



Second level course

The dog-trainer

ULSS 4 “Alto Vicentino”



## INTRODUCTION

We define Assisted Animal Interventions (AAI), the therapeutic, rehabilitative, educational and recreational service that include the participation of pets. Such interventions are mainly addressed to people with physical, neuro-motor, mental and psychological disorders, originated by any cause, but can be addressed also to healthy people.

According to the fields of activity, the AAI are classified in the following way:

### 1. ASSISTED ANIMAL THERAPY (AAT)

Intervention of support to other therapies (co-therapy) with the aim of treating the physical, neuro-motor, cognitive, emotional and relational disorders addressed to people with physical, psychological, sensorial or several pathologies of any origin.

### 2. ASSISTED ANIMAL EDUCATION (AAE)

Educational or rehabilitative intervention addressed both to healthy people and to partially disabled people or people with behaviour disorders.

### 3. ASSISTED ANIMAL ACTIVITY (AAA)

Recreational intervention addressed to different kinds of subjects, both healthy and disabled, with the aim of improving their life.

## Operational methods

Within the AAI 2 different teams are working:

- Prescriptive - Project Team (PPT)
- Operational Team (OT)

**PPT:** According to the health/psychological/relational indications of the patient given by the doctor and/or psychologist who are looking after him/her. This team evaluates the pertinence of AAI and plans the right path (AAA, AAE, AAT). In particular the **Project manager**, expert doctor or

psychologist, who coordinates the team, will define the objectives of the project, the methods to implement it and evaluate the results. Within this team we have also the presence of **an expert vet**: she/he collaborates with the project manager in the choice of pets and the partner trainer-pet. She/he checks the health and behaviour characteristics of the pet (to see if they fit with the behaviour requirements) and is responsible of the pet's health, welfare and correct management.

(there should be at least the reference of the project (Doctor or psychologist with skills in AAI) and the vet with skills in AAI)

The PPT will identify the profiles for the Operational Team.

**OT**: implements the project identified by PPT. It is composed of at least two people: a point of reference for the patient (doctor, psychologist, professional educator, ecc.) and a pet trainer.

- *Point of Reference*: takes upon him/herself the person during the session to achieve the objectives of the project. The project manager, for his/her role, identifies a professional profile with an appropriate degree and experience and expertise in relation to the objectives of the project itself. (the referent for the project is the main figure working with the patient and may be a psychologist, vocational trainer, doctor etc...)
- *Pet trainer*: plans and monitors the activities of relationship with the animal.

# OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE:

The course is addressed to people interested in implementing a training path to learn the skills of a PET TRAINER in the Assisted Animal Interventions (AAI), training pairs of dogs-trainers having the necessary theoretical and practical tools to operate within the teams that deal with AAI.

## PRESENTATION:

Operating within the Assisted Animal Interventions (AAI), in particular within the operational team means having a crucial role in the caring process of the patient. Hence, it is fundamental to have a synergic work between pet trainer and the point of reference (doctor, psychologist, educator, etc.), such people must have specific skills and a shared knowledge.

In particular: the pet trainer will be the expert relating to the communication and relational aspects with the dog starting from the knowledge of functional and behavioural aspects of the patient's pathologies and knowing the objectives defined by the Project team for the specific patient. He/she has to be able to collaborate within the Operational Team choosing the most appropriate methods of interaction between the dog and the patient.

The Pet trainer is responsible also for the stress monitoring and the welfare of the pet during the activities and is constantly referring to the Vet and to the Point of Reference.

## COURSE IMPLEMENTATION:

The course includes the lineup of theoretical and practical skills through different modalities:

- Theoretical in class lessons to deepen the theoretical part;
- Practical training with the dog to learn the educational and relational model
- Simulation of AAI setting
- Video modelling to learn the operational techniques/styles within the AAI setting,
- Apprenticeship for a direct contact with patients.

## DURATION:

15 modules  
31 training days,  
248 hours as a whole,  
including 137 hours of practice  
from 9.00 to 18.00.

## **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

A maximum of 50 people can apply, 25 with their dogs. The application is selected and in case approved only after an individual interview and according to the health protocol of the dog.

## **PROGRAMME:**

### **Module 1 – Best practice and project of scientific research**

Day 1:

Presentation of the course structure, models and training methods, *Scientific director of the course*

AAI , possible professional fields

Held by the *Scientific director of the course*

Day 2:

Methodologies of research applied to the study of the interaction man-pet

held by *the Psychologist, Doctor, Biologist*

Ethological observation and construction of an ethogramme of the interaction man-animal,  
held by *Biologist, Ethologist*

### **Module 2 – Communication and interaction man-animal. Health aspects in AAI**

Day 1:

Construction of a mutual trust relationship: meeting the different, *Psychologist*

Health requirements of the pets involved,

Held by the *Vet*

First Aid, (wounds, traumas, hit stroke etc...)

Day 2:

Dynamics of communication-relationship, principles of relation-cooperation,

Held by the expert *Dog trainer ), Psychologist*

Communication: principles and practice,

Held by the *Dog trainer, Psychologist*

### **Module 3 – Welfare in the relationship dog – trainer**

Day 1:

Welfare in the relationship dog – trainer. Held by the *Psychologist, Veterinarian*

Approaches and interaction with the animal. Held by the *Dog trainer*

Play, cooperation and motivation in activities. Held by the *Dog trainer*

Day 2:

AAI: from the demand of intervention to the draft of the project. Held by the *Professional educator, Psychologist*

Team work: theoretical and practical references. Held by the *Professional educator, Psychologist*

Stress for the dog: daily prevention. Held by the *Vet*

Stress for the dog: monitoring and stress prevention during AAI: operational examples. Held by the *Vet ( a vet with skills and experience in AAI)*

#### **Module 4 – Best practices in AAI**

Day 1:

Intervention areas: cognitive, emotional, relational. Held by the *Psychologist*

Practical work. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team* (Psychologist, educator and vet)

Day 2:

Intervention areas: behaviour, motor, *Physiotherapist*

Practical work. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

#### **Module 5 – Theoretical and methodological framework in AAI**

Day 1:

Life cycle, psychological aspects. Held by the *Psychologist*

Life cycle, educational aspects. Held by the *Professional Educator*

Ethical relation between man and animal Held by the *Bioethical expert (People graduated in philosophy, theology and other type of University degrees).*

Day 2:

Working environments and environmental training: schools, day care centres, residential homes, home care, hospital, external setting. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team*

#### **Module 6 – AAI in schools**

Day 1:

Functional aspects and relational approach. Held by *Professional Educator (the professional educator deals with people with social and/or psychological and physical difficulties and works on the education and psycho and educational aspects)*

Dog training for the preparation of AAI/ video modelling- Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Projects construction. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

Implementation of projects, simulations and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 7 – Psychiatric disorders in teenage years**

Day 1:

Functional aspects and relational approach. Held by the *Psychologist/psychiatrist*  
Dog training for the preparation of AAI/ video modelling. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

Implementation of projects, simulations and sharing of experiences. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 8 – Role playing**

Day 1:

Planning of a working day in the pet therapy centre: presentation of clinical cases, project elaboration, choice of pairs, preparation of working environment. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

Planning of a working day in the pet therapy centre: preparation of dogs, working sessions, discussion and final feedback on the work done. Held by the *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 9 – Disability and general development disorders**

Day 1:

Functional and relational aspects. Held by neuro child psychiatrist  
14.00-18.00 Educational aspects. Held by *Professional educator*

Day 2:

Project elaboration. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*  
Implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 10 – Hospitalized subjects in developmental age**

Day 1:

Functional approach. Held by the *Paediatrician*  
Relational approach. Held by the *Professional educator*  
Dog training for the preparation of AAI/ video modelling. Held by the *Ulss 4*

Day 2:

implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 11 – Geriatric Field and pathologies of the third age**

Day 1:

Functional aspects and relational approach. Held by the *Geriatrician*

Practical work/video modelling. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Project Elaboration. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 12 – Addictions field**

Day 1:

Functional aspects and relational approach. Held by the *Psychologist*

Practical work/video modelling. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Project Elaboration. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

Implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 13 – Behavioural disorders (ADHD - on Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, behaviour disorder)**

Day 1:

Functional and relational aspects. Held by neuro child psychiatrist

Practical work/video modeling. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Project elaboration. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

## **Module 14 – Eating disorders**

Day 1:

Functional aspects and relational approach. Held by the *Psychologist*

Practical work/video modelling. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Project elaboration. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*



Day 2:

Implementation of projects, simulation and sharing of experiences. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

### **Module 15 – Role playing**

Day 1:

Planning of a working day in the pet therapy centre: presentation of clinical cases, project elaboration, selection of partners, preparation of working environment. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 2:

Planning of a working day in the pet therapy centre: preparation of dogs, working sessions, discussion and final feedback on the work done. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*

Day 3

Test and evaluation questionnaire. Held by *Ulss 4 Team*