

Animal Assisted Activities Membership Category:

Animal Assisted Activities (AAA): AAA incorporates specially selected and trained animals into impromptu or planned activities and interactions that may be offered by volunteer, paraprofessional or professional human-animal teams. AAA may be unstructured, or goal oriented in areas such as motivational, recreational, social, and general well-being. AAA teams have participated in a minimum of introductory preparation and training for the populations they visit and the dog they are handling. With additional preparation and training, AAA teams can work directly with a licensed, degreed, or equivalent healthcare, human service, or educational professional in AAE, AAT and AASP. AAAs promote mutual wellbeing and benefits for the humans and animals involved. AAls may directly or indirectly involve the animal.

Animal Assisted Activity (AAA) Membership Criteria

Membership in the field of Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) is open to **organizations** that are active in the field of social and recreation-based animal assisted activities and visitations or work alongside healthcare, human service or education providers (who have formal education in a relevant discipline), or with animal assisted special program facilitators.

Full Membership Criteria

- Organizations should be officially registered as an entity.
- Handlers of the organization must have working experience in handling animals using positive reinforcement techniques, and direct experience/relationship with the specific animal they will be handling.
- Majority of handlers must be working at an intermediate level (see Appendix I, competencies).
- May apply for a position on board of directors.
- Voting rights.
- Working group privileges.
- Use of AAll logo.

Associate Membership Criteria

- Organizations that are planning to be active in the field of social and recreation-based animal assisted activities and visitations or work alongside healthcare, social service, or education providers with formal education in a relevant discipline
- Operating at entry level competencies (Appendix 1) new to AAAs, looking for mentorship.
- No voting rights or board appointment.
- Working group privileges upon invitation.
- Use of AAll logo.

Animal Assisted Education (AAE) Membership Category:

Animal Assisted Education (AAE): AAE incorporates specially selected and trained animals into goal directed, educationally relevant teaching plans that are designed to promote development of general or special education skills in areas such as cognition, social functioning, personal growth, responsible pet carers, etc. AAE is developed, directed and/or delivered by a person who is licensed, degreed or equivalent education professional specialized expertise in teaching/education. The process is evaluated and documented. AAE providers who handle their own dogs have additional intermediate to advanced training in dog advocacy, handling, communication, behavior, husbandry, health, welfare and well-being in both living and working situations. Alternatively, teaching/education providers may choose to work in conjunction with an AAA team, a professional dog handler or an AASP who have additional training for the scope of AAE. AAE may be provided in a variety of settings, with a variety of ages, may be individual or group in nature. AAE promotes wellbeing and benefits for humans and animals, and provide a positive experience for the animal without force, coercion, or exploitation. AAE may directly or indirectly involve the animal.

Animal Assisted Education (AAE) Membership Criteria

Membership in the field of Animal Assisted Education (AAE) is open to organizations or individuals with formal education qualifications in a relevant discipline. Example of Full-Member licenses/degreed titles: Special education teacher, resource room teacher, etc.

- **Full Membership Criteria**

- **Individual** educational provider has successfully completed college level degree (bachelor, masters, doctorate, PhD or equivalent) coursework.
- **Organizations** must have a named person who meets the above criteria and is effectively the holder of the AAE membership. This maybe a member of staff or an active consultant.
- Active license/practice specific to human healthcare practitioner or human services provision.
- Must have completed supervised, direct student contact in human related apprentice or internship specific to the college level degree (BA, MA, Doctorate, PhD or equivalent).
- Working at advanced and expert level competencies (see AAIL Member Booklet for Animal Assisted Therapy, Appendix I, Competencies).
- Use of AAIL logo.
- Working group privileges.
- May apply for a position on the board of directors.
- Voting rights.

- **Associate Membership Criteria**

- Individual education provider has successfully completed college level (certificate, associate degree or equivalent) coursework.
- Organization must have a named person, actively working in the program that meets the above associate criteria and is effectively the holder of the membership.
- Active licensure specific to professional supervised positions in healthcare or human services.
- Working at an entry to intermediate level competencies (See AAIL Member Booklet for Animal Assisted Therapy, Appendix 1 - Competencies).
- Examples of licensed Associate Members: Certified assistants/technicians in therapies, social work, nursing, etc.
- Use of AAIL logo.
- Working group privileges upon invitation.
- No voting rights or board of director appointment.

Collaborative Animal Assisted Education (C-AAE) Membership

C-AAE Definition

Collaborative-Animal Assisted Education (C-AAE): Where an organization contributes to AAE, for example by training dogs and acting as the dog handler but does not have a licensed human healthcare practitioner or human services provider on their staff or working with them as a consultant, the collaborative work is recognised by AAIL and this element can be accredited.

C-AAE Membership Criteria

The collaborative member criteria does not change from the members original member category and criteria. Ex: If you are an AAE and AASP collaboration, the educational member maintains their original member description and criteria from AAE, and the AASP maintains their original member description and criteria.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Membership Category:

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT): AAT incorporates specially selected and trained animals into goal directed, **The Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Membership Category is defined as follows:**

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT): AAT incorporates specially selected and trained animals into goal directed therapeutic/intervention plans that are designed to promote improvement in physical, cognitive, psychosocial, behavioral, and/or emotional functioning of humans. The process is evaluated and documented. AAT is developed, directed and/or delivered by a person who has formal education, is licensed, degreed or equivalent and has specialized expertise in a specific discipline within healthcare/human service fields. AAT providers have additional intermediate to advanced continuing education for AAT theory and practice. AAT providers who handle their own animals have additional intermediate to advanced training in dog advocacy, handling, communication, behavior, husbandry, health, welfare, and well-being in both living and working situations. Alternatively, healthcare, and human service providers may choose to work in collaboration with others in the AAI field including AAA, AAE, AASP, or AAPP or a professional dog handler who has additional training for the scope of AAT. **Collaborative partners** may or may not have separate goals. AAT may be provided in a variety of settings, with a variety of ages, may be individual or group in nature. AAI's promote wellbeing and benefits for humans and provide a positive experience for the animal without force, coercion, or exploitation. AAT may directly or indirectly involve the animal.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Membership Criteria

Membership in the field of Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is open to organizations or individuals with formal education qualifications in a relevant discipline. Examples of Full-Member licenses/degreed titles: Counseling, Mental Health Treatment Provider, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech and Language Pathologist, Behavior Therapist, Nurse or Nurse Practitioner, Physician, etc.

- **Full Membership Criteria**

- **Individual** healthcare or human service provider has successfully completed college level degree (bachelor, masters, doctorate, PhD or equivalent) coursework.
- **Organizations** must have a named person who meets the criteria and is effectively the holder of the AAT membership. This maybe a member of staff or a consultant.
- Active license/practice specific to human healthcare practitioner or human services provision.

- Must have completed supervised, direct client contact in human related apprentice or internship specific to the college level degree (BA, MA, Doctorate, PhD or equivalent).
 - Working at advanced and expert level competencies (see AAll Member Booklet for Animal Assisted Therapy, Appendix I, Competencies).
 - Working group privileges.
 - May apply for a position on the board of directors.
 - Use of AAll logo
 - Voting rights.
- **Associate Membership Criteria**
 - Individual healthcare or human service provider has successfully completed college level (certificate, associate degree or equivalent) coursework.
 - Organization must have a named person, actively working in the program that meets the above criteria and is effectively the holder of the membership.
 - Active licensure specific to professional supervised positions in healthcare or human services.
 - Working at entry level and intermediate level competencies (See AAll Member Booklet for Animal Assisted Therapy, Appendix 1 - Competencies).
 - Examples of licensed Associate Members: Certified assistants/technicians in therapies, social work, nursing, etc.
 - Use of AAll logo.
 - Working group privileges upon invitation.
 - No voting rights or board of director appointment.

Collaborative Animal Assisted Education (C-AAT) Membership

C-AAT Definition

Collaborative-Animal Assisted Therapy (C-AAT): Where an organization contributes to AAT, for example by training dogs and acting as the dog handler but does not have a licensed human healthcare practitioner or human services provider on their staff or working with them as a consultant, the collaborative work is recognised by AAll and this element can be accredited.

C-AAT Membership Criteria

The collaborative member criteria does not change from the members original member category and criteria. Ex: If you are an AAT and AASP collaboration, the therapy member maintains their original member description and criteria from AAT, and the AASP maintains their original member description and criteria.

Animal Assisted Special Programs membership category:

The Animal Assisted Special Programs membership category is defined as follows:

AASPs offer goal-oriented programs that incorporate specially selected and trained animals to work in professional fields outside of animal assisted education and therapy or in conjunction with these licensed professionals. AASP personnel may or may not have a license, degree, or equivalent, but are delivering a professional level service or program.

Examples of these programs: Prison dog training classes that teach inmates life/job skills, community programs for people with disabilities, job training, etc., formal crisis intervention department work (e.g. victim advocates), at-risk populations, camps/vocational programs/after school classes for people with disabilities that develop specific skills, a person who teaches veterans with PTSD how to train animals as part of their life skills goals, dogs that work with paramedics/fire stations and that comfort victims, ministry dogs (dogs that work with priests, etc.). AASPs promote wellbeing and benefits for humans and animals, and provide a positive experience for the animals without force, coercion, or exploitation. AASPs may directly or indirectly involve the animal.

Animal Assisted Special Programs Membership Criteria

Membership in AASP is open to organizations and individuals who have professional experience in interventions and who create and/or implement professional animal assisted programs to meet measurable goals outside of the fields of education and therapy.

Full membership criteria:

- Organization or individual should have advanced to expert level knowledge and experience in the practice of animal assisted interventions within their specialty work and/or the creation of professional AAI programs (See AAI Member Booklet for AASP, Appendix I, Competencies).
- Voting rights.
- Working group privileges.
- May apply for position on board of directors.
- Use of AAI logo.

Full Membership example of titles:

- Director of Programs.
- Autism Specialist that is not considered therapy or education position.
- Assistance Dog Prison Instructor.
- Canine Specialist (will define in glossary).
- Animal Assisted Intervention Specialist/Consultant.
- Social Worker in regions where social work is not considered a therapist position.
- Child/Victim Protection Advocate.

Associate membership criteria:

- Membership in AASP is open to organizations and individuals who have entry level to intermediate level experience in AAI and who create and/or implement professional AAI programs to meet measurable goals outside of education and/or therapy/healthcare or alongside them with their own credentials as a specialist.

Some examples are: person or program who teaches veterans, inmates, or other populations to train dogs for their own life skills, social workers that are not working in therapeutic capacity, criminal defense professionals integrating dogs to assist victims, specialized crisis response teams in

correctional facilities or to natural disasters, school based programs taught by professionals (other than those with education or healthcare license) with scholastic or therapeutic goals for the students, etc.

- *Working at a level of entry to intermediate level competencies (see AAI Member Booklet for AASP, Appendix I, Competencies).*
- *No voting rights or Board of Director appointment.*
- *Working group privileges upon invitation.*
- *Use of AAI logo.*



The Animal Assisted Placement Program Membership Category:

Animal Assisted Placement Programs (AAPP) - An AAPP involves a professional program or individual who provides specially selected and/or trained animals to professionals in AAA, AAE, AAT or AASP. AAPPs instruct animal recipients/handlers about animal advocacy, handling, training, communication, behavior, husbandry, health, welfare and well-being in both living and working situations. Some examples of AAPPs are Assistance Dogs International (ADI) (or similar) dog training organizations or similar that raise, train and place “facility dogs” or train dogs for placement with healthcare, human service, education, crisis response, clinics. AAPPs also includes individuals or organizations that offer owner-self-training classes for healthcare, education, or human service providers, etc. AAPP promotes positive, safe relationships between the handler and the animal.

Animal Assisted Placement Program Membership Criteria

Membership in the field of **Animal Assisted Placement Programs** is open to organizations and individuals that are active in the field of professional selection and/or specialized training of animals to be placed with professionals who work in animal assisted intervention programs.

- **Full Membership Criteria**

- Organization or individual should have advanced to expert knowledge and experience in the field of selecting and/or training animals and the specific discipline practice, environments, populations and activities of their professional human partners who work in professional animal assisted intervention areas, and the collaboration for these programs (see AAll Member Booklet for AAPP, Appendix I, Competencies). Named person required for membership.
- Voting rights.
- Working group privileges.
- May apply for position on board of directors.
- Use of AAll logo.

- **Associate Membership Criteria**

- Organization or individual who is working at entry or intermediate level of selecting and/or specialized training animals for the purpose of placing them and/or supporting the training of a professional who works in the field of animal assisted interventions. Named person required for membership.
- No voting rights or board of directors appointments.
- Working group privileges upon invitation only.
- Use of AAll logo.