

Q10 Can you please share your ideas and/or comments about Animal Assisted Interventions?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 209

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Training on this would be very beneficial.	9/27/2018 8:40 AM
2	AAI as part of staff wellness as well as with kids. Court dogs for kids during CAIT (they that dog team attends court or other times that child may benefit).	9/25/2018 9:02 AM
3	Do not know much about it	9/25/2018 8:33 AM
4	All of the above, including seizure disorders.	9/24/2018 4:13 PM
5	list of 'credentialed' or 'approved' animal assisted providers, statewide should be available on 211	9/24/2018 3:15 PM
6	I am using both equine and canine animal assisted interventions at Solnit.	9/24/2018 1:36 PM
7	More information is needed about available community providers	9/24/2018 1:19 PM
8	I think it is a good idea.	9/24/2018 12:27 PM
9	consider the providers to be credentialed since it's very costly	9/24/2018 11:27 AM
10	Can be very helpful for kids for whom talk therapy is too difficult or ineffective	9/24/2018 11:12 AM
11	List of providers would be helpful and do we have any approved as credential by DCF?	9/24/2018 10:51 AM
12	We use animal assisted interventions at Solnit.	9/24/2018 10:18 AM
13	It would be helpful to have a list of these types of programs more readily available. I know this can be very helpful but do not know where these programs exist.	9/24/2018 10:02 AM
14	I had to answer "no" to some questions because, though an employee of DCF, I am not a Social Worker. Having said that, a good friend of ours at church works with training therapy dogs - himself blind and partnered by an amazing golden retriever. This has led to others becoming involved in helping in this program, even if only to do the most menial of tasks. There is substantial evidence therapy dogs - or therapy cats, even horses - have an effective positive influence under many different types of circumstances. The idea of Animal Assisted Interventions is a terrific one and I can't help but believe it would have positive outcomes in interventions, but if carried to its natural extension, more positive outcomes for youth that come into our care. What a win-win possibility/opportunity here!	9/24/2018 9:51 AM
15	Animal assisted interventions are very good for our clients clinically.	9/24/2018 9:51 AM
16	More information would be ideal.	9/24/2018 9:45 AM
17	I had a case in the past where the mother purchase the child a therapy puppy to help the child with unstable social and emotional behaviors. It appears the dog helped the child and the child established a special relationship with her puppy.	9/24/2018 9:45 AM
18	Information on these services available for the children and families we serve should be shared	9/24/2018 9:41 AM
19	none as of yet...	9/24/2018 9:38 AM
20	Animal Assisted Intervention is very therapeutic to children who have experienced abuse and neglect	9/24/2018 9:36 AM
21	There are some setting that are not appropriate for animals. Example: If you know you have a child that has special needs, maybe a stuffed animal bunny would do the trick. I heard a of a child wanted to see if the bunny would have x's in his eyes like the cartoons when they show them dead, or knocked out. I heard the child took a real rabbit and from the top of the stairs threw it down to the landing to see what would happen to the eyes.	9/24/2018 9:34 AM
22	Haven't worked extensively with any in the past so I do not know what the results/benefits may be.	9/24/2018 9:34 AM
23	N/A	9/24/2018 9:31 AM

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24	I have worked with Animal assisted interventions with young children in the past and seen wonderful things happen... think it should definitely be an option for us to use	9/24/2018 9:31 AM
25	Thanks for sharing the information as it is a good idea to be reminded.	9/24/2018 9:27 AM
26	None at this time	9/24/2018 9:26 AM
27	Staff awareness that we can use Animal Assisted Therapy	9/24/2018 9:25 AM
28	I have knowledge that it has been very helpful to some children.	9/24/2018 9:24 AM
29	I am somewhat familiar, but am concerned that the services may not be available to all who might benefit because of the capacity and accessibility issues.	9/24/2018 9:24 AM
30	I am a special education teacher at Solnit North.I would like to know how I can encourage students to ask for this intervention if it is available to them.	9/24/2018 9:23 AM
31	This is great. I have seen it (in adults) not work out. These animals are for the individual in need. People should not be allowed to pet or interact with that pet if its purpose is therapeutic for the owner.	9/24/2018 9:22 AM
32	Great resource to have for the children we service!	9/24/2018 9:20 AM
33	I have none	9/24/2018 9:20 AM
34	The focus has primarily been on equine interventions. I would like to see more collaboration/interventions that include dogs and other animals.	9/24/2018 9:18 AM
35	My understanding is it is very beneficial but many insurance carriers do not cover it which becomes a barrier. I am also unaware of any AAI providers.	9/24/2018 9:18 AM
36	should be done on a referral basis.	9/24/2018 9:17 AM
37	Info., info. and more info.	9/24/2018 9:15 AM
38	I am aware animal assisted therapy can be more effective than traditional therapy when working with different groups of people in which traditional therapy has not been effective. Some animals are nonjudgmental, nurturing and loyal which is a plus for some treatment groups	9/21/2018 9:20 PM
39	Animals can have a positive impact on people if they are trained appropriately	9/20/2018 1:53 PM
40	I would like to know more about when and where to use AAI. Sometimes I'm not sure about the impact.	9/20/2018 12:07 PM
41	I would like to learn more about how to access Animal Assisted intervention in the area.	9/20/2018 8:38 AM
42	Much of what we know is equine therapy, are there other types with different animals that we can have access to for children we work with?	9/20/2018 8:33 AM
43	Would like to know more about payment for services, if there are evidence based AAI's, and if services are available statewide.	9/20/2018 8:26 AM
44	N/A	9/19/2018 3:05 PM
45	It would be helpful to have contracted services so this would be a direct referral	9/19/2018 2:25 PM
46	I believe animals can do wonders for many kids and adults as long as the safety of the animals can be guaranteed.	9/19/2018 12:58 PM
47	It would be great to have animal assisted interventions for staff as well. A therapy dog or animal in the offices would be of great benefit.	9/19/2018 12:27 PM
48	I am not presently carrying a case load but have in the past and have used animal assisted interventions. As part of consultation, when appropriate, I recommend its use.	9/19/2018 12:09 PM
49	I believe that animals influence kids behavior and help them become more empathic.	9/19/2018 10:41 AM
50	I don't know much, but would like to see the data and options.	9/19/2018 9:41 AM
51	Animals can help reach children on a different level than providers can.	9/19/2018 9:38 AM
52	I don't know how to access animal assisted interventions for CPS cases but would like to know how	9/19/2018 9:28 AM
53	Nothing to offer	9/19/2018 9:28 AM
54	dogs and cats are healers.	9/19/2018 9:07 AM

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55	Promising practice that would be great to continue expansion/availability statewide.	9/19/2018 8:36 AM
56	animal therapy is great and effective with our youth.	9/19/2018 7:33 AM
57	Not enough in Connecticut and could look into additional models for male sex offenders	9/18/2018 8:20 PM
58	Empirical evidence shows that animal therapy is extremely effective with children (and adults too!) who have experienced trauma and have behavioral issues and with autistic children!! Animal therapy is very effective and should be implemented as an intervention tool for our families and children.	9/18/2018 4:54 PM
59	Beneficial to the children.	9/18/2018 4:30 PM
60	Please provide online trainings for this topic. I am not a social worker but all staff involved with children should be aware of this.	9/18/2018 3:32 PM
61	Animals have an incredible ability to help calm people	9/18/2018 3:30 PM
62	Just an FYI, I do not carry a caseload or supervise staff at this time.	9/18/2018 3:08 PM
63	We need more partnership with this- I know Solnit has a program - but how can we support our inhome cases	9/18/2018 2:47 PM
64	Have heard Animal Assisted Interventions is very effective, but don't know much more about it. Would like to learn more.	9/18/2018 2:40 PM
65	I think the use of animals is good in therapy. But I am skeptical about some individuals that may hurt animals. So any intervention should be supervised between people and animals.	9/18/2018 2:39 PM
66	training	9/18/2018 2:33 PM
67	I think Animal Assisted Interventions can benefit a lot of people in the world.	9/18/2018 2:25 PM
68	I have used animal assisted interventions (equine) with my own adopted children and have found it to be very helpful	9/18/2018 2:17 PM
69	As an RRG Mental Health consultant with DCF, I think animal assisted therapy is extremely valuable, effective, and I wish there were greater resources and opportunities for our kids and teenagers to engage in AAI. It can reach kids that are distrustful, afraid, and those in which traditional talk therapy is ineffective.	9/18/2018 2:10 PM
70	It is very helpful to assisting children on the autism spectrum, trauma, abuse, PTSD, physical disabilities. all of which impact the health of the household and the safety of the children	9/18/2018 2:02 PM
71	I witnessed an intervention of a case at Hartford Library and the positive results of this kind of intervention with a child.	9/18/2018 2:02 PM
72	It's done wonders for kids that traditional therapy does not work for.	9/18/2018 1:58 PM
73	Husky A covers some animal assisted therapy's such as equine therapy which have been extremely effective with our children. I recommend utilizing the services covered by Husky or asking that providers of this service sign up to be a CMAP provider.	9/18/2018 1:41 PM
74	I think we need to find emergency placement for children's animals so as not to further traumatize them upon removal. We also should be advocating for foster homes to allow children to bring their animals with them. I think it would also be beneficial to have a list of all services in the state and to distribute to workers.	9/18/2018 1:38 PM
75	Have not at this time....	9/18/2018 1:37 PM
76	When it is too intimate for a child to attach to an adult the animal is a fully accepting being that can help a child with many clinical issues and serve as a bridge in developing healthy relationships and self worth.	9/18/2018 1:37 PM
77	I do not have cases where I would visit. I am support staff that is assigned every intake as an admin assignment. I used to volunteer with horseback riding therapy and visited High Hopes, but accepted this state job, so did not participate in High Hopes programs.	9/18/2018 1:25 PM
78	This is an underutilized tool.	9/18/2018 1:22 PM
79	I do not use them as interventions as I am not a front line worker any longer. I have used them in the past; children on the spectrum/DDS with horses.	9/18/2018 1:19 PM
80	As a SWS, I have several youth engaged in pet therapy.	9/18/2018 1:16 PM

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81	We have services in our area that we use often.	9/18/2018 1:16 PM
82	I am not a SW but have heard about how beneficial and wonderful Animal Assisted Inventions can be to people overall but greatly to children	9/18/2018 1:15 PM
83	how can we incorporate this at dcf for our children?	9/18/2018 1:08 PM
84	I am an equine psychotherapist and am very concerned about people who provide treatment who are not licensed either in mental health or occupational therapy. They do not have the background to provide trauma treatment or interventions.	9/18/2018 1:05 PM
85	I have witnessed the benefits of animal assisted interventions for children with a history of trauma and abandonment.	9/18/2018 1:03 PM
86	Given the right circumstances, I believe that certain animals are highly therapeutic for some types of personalities.	9/18/2018 1:02 PM
87	I would like to see pamphlets and updated information.	9/18/2018 1:01 PM
88	I THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRING OUR OWN ANIMALS TO WORK...!!! SERIOUSLY..I KNOW I WOULD BE LESS STRESSED IF HAD MY DOGGIE HERETO KEEP ME COMPANY AT MY DESK.. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY GET UP AND GET OUTSIDE FOR LUNCH AS WELL..>:)	9/18/2018 12:56 PM
89	n/a	9/18/2018 12:55 PM
90	I think the animal therapy that has been used in Newtown after Sandy Hook has been helpful to the children and the community.	9/18/2018 12:54 PM
91	Develop more resources, use in DCF facilities and group homes	9/18/2018 12:49 PM
92	Pet Therapy has been proven to provide a relaxing environment for a youth struggling with specific feelings including anxiousness and feelings of inadequacy.	9/18/2018 12:46 PM
93	Question 8 does not apply to my job. However, I've read up on this and I think it's fabulous. I would love to make my puppy a therapy dog some day. As a new pet owner, I know our pup brings great joy to us. We've taken him in public and strangers light up. For example, we were at the outlets in MA and a teenager walked by and simply smiled when he saw our pup. It encourages people to start conversations. Strangers stopped us and started talking about their pets also. Once you get attached to the pet, the pet will look for you and that's a great feeling. The unconditional love is priceless!! Pet owners talk to their pets and I could see our children open up and talk to a therapy animal. This is innovative for the agency and I love it. Therapeutic benefits all the way!	9/18/2018 12:46 PM
94	Is there a credentialing process for individuals to be considered "above board" for this service? Is there a roster of services available across the state?	9/18/2018 12:46 PM
95	This is an excellent source of therapy that can help our youth to address certain impairments/disabilities to the point that helps them be highly functional.	9/18/2018 12:46 PM
96	RRG staff has made recommendations for equine therapy as part of consult recommendations.	9/18/2018 12:45 PM
97	dcf staff need more education about this.	9/18/2018 12:40 PM
98	I think it's a great option for some of our youth	9/18/2018 12:39 PM
99	No ideas to offer until I gather more info. Thanks	9/18/2018 12:37 PM
100	can that be a options to provide for our children in foster care.	9/18/2018 12:37 PM
101	Animal assisted interventions are very effective with some our kids (and adults) I have utilized high hopes and Waterford country school as referral sources	9/18/2018 12:37 PM
102	It's not just for clients, animals can help staff with stress as well.	9/18/2018 12:36 PM
103	I think animal assisted interventions are very helpful when working with traumatized children. They have an opportunity to engage with animals as a therapeutic outlet they cannot receive from other interventions; developing a rapport, learning how to gently pet and care for a living creature. I highly recommend therapeutic animal interventions whenever possible to improve quality of life.	9/18/2018 12:34 PM
104	I think its beneficial for anyone in need.	9/18/2018 12:34 PM
105	Need more information.	9/18/2018 12:33 PM
106	I know there are some interventions in this area including Ebony Horsewomen, I don't think were are AAI for boys in the preteen age range or otherwise	9/18/2018 12:32 PM

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107	As someone who has experience with children who harm animals, I believe that when considering AAI for a child, their behaviors and history with animals should be strongly investigated and considered in order to avoid potential maltreatment of the animals	9/18/2018 12:32 PM
108	More providers and funding is needed	9/18/2018 12:32 PM
109	Pamphlets on this and how it would be funded	9/18/2018 12:31 PM
110	I have used therapeutic horseback riding on cases in the past. My youth benefitted from the treatment.	9/18/2018 12:30 PM
111	would be incredibly important for children who have significant trauma related to attachment	9/18/2018 12:29 PM
112	I have utilized emotional support animals in the past on my caseload. I believe this intervention is extremely beneficial to the children that we work with. We need more training and resources in this area.	9/18/2018 12:29 PM
113	We need more and reliable providers. Many of our kids do not respond to traditional therapies	9/18/2018 12:29 PM
114	N/A	9/18/2018 12:29 PM
115	I do not think animals should be placed in harms way regarding mentally ill and behaviorally challenged children. NO	9/18/2018 12:28 PM
116	Pet therapy/comfort animals can be very beneficial to clients. And to staff. Comfort animals in the offices could definitely help staff cope better with the ongoing stress & 2nd hand trauma staff experience	9/18/2018 12:28 PM
117	Animal assisted therapy can be very helpful with children that have experienced trauma. We have used a therapy dog and equine therapy with two children from my unit.	9/18/2018 12:28 PM
118	information on providers would be helpful	9/18/2018 12:26 PM