

Using Therapy Dogs with Your Patients (and your staff)

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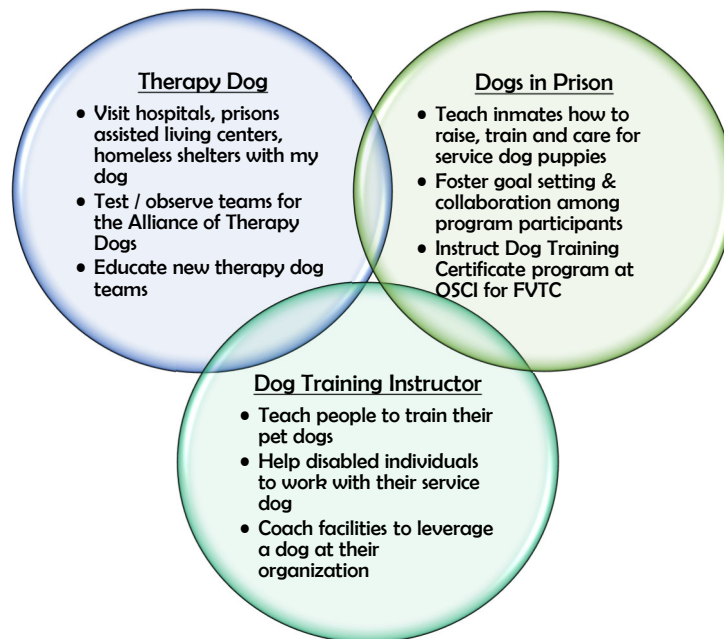
Learning Objectives

- ? Clarify Terminology
- ? Define Interaction Goals
- ? Design Interaction Events
- ? Select Volunteers

Session Ground Rules

- 1 Ask questions
- 2 Participate in demos
- 3 Seek clarification
- 4 Offer your examples

Brenda's Frame of Reference



Terminology – Types of Dog

	Service Dog	Therapy Dog	Facility Dog
Simple Definition	specifically trained to mitigate the disability of their handler	trained to interact with people in addition to their handler	trained to interact with people in addition to their handler
Owned by	Handler or service dog school	Handler	Facility
Insured by	Handler	Therapy Dog Organization	Facility
Extending rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act	Yes	No	No
May go into public locations like stores and restaurants	Yes	No	No
Focus on	Person holding the leash	Others in the room	Others in the room

Introductions – Xander

Sondergeist Urban Legend Von Roth

RI RE ACT1 FDC BCAT CGCA CGCU TKP
 ATT SWN SIA SCA THDN VHMA, FITS, UKC
 SPOT-ON R1 N1, CWAGS Scent Detective 4,
 Ranger 3, Rally 1 Zoom 1.5, Novice Dog
 Parkour, Dog Scout with 9 Badges, ADP-L1,
 GPS-BDT, ATD, PSD, CCF-1, AtoZ,
 Alliance of Therapy Dogs

10 yrs. old



Introductions – Spice

Sondergeist Extra Spicy Von Roth

I don't know anything yet

4 months old



Terminology - Animal-assisted Interventions

broad term that is now commonly used to describe the utilization of various species of animals in diverse manners beneficial to humans

Animal-assisted therapy (AAT)	Animal-assisted education (AAE)	Animal-assisted activities (AAA)
Goal directed intervention in which an animal meeting specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process	planned and structured intervention with specific academic or educational goals	provide opportunities for motivation, education, or recreation to enhance quality of life
delivered and/or directed by health or human service providers working within the scope of their profession	directed and/or delivered by educational and related service professional	delivered in a variety of environments by specially trained professionals, paraprofessionals, or volunteers in association with animals that meet specific criteria

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/animal-assisted-interventions-definitions>

Implementing Animal Assisted Interventions

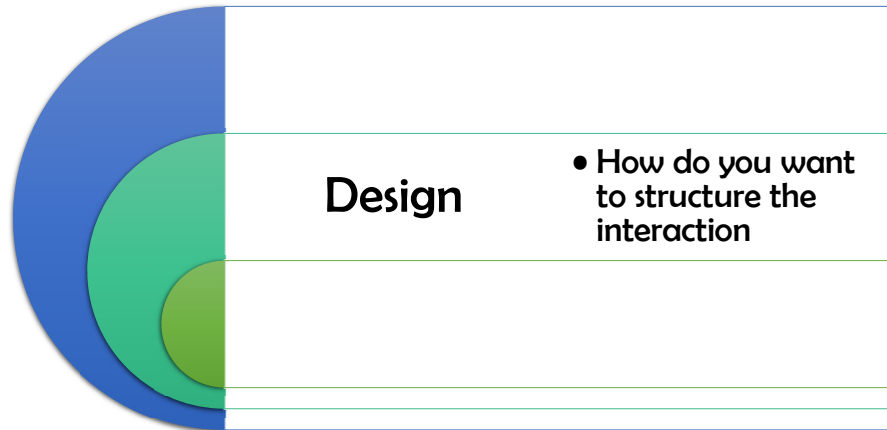
	Goal	• What would a perfect interaction look like



Interventions & Treatment Goals/Outcomes

Mental, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral issues	Challenges with learning	Physical and occupational issues
Increase attendance and engagement in sessions	Improve reading and comprehension	Progress fine and gross motor skills
Treat symptoms related to trauma, anxiety and depression	Support vocabulary development	Improve sitting/standing balance
Decrease loneliness and improve self-esteem	Increase verbal interactions	Increase endurance and activity tolerance
Develop empathy and encourage outward focus		Facilitate improved sensory processing
Provide hope, meaning and purpose		

Implementing Animal Assisted Interventions



Designing the Interaction

Walk By – room to room or person to person

- Very short interaction with many people
- Informal and discussion is unstructured
- Good for people tentative about participating

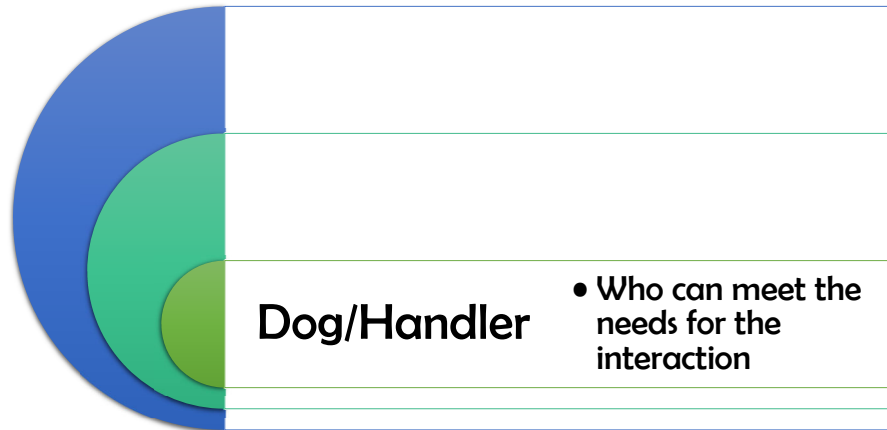
Small group of patients with a dog & handler

- Generates interaction between group members
- Provides a common experience for after the interaction
- Stronger personalities can dominate the discussion

Focused – handler, dog, patient

- Allows focused discussion
- Likely more meaningful contact
- Less patients interacted with in the same time period

Implementing Animal Assisted Interventions



Therapy Dog Organizations



AKC does not certify therapy dogs; the certification and training is done by qualified therapy dog organizations.
Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is not the same as being a registered therapy dog team.

Therapy Dog Organizations



Requirements to become a registered team

- Age of dog
- Duration handler has interacted with dog
- Background check
- Annual health check of dog
- Annual handler recertification
- Handling assessment of the dog
- Observation of 3 therapy dog visits

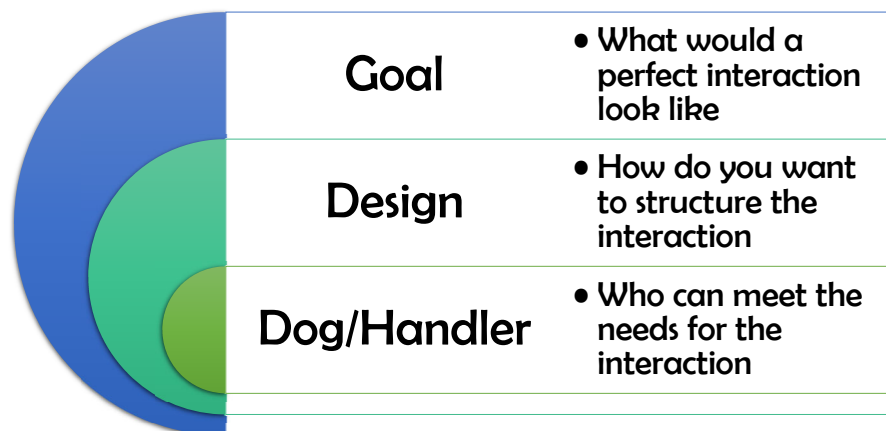
Requirements during a visit

- Length of leash
- Leash held by handler
- Distance between dogs
- Size limits for dogs on patient beds

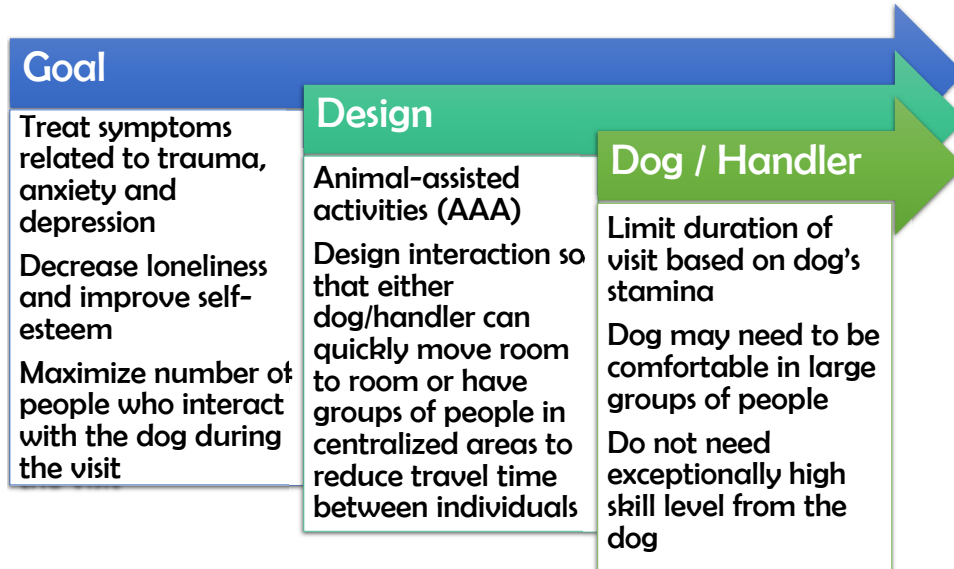
Benefits to your organization

- Dog and handler have been assessed
- Ongoing health checks
- Insurance as long as team follows guidelines of their organization

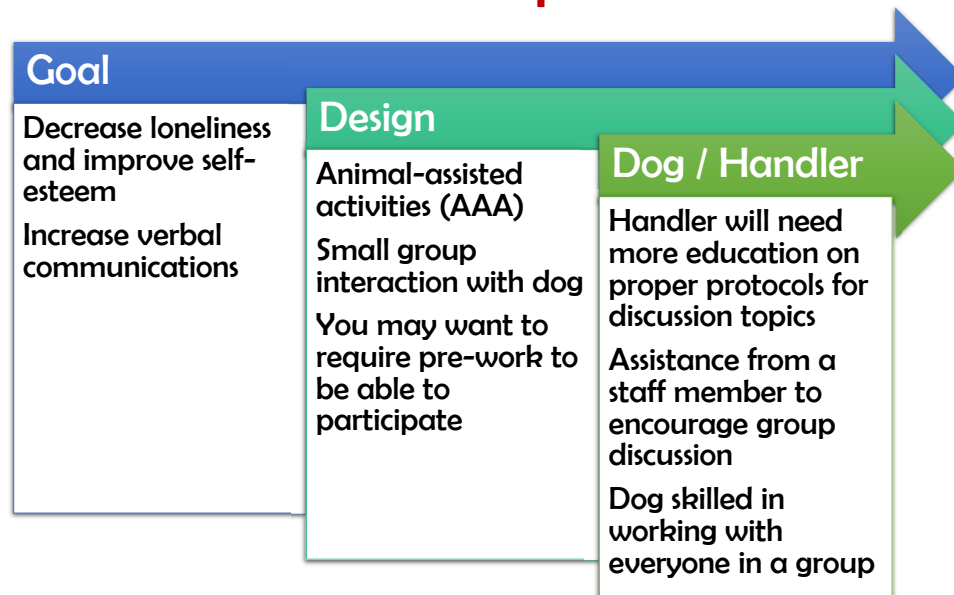
Implementing Animal Assisted Interventions



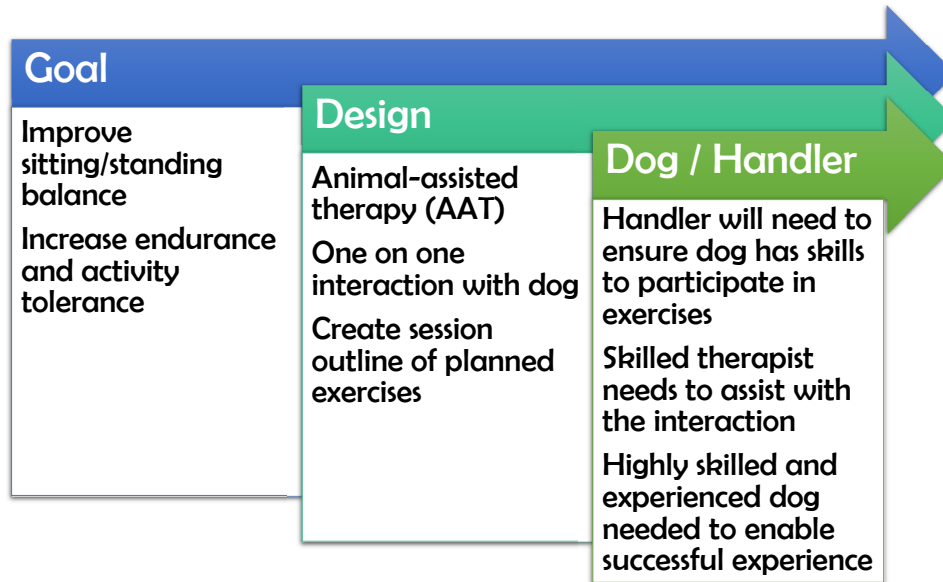
Example



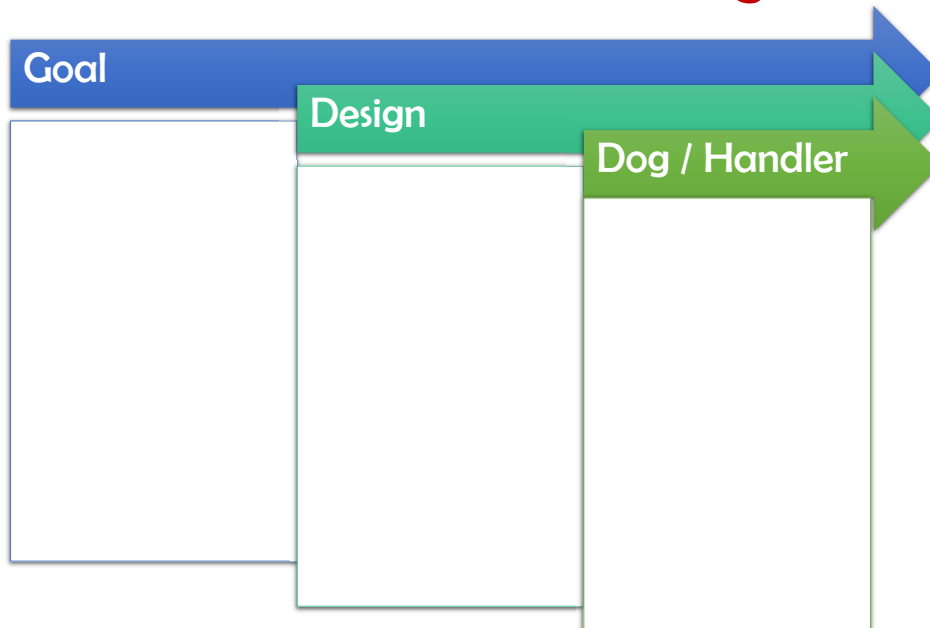
Example



Example



Let's Build a Scenario Together



Miscellaneous Considerations

- ✓ Consider using the session as a reward – don't hesitate to require pre work before a session
- ✓ Try to find ways to have the sessions help your staff
- ✓ After the session is over, find ways to keep it "alive" for the participants
- ✓ Don't forget to allow time for staff to interact with the dog
- ✓ Manage the duration of the session so that the dog does not become fatigued and lose interest
- ✓ Be gentle with your handler/dog teams – they are volunteers
- ✓ Be prepared if a dog will not interact with a particular person
- ✓ Other.....

Questions



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