Summary of LCSW Jonathan Jordan’s Presentation of

Animal Assisted Interventions

Katie Carter

SWOSU

Trust animal’s cues. They have good judgment.

-Jonathan Jordan
Types of Interventions

- Animal Assisted Activity (AAA)
- Service Animal
- Emotional Support Animal (ESA)
- Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

Animals used for Interventions

- Dogs
  - Used for AAA, AAT, ESA, and Service Animals.
- Cats
  - Used for AAA, AAT and ESA.
- Horses
  - Used for AAA, AAT, and Animal Assisted Learning.
- Dolphins
  - Used for AAA and AAT.
Preferred Characteristics in Animals

- Little or no shyness or fear.
- Show no aggression, not even aggressive barking.
- Little to no vocalization.
- Must be house-trained.
- Clean and groomed while providing services.

Animal Assisted Activities

- Activities that animals can be used to assist by providing recreational and/or educational benefit to enhance quality of life or motivation.
- This service can be provided by a trained professional, paraprofessional or volunteer.
Service Animals

- According to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) for an animal to be considered a service animal it has to be “Individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.”
- The ADA defines a disability as a “mental or physical condition which substantially limits a major life activity.”

Emotional Support Animal

- An Emotional Support Animals purpose is to provide therapeutic benefit through emotional support, companionship and affection.

They are similar to service animals, except they are not specifically trained to provide a service. They only require the training it takes to make them obedient.
Animal Assisted Therapy

- Animal Assisted Therapy is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal meets criteria that is important to the treatment process.
- Animal Assisted Therapy can only be provided by a health/human service provider working within their profession.

Laws Protecting Assistance Animals

- ESA are protected by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 which says that a landlord cannot legally tell a renter that their ESA is not allowed and cannot make them pay a pet fee.
  - They are also protected by the Air Career Access Act which allows the animal to travel in the cab of the plane with their owner.
- The American Disabilities Act states that business in which customers enter, including public transport, have to allow service animals to enter as well.