

Chapter 1 : Pet-Assisted Therapy | San Diego Humane Society

Dogs are common in animal-assisted therapy. Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is an alternative or complementary type of therapy that involves animals as a form of treatment. [1] The goal of AAT is to improve a patient's social, emotional, or cognitive functioning.

Animals as healers Animal-assisted therapy can reduce pain and anxiety in people with a range of health problems. Is medicine going to the dogs? Yes, but in a good way. Pet therapy is gaining fans in health care and beyond. What is pet therapy? Pet therapy is a broad term that includes animal-assisted therapy and other animal-assisted activities. Animal-assisted therapy is a growing field that uses dogs or other animals to help people recover from or better cope with health problems, such as heart disease, cancer and mental health disorders. Animal-assisted activities, on the other hand, have a more general purpose, such as providing comfort and enjoyment for nursing home residents. How does animal-assisted therapy work? You say yes, and your doctor arranges for someone to tell you more about the program. Soon after that, an assistance dog and its handler visit your hospital room. They stay for 10 or 15 minutes. And you feel a little less tired and a bit more optimistic. Who can benefit from animal-assisted therapy? Animal-assisted therapy can significantly reduce pain, anxiety, depression and fatigue in people with a range of health problems: Family members and friends who sit in on animal visits say they feel better, too. Pet therapy is also being used in nonmedical settings, such as universities and community programs, to help people deal with anxiety and stress. Does pet therapy have risks? The biggest concern, particularly in hospitals, is safety and sanitation. Most hospitals and other facilities that use pet therapy have stringent rules to ensure that the animals are clean, vaccinated, well-trained and screened for appropriate behavior. They make regular visits to various hospital departments and even make special visits on request. The dogs are a welcome distraction and help reduce the stress and anxiety that can accompany hospital visits.

Chapter 2 : 20 Best Pet Assisted Therapy jobs (Hiring Now!) | Simply Hired

Pet therapy is a broad term that includes animal-assisted therapy and other animal-assisted activities. Animal-assisted therapy is a growing field that uses dogs or other animals to help people recover from or better cope with health problems, such as heart disease, cancer and mental health disorders.

Medical uses[edit] Animals can be used in a variety of settings such as prisons, nursing homes, mental institutions, [5] hospitals and in the home. There are a range of goals for animal assisted therapy programs relevant to children and young people, including enhanced capacity to form positive relationships with others. Pets may promote kindness in children. For elderly dementia patients, animal assisted therapy provides opportunities to have close physical contact with the animals, which may be helpful for people whose loved ones have passed and who do not frequently receive visitors. Individual animals are evaluated with strict criteria before being used in AAT. The criteria include appropriate size, age, aptitude, typical behaviors and the correct level of training. The most common forms of AAT are with dogs and horses. There is also published research on dolphin therapy. The interaction between patients and therapy dogs also aids reducing stressful and anxious feelings patients have. These programs utilize the calm, non-judgmental, happy characteristics of canines to let the process of reading become more meaningful and enjoyable for children. With these benefits, researchers suggest to incorporating dogs into assisting learning and educational programs. Equine-assisted therapy Hippotherapy is promoted as a treatment for people with physical or mental challenges. A distinction exists between hippotherapy and therapeutic horseback riding. The American Hippotherapy Association defines hippotherapy as a physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement as part of an integrated intervention program to achieve functional outcomes, while the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International PATHI defines therapeutic riding as a riding lesson specially adapted for people with special needs. EAP often does not involve riding. This form of therapy has been strongly criticized as having no long term benefit, [24] and being based on flawed observations. Those conditions include psychological disorder, developmental disorder, dementia, cancer, chronic pain, advanced heart failure, etc. Compared to children only received cognitive-behavioral therapy CBT , children who received both canine-assisted therapy and cognitive-behavioral therapy CBT had reduce in severity of ADHD symptoms. AAT may obstruct veterans from cultivating their own way of control over stressful situation. The slow swing motion of horseback riding stimulates the vestibular system and therefore may help children with ASD produce speech sounds. In the present of animals, children with ASD more likely engage in social interaction with human. A study in evaluated results from ten research articles and found that animal assisted therapies particularly using dogs resulted in measurable quality of life improvements for patients with dementia. While pets do tend to cause more comfort to victims, pet therapy may not be the catalyst that provides positive success in therapy sessions. As mentioned above, adults tend not to focus as much on having an animal companion, and therefore, pet therapy cannot be attributed as the reason for success in those types of therapy sessions. For example, if a child is introduced to an animal that is not their pet, the application of pet therapy can cause some concerns. First of all, some children may not be comfortable with animals or may be frightened, so there would be ethical concerns with using pet therapy, which could be avoided by asking permission to use animals in therapy. Second, a special bond is created between animal and child during pet therapy. Therefore, if the animal in question does not belong to the child, there may be some negative side effects when the child discontinues therapy. The child will have become attached to the animal, which does raise some ethical issues as far as subjecting a child to the disappointment and possible relapse that can occur after therapy discontinues. First, it is potentially hazardous to the human patients, and it is harmful to the dolphins themselves; by taking dolphins out of their natural environment and putting them in captivity for therapy can be hazardous to their well-being. These were believed to be effective tools for socialization. In , the Bethlem Hospital in England followed the same trend and added animals to the ward, greatly influencing the morale of the patients living there. Sigmund Freud kept many dogs and often had his chow Jofi present during his

pioneering sessions of psychoanalysis. He noticed that the presence of the dog was helpful because the patient would find that their speech would not shock or disturb the dog and this reassured them and so encouraged them to relax and confide. This was most effective when the patient was a child or adolescent. Increased recognition of the value of humanâ€™pet bonding was noted by Dr. Boris Levinson in Boris Levinson accidentally used animals in therapy with children when he left his dog alone with a difficult child, and upon returning, found the child talking to the dog.

Chapter 3 : Creating a Therapeutic and Healing Environment with a Pet Therapy program

Animal-assisted therapy is a therapeutic intervention that incorporates animals, such as horses, dogs, cats, pigs, and birds, into the treatment plan. It is used to enhance and complement the.

Abstract Background Hospitalized patients encounter stressors that impact their experience and recovery. **Purpose** To determine whether pet therapy interventions improve physiological, behavioral and mood outcomes and experiences of hospitalized patients. **Methods** A single group pre- post quasi-experimental design with mixed methods was used in 59 hospitalized patients. Paired t-tests were used to evaluate changes from baseline following a pet therapy intervention. Qualitative data were analyzed using content analysis. **Results** Compared with baseline, patients had significant decreases in pain, respiratory rate and negative mood state and a significant increase in perceived energy level. **Conclusions** Pet therapy is a low-tech, low-cost therapy that improved mood and was meaningful to hospitalized patients. **Pet Therapy, Therapeutic, Healing, Stress reduction, Recovery** Hospitals can often be lonely and stressful places for patients compromised by illness and separated from family and loved ones. Aligned with the goal of creating a more patient responsive health care system Institute of Medicine, , there is a growing emphasis on improving hospitalization for patients and their families by creating a therapeutic and healing environment Geary, ; Westchester County Business Journal, ; Whitehead, There is a pressing need to develop theoretically based and empirically supported nursing interventions to achieve this goal. To help reduce this stress, some hospitals have incorporated complementary therapies such as music, mind-body interventions, therapeutic touch and pets to help patients cope with stressors while hospitalized Cutshall, et. Interventions that enhance coping and improve patient responses to symptoms are among the priorities for knowledge development National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, n. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of a pet therapy intervention as a complementary therapy to improve stress-related outcomes for hospitalized patients. **Background** By introducing multiple strategies to decrease stress, patients have choices around those interventions that are most beneficial to them in improving their well-being. The Pet Therapy program uses volunteer handlers and their own dogs to visit patients on twelve inpatient and one outpatient department two afternoons each week. Each dog is screened by an outside agency specializing in evaluating animals to be part of pet therapy programs in healthcare settings. The current program initially began on 3 inpatients units in As part of the initial trial period, the first fifty patients visited by dogs were asked to complete a semantic differential scale to rate their experience with the pet therapy program. All of the participants rated the experience as very favorable and recommended that the program continue. Many patients handwrote comments on the data collection form. For example, one participant described the dog as a connection to the outside world, and that touching a warm friendly dog made them feel connected and cared for. While all of the comments were very positive, one statement seemed to capture the essence of the program: Rogers described all living matter as an energy field. An energy field consists of the body, mind, emotions and environment. Energy fields are dynamic and in continuous interaction with the environmental field. Feedback from patients and nurses, the visits with dogs used in the pilot pet therapy program provided comfort to patients, stress decreased and the hospital experience was seen as more positive. When patients have less stress and feel better about their hospital stay, it is expected that these changes will have a positive impact on their recovery. **Stress and Recovery Psychoneuroimmunology PNI** provides a foundation for understanding the relationship between stress and recovery and supports a theoretical linkage of psychobehavioral and physiological outcomes that can be achieved with the complementary Pet Therapy intervention. The main theme of the PNI theory is that stress interferes with recovery. Preliminary studies support the potential of Pet Therapy as such an intervention. Theoretically-based, non-invasive indicators of stress management applicable to acutely ill and hospitalized patients include vital signs, perceived pain and energy, mood and subjective patient experience. The literature reports that pets can make a difference for people by decreasing loneliness and isolation. Healthcare administrators have been reluctant to let animals into hospitals because of fear of how animals would respond when emergencies happen, zoonotic infection infections that can be passed from animals to

humans and fear that they would mess or bark and scare patients and families. Patients who have less stress after a visit with a dog and are more relaxed should recover more quickly. Purpose The purpose of this investigation was to explore conceptually-based outcomes of participation in a Pet Therapy intervention in hospitalized patients. We hypothesized that patients who received the pet therapy visit would have lower vital signs, less pain, more energy and better mood after experiencing the pet therapy intervention compared to these same measures before the pet therapy visit. A second purpose was to describe the patient experience of the pet visit. Methods Sample and Setting After approval from the Institutional Review Board, a convenience sample of 61 patients who met the hospital Pet Therapy eligibility criteria see Table 1 was recruited for the study. English speaking; 18 years of age or older; and able to give informed consent. Patients were excluded from the study if they were hemodynamically unstable. Initial screening for eligibility was completed by staff nurses caring for the patients and then verified by research nurses who explained the study and sought patient consent. The study took place on three inpatient units where the pet therapy program had been implemented.

Chapter 4 : How Pet Therapy Has Changed Assisted Living – A Place for Mom

Pet Partners is the largest and most prestigious non-profit registering therapy dogs and other therapy animal pets including horses, cats, rabbits, and birds.

In rehabilitation, people may be more motivated to recover and practice their therapy when working with a pet. People who have sensory disabilities can sometimes communicate more easily with an animal. This encourages more interaction with healthcare providers and other people. What are the risks of pet therapy? Some of the biggest risks of pet therapy involve safety and sanitation. People who are allergic to animal dander may have reactions during pet therapy. Animals in pet therapy programs are typically screened for behavior and health. While uncommon, human injury can occur when unsuitable animals are used. Animals may also suffer injury or abuse when handled inappropriately. In some cases, people may become possessive of the animals helping them and be reluctant to give them up after a session. This can result in low self-esteem and depression. How is pet therapy administered? Your doctor or therapist managing your treatment will administer pet therapy. In most cases, the handlers work as volunteers. Discussion of proper pet handling is needed to ensure the safety of both the person receiving treatment and the pet. The first step in pet therapy is the selection of a suitable animal. Many groups and organizations train and connect volunteer owners and pets with healthcare providers. Before an animal and its handler can participate in pet therapy, the team has to fulfill certain requirements. This process typically includes: Outlook The success of pet therapy depends on establishing realistic goals and expectations and meeting those goals. You and your doctor or therapist will establish these goals at the beginning of your treatment. Your doctor or therapist will monitor your progress and help you stay on track to meet your goals. If your progress is slower or faster than expected, they may alter your treatment plan. Pet therapy can help both children and adults with a variety of physical and mental issues. It can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and increase positivity and socialization.

Chapter 5 : Pet therapy: Animals as healers - Mayo Clinic

Welcome Pet Assisted Therapy (P.A.T.) formerly Healing Paws Inc. is a (C) (3) nonprofit organization committed to enriching the lives of children and adults through safe interaction with therapy animals.

Open in a separate window Another uncontrolled trial suggested that animals could help alleviate problematic behaviors in demented individuals. This trial enrolled elderly residents of two US nursing homes who had MMSE scores of 15 or below who were treated with animal-assisted therapy [8]. The participants, in a recreational room for one hour a day, met with a dog and its trainer. They could engage in a variety of activities including feeding, petting, grooming the animal, socializing with the trainer, and discussing pets the subjects previously owned. Subjects achieved a mean 25 percent, significantly better scores on the CMAI index of behavioral disturbance after the intervention. Two further studies, in addition, piloted the efficacy of animal-assisted therapy on cognition and mood in cognitively impaired older persons. Twenty-five moderately demented residents of a nursing home were divided into two groups [9]. The participants either walked, played with, petted, or held the animals under the supervision of a trainer. In the control group mean MMSE score Unfortunately, after the intervention, both groups increased their MMSE and lowered their GDS scores, but the changes in both groups between pre- and postintervention values were not significant. A second small study examined four moderately to severely demented residents of a nursing home who were videotaped for behavioral responses prior to and during an animal therapy session with a dog [10]. The residents displayed significantly fewer signs of agitation and more social behaviors during animal therapy. An additional trial uniquely explored the possibility that animals might confer physical benefits to older persons with dementia and, furthermore, used fish, which did require the subjects to handle the animals. In this study, demented individuals in several nursing homes successfully gained weight after fish tanks were installed [11]. Residents in each of the homes had different exposure times to either the fish tanks or the pictures. When the data from the subjects who were exposed to the fish tanks was pooled together, there was a mean 1. Animals might provide other benefits to demented individuals, such as improving their ability to socialize, as suggested in several trials. In one study, which was not blinded, 33 individuals who lived in a nursing home were exposed to animals during Long conversations between alert participants were more likely to occur in therapy groups when animals were present, but brief conversations were more likely when animals were absent. In another trial, a videotape captured the social interactions between 36 nursing home residents in ninety-minute occupational therapy sessions with or without a dog present [13]. Residents were more likely to have verbal interactions with the dog in the session. In a third investigation, thirteen demented residents were exposed to a plush mechanical toy dog that could sit up and wag its tail, or a robotic dog that could respond to seventy-five commands [14]. Subjects responded to both objects, similarly, by talking to it or clapping their hands when it moved. Nurses have written their personal, qualitative observations that animals relieve loneliness and boredom, foster social interaction, and add variety to the lives of such persons, indirectly suggesting other possible advantages to human interactions with animals not thus far documented in clinical trials [5 , 15]. There was no formal regulation of the interaction between the cats and the patients, nor any formal measures of the interaction. However, the nurses did state their opinions that the cats increased patient interactivity with their other people and their environment, and that the patients enjoyed their presence. Pets may also positively influence the behavior of demented elderly owners. In one comparison survey, demented pet owners were less likely to exhibit verbal aggression but were otherwise similar to non-pet owners in likelihood of vegetative, hyperactive, or psychotic behaviors [17]. Thus far however, none of these studies on the use of animals in demented subjects have suggested a mechanism for how animals might alter the behavior of such individuals. One might speculate that animals might create a distraction to inhibit disruptive behavior or serve as a surrogate for human interaction to learn or practice social behavior. Several investigations have also piloted the use of animals in the treatment of depression with mixed results. One small trial showed even a brief intervention conferred some benefit. Thirty-five individuals who were about to receive electroconvulsive therapy ECT spent 15 minutes with a dog and animal trainer or the same period of time reading magazines

before ECT treatment sessions [18]. All subjects had both types of pretreatment every other day. Individuals reported lower levels of fear about the upcoming ECT rated on visual analogue scales when they had sessions with the dog. In a similar trial, forty-two depressed patients spent time waiting for ECT in rooms with or without aquariums. The presence of aquariums did not influence the pretreatment anxiety, fear, or depressive symptoms the patients experienced [19]. Animal-assisted therapy has been considered in the treatment of depression in institutionalized individuals in a number of studies. In one investigation, twenty-eight residents of an Italian nursing home had three-hour treatment sessions once a week for a month and a half with a cat or no change in their usual routine [20]. A nurse supervised individuals in a therapy room, who could pick up or play with the cat. In an additional survey, subjective rankings of pet attachment were actually associated with higher ratings of depressive symptoms in older individuals living in rural areas [21]. In another trial of 68 nursing home residents in Australia, individuals who visited a dog reported less fatigue, tension, confusion, and depression [22]. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy were divided into two groups, one of which had a weekly hour-long session of therapy with a dog and one of which did not [23]. Those patients at sessions at which a dog was present rated their symptoms of depression and anxiety half as severe as those who did not. Taken together, these studies imply a rather modest benefit at best for animals in depressed individuals. A meta-analysis was conducted of five studies of the use of animal-assisted activities therapy in the treatment of depression in institutionalized subjects [24]. None of the five studies whose data was pooled for the meta-analysis was ever published in a scientific journal; four were printed in doctoral dissertations and the fifth was published in a book chapter almost thirty years ago. Other studies have examined if pets might assist the treatment of individuals with schizophrenia. Two investigations suggested that animals could improve social behaviors in elderly schizophrenics. Twenty schizophrenics, at least sixty-five years old, had three-hour visit every week for a year with a dog or cat and a therapist [25]. The subjects were taught to ambulate with the animals on a leash, bathe, feed, or groom them. A control group had a weekly news discussion session simultaneously with the animal therapy group. Schizophrenics exposed to animals had significantly improved mean scores on social functioning as part of the Social-Adaptive Functioning Evaluation scale which members of the control group did not. In another investigation, 21 schizophrenic inpatients were divided into an intervention and control group [26]. Both had minute meetings twice weekly with a psychologist for a total of 25 sessions. In the intervention group, a therapy dog and handler participated. The dog was the focus of interventions tailored to improved communication, social skills, and cognitive rehabilitation. The control group had similar sessions, except without the dog. Subjects in the intervention group had significantly better scores on the social contact score in of the Living Skills Profile and total score on the Positive and Negative Symptoms Score scale. Not all investigations noted that schizophrenics derive benefit from animals. Fifty-eight older psychiatric inpatients in one trial were randomized to spend five sessions of either an hour a day with either pet therapy or an exercise group [27]. There was no difference in a forty-question psychiatric symptom score between groups. In addition to the trials of animal therapy in older persons with mental illness, qualitative research comprising focus groups of individuals recovering from acute episodes of psychiatric disease has outlined what subjects perceive to be benefits of pet ownership, such as companionship and a reinforced sense of self-worth [28]. However, subjects sometimes were troubled by their pet care responsibilities and grieved over the loss of pets. Furthermore, several studies have implied that animals offer psychological or social benefits to the elderly independent of disease state. In one investigation, the effects of animals on the degree of loneliness of long-term care residents were assessed using a survey instrument [29]. Thirty-five people who lived in a nursing home had an experience in which, for two and a half months, they interacted with several animals including dogs, cats, and rabbits for two hours each [30]. They scored significantly higher on the Patient Social Behavior Score during and after the intervention. In another study, forty-five residents of three facilities were divided into those who received thirty-minute animal-assisted therapy once a week for a month and a half, the same therapy three times a week, or not at all. Residents who received any animal therapy scored significantly lower on the UCLA Loneliness Scale than those who did not. In a case series, a robotic dog improved the loneliness scores on one assessment instrument of five medically ill elderly persons [31]. In a qualitative survey, dog owners over age of 70 in Austria stated

that dogs provided companionship and a sense of purpose [32]. However, finally, in few cases, animal-assisted therapy has even been utilized to provide subjective benefit to critically ill patients in intensive care units [33].

Effects on Physical Health

Numerous studies have recorded evidence of the effects of animals on the physical health of elderly individuals. Several have attempted to quantify physiological benefits of the presence of animals on the effects of stress see Table 2. One study exposed hypertensive pet owners to the stress of solving an arithmetic problem and making a speech [34]. The investigators instructed half of the subjects to acquire a pet, and the total subject population was restudied after six months. Those who owned a pet had significantly lower increases in systolic and diastolic blood pressure in response to the stressor than those who did not. In an additional investigation, the presence of a dog in the room alleviated an increase in blood pressure in response to the stress of public speech [35].

Eleven community-dwelling older individuals with hypertension, mean age 72, were included in the study. Another 10 healthy dog owners of a canine achieved a significant systolic and diastolic blood pressure reduction and subjective measures of anxiety after performing a stressful task whether their own dog or not was used [36].

Finally, in a small case series of community-dwelling elderly individuals aged 65 to 91, one group of participants received a weekly visit from a nurse with a dog for a month, while one group had visits without the dog [37].

Taken together, these investigations imply ameliorating effect of pet ownership on the physiologic effects of stress. Table 2 Studies on the use of animals on blood pressure.

Chapter 6 : The Benefit of Pets and Animal-Assisted Therapy to the Health of Older Individuals

Each week our Pet Outreach volunteers and associates bring puppies and certified therapy cats to nursing homes, senior citizen centers, and rehabilitation centers. These types of animal-assisted activities have been widely recognized to have therapeutic effects, reducing stress and calming anxiety.

Benefits for Children Animal-assisted activities are not just for seniors. The Animal League also visits Special Education schools in the tri-state area and works with children that are non-verbal, emotionally disturbed, and autistic. The children look forward to weekly visits from the therapy animals and are taught the basics of pet care and safety while interacting with them. They also learn how to give and receive love from a pet. Children that are emotionally and medically fragile will sometimes completely relax when they are allowed to pet the animals, boosting not only their mood, but also their overall sense of self-esteem. After a recent visit to P. She fell and had to crawl to reach her med alert, causing her stomach to move into her chest. The options were hospice or surgery. Of course, we chose surgery â€” very difficult for a year-old to recover from. I visit her every day at the rehab center, sometimes twice a day. I cried a lot. Mom was allowed to hold and pet them. She cuddled them, she kissed them. Her whole mood changed. She is now trying to get well. She tells me that your group is coming again next month. She even requested a calendar so she can mark off the days until your visit. Please pass this on to the wonderful people who brought the puppies. Your kindness and effort has touched our whole family. I thank you with all my heart.

Chapter 7 : Pet Assisted Therapy - Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Pet therapy is also referred to as animal-assisted therapy (AAT). AAT is sometimes confused with animal-assisted activities (AAA). AAT is a formal, structured set of sessions that helps people.

Patience And many other ways. Understanding the nature and power of the bond allows us to harness it in powerful ways. How to incorporate animal assisted therapy in current practices. How animal assisted research applies to real-life applications What the difference is between animal assisted therapy and pet therapy. How to gain a theoretical framework for animal assisted therapy interventions how to start your own non-profit organization Where to volunteer. We are using this in those simplest of terms- a relationship that provides a sense of safety and reduces anxiety or stress None of these are uniquely human insel, - Social dynamics between people and pets have qualities similar to that of human social relationships. This program is great for anyone who wants to accept AAT into their work with starting non-profit groups or become a better volunteer for some of these groups. This is an easy program completely online based with 5 Modules throughout a one year span. This online course will give you well-rounded training for your future involvement with AAT. The best part is that the workload is manageable and will teach you great skills involving Animal Assisted Therapy. The workload is at your own pace to work with your schedule of time. Modules The program includes five consecutive 5-week modules in the following areas: Module 3- Special Populations Includes a closer look at vulnerable populations and how AAT will fit in with the populations. Module 4- Animal Welfare in AAT Includes learning if the animal can work for AAT, how to certify your pet, what a temperament assessment is and the provisions needed for using animals. Contact Jennifer Cepnick at jecepnj2 oakland. Then, later in the fall, Susan Lynch, a professor of therapeutic recreation at Longwood University, who had taught Shelli, encouraged Shelli to submit a seminar proposal on our program in response to the call for papers of the Mideast Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation MESTR for its annual conference in Ocean City, MD nearby for us , which took place earlier this week. Then Haley went into the details of the program. We displayed pages and slideshows from the Wagsters website, also a product of my OU AAT program last year, to expand our presentation to include discussion of other special needs populations that can be effectively served through AAT. Shelli also utilized a very attractive power point program with photos from TRAC sessions and related content. The attendees submitted evaluations that were overwhelmingly positive, we received many gracious compliments at the end of the seminar, Murphy posed with participants for numerous snapshots, and we had a great time. This one-hour course is facilitated by Ann Griffin, Esq. This course will highlight the laws pertaining to service animals, therapy animals and emotional support animals as well as potential risks including dog bites. A certificate of completion is available upon successful passing of the quiz.

Chapter 8 : Animal Assisted Therapy - Continuing Education - School of Nursing - Oakland University

The Pet-Assisted Therapy program is designed to share animals with people of all ages in care facilities, including convalescent homes, hospitals, mental health centers, juvenile detention centers, corporate offices and children's programs.

Creating Smiles, Warming Hearts For the love of fur Our pet assisted therapy volunteers work with many Clay County, Florida nursing homes along with facilities in the surrounding northern Florida area. Every two weeks on a rotating basis, our teams currently visit eight scheduled facilities. The Clay Humane Pet Assisted Therapy Program allows the elderly to spend time with a loving animal while also providing socialization for the pet. Facility residents anticipate our monthly pet assisted therapy visits as they benefit from the companionship of an animal, especially if they do not have access to friends or family. Our pet assisted therapy dogs are registered with Alliance of Therapy Dogs , a nationally recognized pet therapy organization. Each team has to go through testing before being registered and covered under their insurance policy. For more information on what it takes to become a registered therapy dog team, visit the Alliance of Therapy Dogs website and locate How to Become a Member. Our team includes cats as well as dogs and we are always looking for qualified participants! Both two and four legged. If you feel your pet would do well with therapy dog testing and you would like to participate in the Clay Humane Pet Assisted Therapy program, call team leader Lori Coleman at or contact us for more information. Throughout the year we have many activities. Please come out to support us! These activities allow Clay Humane to help as many animals as possible. Costume judging categories include: A portion of the proceeds will go to support the animal welfare programs at Clay Humane. Dinner begins at 5: Wishlist items are being accepted at the door. Receive an extra jackpot sheet if you donate an item from the Clay Humane Wish List. RSVP today, call Make A Wish Download our wish list now. It has been specifically created with our high priority needs in mind!

Chapter 9 : Animal-assisted therapy - Wikipedia

The Pet Assisted Therapy (PAT) program of Lollypop Farm has been serving members of our community in a unique and meaningful way for several decades. Our volunteers and their therapy animals provide comfort, motivation, inspiration, compassion, affection, and joy to people of all ages and backgrounds.