animal-assisted interventions.

The **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** includes a basic theoretical education in AAI for humans as well as practical training to integrate the specific animal species in AAI. The curriculum also includes species-specific expertise with all topics like species-specific behavior and communication, animal husbandry, health care, animal welfare, animal/ethical aspects, species-specific forms of interventions. The specification and alignment with individual requirements are implemented via the content of the respective curriculum of the basic qualification; the qualification is not transferable to other animal species or to other persons/projects.

The **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** needs to be based on a framework curriculum (sample copy for orientation at https://isaat.org/de/akkreditierung/) and to include study and examination regulations with criteria for the final examination. The goal is to implement all ISAAT standards in the three-year-period of the temporary accreditation. It can be understood as start-up support with the goal to apply for full accreditation after the 3/6-year period.

All valid ISAAT standards must be observed during the accreditation period of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** (https://isaat.org/de/standards-2/).

The curriculum of the organization offering a **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** must be **reaccredited after three years, an extension for further three years can once be applied for**. The accreditation is valid for three years, if there are no relevant changes, and the exact period is stated in the logo. Changes and deviations in content or lecturers compared to the accredited curriculum must be reported to the ISAAT Board immediately by the organization. In this case, the ISAAT Board together with the Accreditation Commission (an if necessary external experts) decides whether criteria for the accreditation are still met. If not, a re-accreditation may be necessary.

The organizations with **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** will be provided a Project Coach (a member of the ISAAT Board or an expert assigned by the board) who acts as a tutor. A maximum of four coaching sessions per year are provided via individual meetings (online or in person). The Project Coach is sponsored by ISAAT.

The application fee for **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) is** EUR 500,-, payable upon submission of the application (as a rule, no separate invoice is issued).

The organization that offers the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** <u>will not become a member of ISAAT</u> during the temporary accreditation; the representatives and the Project Coach will be invited as guests to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and their attendance is mandatory. The organization offering the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal- Assisted Interventions (AAI)** is required to pay the amount of EUR 150,- per year (special fee) during the temporary accreditation.

Procedure

The application form must be completed in English, signed and sent as a PDF file by email to ISAAT at b.freimut@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 of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** is accredited, the applicant / organization / institute the are allowed to use the special logo on all their communications. Since this accreditation does not include membership of ISAAT, the organization has no voting rights at the AGM.

The accreditation only applies to this specific curriculum and is not transferable to other courses or curricula of these institute/organization. This must be clearly stated on the website and other materials, i.e. all information needs to be worded in a way that makes it clear which curriculum is ISAAT-accredited and which not.

If there is no application for a regular accreditation after the accreditation period time - at least 3 months before the end of the accreditation period of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** -, or if the organization has not been able to implement the ISAAT-standards, the ISAAT Board vote on the end of the accreditation period. The offering organization then immediately loses the permission to use the ISAAT logo and the claim to coaching sessions.

Application for accreditation of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) concerning the following animal species
(Note: a separate application is required for each animal species)

O Human-Dog-Teams
O Small mammals & Cats
O Poultry (chickens), Waterfowl (geese, ducks) & Birds
O Small ruminants (goats, sheep) & Pigs
O Large ruminants (cattle)
O New World camelids (llamas, alpacas)
O Donkeys & Horses
O Others / something else*: ....
* in more detail!

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

....
....
....

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

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

Address:
....
....
....

Country / State:
....

Phone:
....
....

Email address:
....

Homepage:
....

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

....

....

Exact title of the curriculum to which the application relates

....

....

....

....

General information on the application for accreditation

1. 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. A regular application must be sent after three years without being asked and with a deadline of 3 months before the end of the valid accreditation period. **The documents for legal accreditation 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

   or to the responsible person for accreditations: Bettina Freimut, 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
   a. Organization offering the curriculum (incl. proof)
   b. Persons responsible for the basic qualification and the content of the curriculum
   c. Proof of qualification of those responsible (CV curriculum vitae, professional qualification/s, trainer qualification, species-specific specialist)
   d. 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
   a. Number of hours of theory, practice and self-study
   b. 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 Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)
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)
9. "Declaration of Commitment" (template from ISAAT) from the organization that offers the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)**

Accreditation requirements for Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

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** for orientation to create an own one, when preparing the application.

Fees

Accreditation fee: EUR 500,-
Date of bank transfer: ....
Annual fee: EUR 150
(must also be paid first in the year of application, invoiced by ISAAT; no acquisition of membership status)

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 accreditation **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** and temporary belonging to ISAAT

1. Receipt of the accreditation fee in full
2. Application for accreditation with all required documents and the "Declaration of Commitment"
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 logo usage agreement (will be sent after successful accreditation application)
5. Receipt of the annual special fee

Binding agreements on the application for accreditation of Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

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 **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)**
3. I, or on behalf of the organization named above, hereby apply for an accreditation of the curriculum described.

Name: ....

Place, date: ....

Signature: ....

Checklist - Minimum requirements for the accreditation of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI), getting accorded the ISAAT criteria for accreditation period

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, expertise as animal trainer and/or something else

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 (for orientation to create) is a mandatory part of the curriculum of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

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 of Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) Theoretical content: It is mandatory to include the following in the required theory: TVT leaflets for the respective animal species (in Germany, for orientation), IAHAIO white paper, Isaat standards, Animal Welfare Act (incl. animal species-specific regulations) - each in the currently valid versions. For the organizations the *`Five Domains` model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states by DJ Mellor & NJ Beausoleil, ISSN 0962-7286 could serve for orientation for minimum standards of animal welfare.*

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 - but not big mammals!)
- 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**:
Variant 1: Presence shadowing in a practice setting with subsequent Consultation, minimum duration 60 minutes (30 min. practice setting, 30 min. consultation)

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

Variant 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.

9. For the organizations "Declaration of Commitment"
ISAAT stands for high professionality and quality standards in AAI, and also for animal welfare, well-being and the one-health-concept. Animal ethics and general ethical aspects in AAI are basics, as well as respectful interaction and resource orientation.
Organizations must read the template of "Declaration of Commitment" from ISAAT carefully and ensure the conscientious implementation - you would like to be part of ISAAT, so it ́s your responsibility.

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Declaration of Commitment
Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

As temporary limited partner of ISAAT you commit yourself to (Internet link: https://isaat.org/standards/)

● the principles of animal-assisted interventions of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) - White paper (current version) https://iahaio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/iahaio-white-paper-2018-english.pdf

● the animal protection law in force in the respective country or to serve the `Five Domains` *model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states by DJ Mellor & NJ Beausoleil, ISSN 0962-7286* for orientation for minimum standards of animal welfare

● and to take part to the annual general meeting of ISAAT

You have taken note of
● the Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Practice for Animal-Assisted Interventions https://iahaio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/iahaio-educational-standards_final.pdf

You have the right to use the logo of ISAAT for the accredited period - according to the terms of the logo usage contract -

The person primarily responsible for the institute confirms with his/her legally binding signature that he/she has read and accepted the documents listed above. The relevant knowledge will be passed on to all involved and future persons.
The contents of the documents have been legally and substantively understood.

Organization: …….

Responsible person: ....

Place, date: ....

Signature: ....

Example for the binding **ISAAT framework curriculum for the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** for orientation to create an own one:

ISAAT framework curriculum

Basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions (template, draft)

Necessity and scope of common guidelines

This framework curriculum provides a framework for the implementation of initial, continuing or further training that meets ISAAT's quality standards. The alignment of further training with the framework curriculum is a basic prerequisite for accreditation of the training by ISAAT.

The framework curriculum thus specifies the mandatory content areas of the training; the specific organizational or didactic implementation is defined in the **checklist basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** (current version).

Animal image - ethical and legal requirements

Animal-assisted work is based on the ISAAT definitions and the definitions of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO).

Animal-friendly husbandry and care is guaranteed for the animals used in the project.

In the event of stress or discomfort shown by the animal during the animal-assisted work, immediate measures are taken to ensure the animal's well-being; excessive demands, e.g. excessive use, are not permitted.

The encounter between animals and humans takes place with respect; the orientation of animal-assisted work is based on the ethical and professional guidelines of ISAAT, equivalent federal/state-specific legal principles for the welfare of humans and animals must be observed, e.g. the recommendations of the International Association for Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO), the animal protection law of the Country plus animal species-specific supplementary regulations and the "Recommendations of the Veterinary Association for Animal Welfare e.V. (TVT leaflets in Germany)", insofar as these correspond at least to the ISAAT requirements.

Understanding education

Structural framework conditions

The qualification measure is to be classified at level 3 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF). [1]
The following learning outcomes are intended for a qualification at this level:

1. The learner has knowledge of facts, principles, procedures and general terms in the respective field of work and application of humans for the inclusion of the respective animal species in the context of animal-assisted interventions.
2. He/she has the relevant cognitive and practical skills required to complete tasks and solve problems independently in this field of work, selecting and applying basic methods, tools, materials and information.
3. He/she assumes responsibility for the consequences resulting from these tasks and problem solutions, carries out the activities relevant to the work context independently or with the involvement of the relevant specialist personnel and is able to adapt to short-term changes.

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[1] *Council of the European Union (2017). Council Recommendation of May 22, 2017 on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and repealing the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 23, 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning. Official Journal of the European Union. C189, 15-28.* https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2017.189.01.0015.01.DEU.

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Skills development and knowledge acquisition go hand in hand. Students have to learn, think and experience the specific working field in individual courses or through materials, and they develop their skills by dealing with concrete situations, important topics and social exchange. The qualification concept must take this into account.

The aim of the framework curriculum is to define the learning outcomes for the **basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions**, geared towards the respective animal species specified in the curriculum; a separate basic qualification or accreditation is required for each animal species. The qualification measure comprises at least 5 ECTS (assessment according to the European Credit Transfer System), i. e. 125 teaching units; one ECTS corresponds to a workload of approx. 25 teaching units of 45 minutes each.

It recognizably includes the teaching of theoretical and subject-specific knowledge as well as practical skills and supervised and evaluated practical exercises.

Objectives & qualification profile

The aim of the corresponding qualification measure is the **basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions**, in particular in the care, accompaniment, support, promotion and training of people of all age groups, with the aim of promoting health, improving quality of life and well-being, and/or achieving medical, therapeutic, educational and social goals - depending on the field of work or area of application.

The qualification measure enables students to plan, implement and evaluate animal-assisted interventions (AAI) in individual or group settings, in institutions, in mobile use or in their own practice. It takes into account the teaching of technical skills as well as methodological skills and social skills.

Summary

The qualification measure covers the following topics:

Mandatory basic qualification

1. Basics and history of animal-assisted intervention, animal/ethics, animal welfare; law, regulations, animal protection, liability
2. Hygiene/risk management, health care and first aid measures for animals and injuries caused by the respective animal species, ethology, learning behavior and training basics
3. Fields of application, functional forms, methods and impact panorama
4. Motivation, communication and mental hygiene

The content areas can be supplemented in particular by additional modules, elective areas, courses in the subject areas available to the training company, such as business administration, law, physiotherapy, scientific work, use in the school sector or similar. The supplementary content areas are not included in the prescribed minimum number of hours!

The promotion of the ability required by the EQF to work responsibly and independently in the desired occupational field is to be taken into account through work-related practical exercises and their didactically accompanied reflection.

Competence and activity-oriented examination formats ensure the transferability of the knowledge imparted. Further details can be found in the current version of the **basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions.**

Learning outcomes

I. Fundamentals and history of animal-assisted intervention

Contents

- Human-animal or animal-human communication
- Cultural and religious-philosophical, sociological and cultural-historical aspects of the human-animal relationship, animal/ethical aspects of animal-assisted intervention
- Legal basics and animal welfare
- Explanatory models, mechanisms of action, functional forms
- Quality assurance, documentation and evaluation

Competencies

The learners can

- the ethological, anthropological, social and religious factors and influences on the human-animal relationship that are essential for animal-assisted interventions,
- Prerequisites for successful human-animal or animal-human communication,
- explain and critically reflect on current discussions on animal welfare and the ethics of the relationship between humans and animals.

II Health prevention, animal husbandry and specific expertise

Contents

- Animal husbandry and use criteria, taking into account the necessary legal regulations and principles of animal welfare and species-appropriate animal husbandry
- Concepts of species-specific (hedonic budget), breed-specific and individual needs
- Learning behavior of animals and the respective animal species
- Training methods for animal-assisted use
- Models and forms of expression of species-specific communication and interaction in humans and animals, special features of the respective animal species
- Animal health, allergies and zoonoses, anatomy of the respective animal species
- First aid for animals and injuries caused by the respective animal species

Competencies

Learners can name areas of application of the respective animal species for AAI and justify their use with regard to their specific abilities and dispositions as well as their position in our society.

In their approach, learners can identify breed-specific and individual needs and abilities of the respective animal species and apply these in a situation-specific manner to achieve the objectives of animal-assisted interventions. They recognize health restrictions in the animal or animal species and apply the necessary measures for health promotion and disease prevention in a situation-specific manner.

The students know the mechanisms of action of basic learning theories and can use these in a targeted manner for the behavior modification of the animals used or integrate their behavior into the respective intervention in a targeted manner.

III Areas of application and impact panorama of the AAI

Contents

- Forms, methods and fields of application
- impact dimensions, in particular medical-therapeutic, psychological, educational and social dimensions.
- Methods of anamnesis and diagnostics
- Intervention measures
- Integration of the AAI into other area-specific approaches
- Limits of the AAI
- Dealing with psychological, social-emotional, cognitive and physical impairments

Competencies

Learners know the different dimensions of the impact of animal-assisted interventions.

They can name the most relevant areas of application, particularly in the fields of psychology, education, therapy and medicine, and explain the possible positive effects of animal-assisted intervention.

Learners can describe basic methods of anamnesis, concretize them for their needs and apply them in practice. They have an appropriate repertoire of possible intervention measures and can use these - tailored to the respective problem or field of action.

Learners critically reflect on the limits of animal-assisted interventions and the necessary cooperation with specialists from other disciplines.

They can explain various explanatory models of animal-assisted interventions and their implementation in practice using examples. They can conceptualize animal-assisted intervention on the basis of their basic profession or the support of the specialist staff, taking into account legal requirements, and discuss their own concepts and those of other learners self/critically.

They are familiar with the possibilities of external support and have basic knowledge of the quality assurance of AAI.

IV. Motivation, communication and mental hygiene

Contents

- Motivation theories and their practical relevance
- Basics of communication and conflict management
- Stress management, resilience and mental hygiene
- Supervision/intervision and collegial support as quality assurance and preventive healthcare measures

Competencies

Learners have knowledge of how to deal with people with disabilities and can plan, reflect on and adapt their own behavior to specific situations in such a way that the measure remains safe and harmless to the health of both the clients and the animals used. They also have an awareness of their own self-care management and the need for individual balance between people and animals.

Practical exercises

All learners must provide evidence of at least three supervised and evaluated practical training assignments as well as practical handling of the respective animal species as part of the basic qualification. In addition, animal species-specific internships or work shadowing can be added.

Why is there a need for standardized training for the species-specific basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions?

For reasons of quality assurance and the protection of people and animals, sound and professional training and further training in accordance with standardized specifications appears to be essential. This is the only way to guarantee professional animal-assisted work.

ISAAT has been working on this topic since its foundation and has continuously introduced improvements. Since then, animal-assisted work has become established in a variety of ways. Numerous empirical findings confirm the positive effect. However, it has also been shown that the use of animals by unqualified people can lead to - often lasting - harm to humans and animals. An international standard for quality assurance is therefore desirable. ISAAT therefore sees the establishment of animal-assisted interventions and high standards at an international level as a key objective for the benefit of humans and animals.

This framework curriculum **basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** serves as orientation for training institutes and is to be formulated and supplemented individually. It must always be considered in combination with the valid ISAAT standards and the checklist for the **basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions**; this can be found in the application form for accreditation (current version).