



**Animal
Therapies LTD**
Animals Helping Humans

WHAT ABOUT THE EQUINE IN EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES?

Presenter: Assoc/Prof Carlie Driscoll

**Head of Audiology, Director of Animal-Assisted
Interventions Alliance, University of Queensland**

OVERVIEW

- ▶ **BACKGROUND**
- ▶ **RATIONALE FOR CODES**
- ▶ **ATL CODE OF ETHICS**
- ▶ **ATL CODE OF CONDUCT**
- ▶ **NEW RESEARCH IN EQUINE WELFARE**



<https://greateaksrecovery.com/equine-therapy-for-adults/>

BACKGROUND

ANIMAL THERAPIES LTD

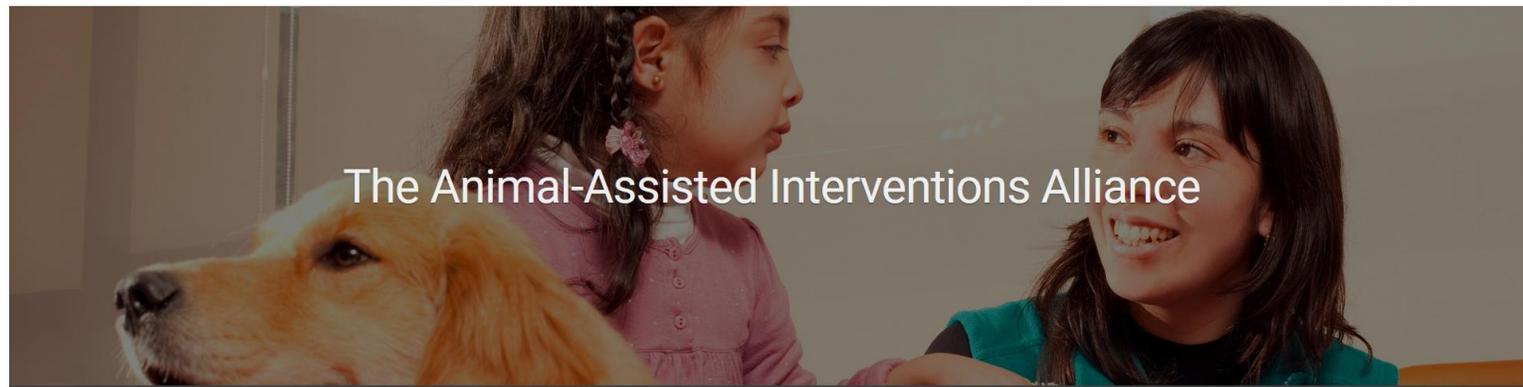
<https://animaltherapies.org.au/>

UQ ANIMAL-ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS ALLIANCE

<https://shrs.uq.edu.au/animal-assisted-interventions-alliance>



School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



THE RATIONALE



When you lie on your resume
and still get the job



ANIMALS HELPING HUMANS
Animal Therapies LTD

BACKGROUND OF THE CODES

ATL NATIONAL STEERING GROUP

- ❖ **Assoc/Prof Carlie Driscoll - Chair, The University of Queensland**
- ❖ **Wendy Coombe - Founder & Director Animal Therapies Ltd**
- ❖ **Cheri Allanby - True Trails, Tasmania**
- ❖ **Claire Dickson - Assistance Dogs Australia**
- ❖ **Melinda Farrell - Delta Society Australia**
- ❖ **Dr Susan Hazel - The University of Adelaide**
- ❖ **Dr Jessica Hill - The University of Queensland**
- ❖ **Dr Tiffani Howell - La Trobe University**
- ❖ **Dr Mandy Paterson - RSPCA QLD**
- ❖ **Christine Sercombe - TAFE NSW**
- ❖ **Dr Janette Young - The University of South Australia**



NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

- ❖ Assoc/Prof Carlie Driscoll - Chair, The University of Queensland
- ❖ Assoc/Prof Susan Hazel - The University of Adelaide
- ❖ Dr Jessica Hill - The University of Queensland
- ❖ Dr Tiffani Howell - La Trobe University
- ❖ Deborah Lovett - Horse Safety Australia
- ❖ Christine Sercombe - TAFE NSW
- ❖ Dr Janette Young - The University of South Australia

SEND QUERIES/FEEDBACK TO: aasadvisorygroup@gmail.com



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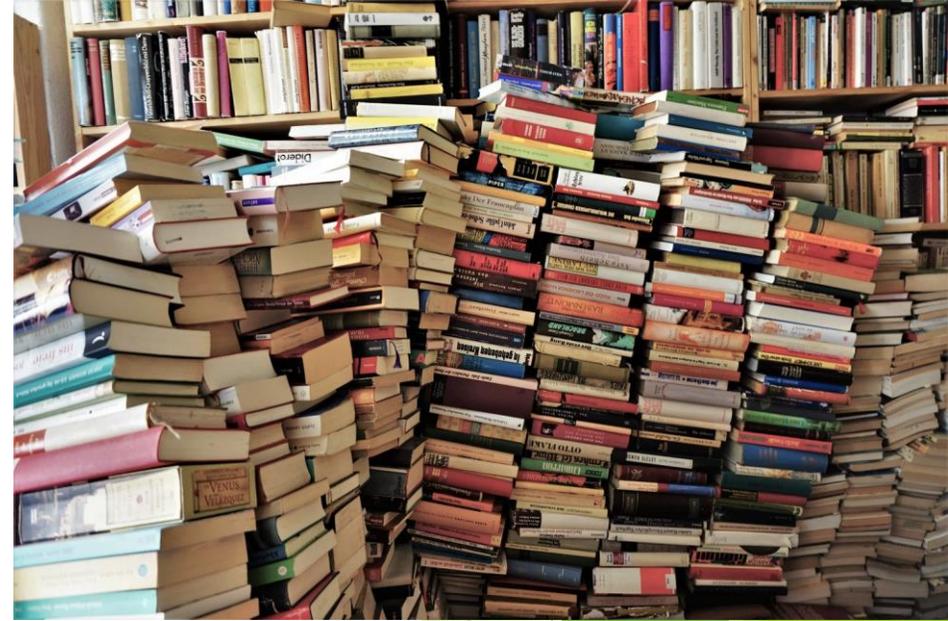
CONSTRUCTION OF THE CODES

- ❖ Thorough search of academic literature and websites of major animal-assisted service organisations worldwide (English language)
- ❖ Steering Group: Multiple in-depth discussion sessions and collection of written feedback on numerous draft and review cycles (Feb - Aug 2020)
- ❖ Ratification by ATL Board: Version 3.0 (April 2023)



SOME OF THE SOURCES CONSULTED...

- ❖ Pet Partners
- ❖ Australian Association of Social Workers
- ❖ Occupational Therapy Australia
- ❖ Australian Psychological Society
- ❖ Australian Community Workers
- ❖ Equine Psychotherapy Institute
- ❖ American Veterinary Medicine Association
- ❖ PATH International
- ❖ Alliance of Therapy Dogs
- ❖ Dogs Victoria
- ❖ Delta Society Australia
- ❖ NHMRC
- ❖ RSPCA
- ❖ Australian Veterinary Association
- ❖ Microsoft Corporation
- ❖ Society for Companion Animal Studies
- ❖ UN Charter
- ❖ Nuremburg Code
- ❖ EAGALA
- ❖ Horse Safety Australia
- ❖ Teaching in Tasmania
- ❖ NDIS
- ❖ University of Qld
- ❖ Therapy Dogs International
- ❖ The Good Dog Foundation
- ❖ State of Queensland legislation
- ❖ IAHAIO



CODE OF ETHICS - WHY WE NEED IT

- ❖ To provide a framework for applying the core values, principles, and standards of Animal Therapies Ltd
- ❖ To guide members in their behaviour and decision-making with animals, clients, colleagues, and the broader community
- ❖ To inform all further documents, such as conduct standards, and other projects and activities of ATL



CODE OF CONDUCT - WHY WE NEED IT

- ❖ To specify best-practice requirements
- ❖ To promote safe and ethical practice, with reduced risk
- ❖ To optimally protect participating professionals, handlers, volunteers, clients, and animals



THE ATL CODES – CODE OF ETHICS

CODE OF ETHICS



PREFACE

National Steering Group

Associate Professor Carlie Driscoll – Chair, The University of Queensland
Wendy Coombe – Founder & Director Animal Therapies Ltd
Cheri Allanby – True Trails, Tasmania
Claire Dickson – Assistance Dogs Australia
Melinda Farrell – Delta Society Australia
Dr Susan Hazel – The University of Adelaide
Jessica Hill – The University of Queensland
Dr Tiffani Howell – LaTrobe University
Dr Mandy Paterson – RSPCA QLD
Christine Sercombe – TAFE NSW
Dr Janette Young – The University of South Australia

This Code of Ethics was ratified by the Board of Animal Therapies Ltd (ATL) at the board meeting of January, 2022.

The ATL Code of Ethics will be subject to periodic amendments. All amendments will be communicated to its members through updates on the ATL website. All members should ensure that they are up-to-date on the most recent version of the Code of Ethics. The current Code of Ethics is available at www.animaltherapies.org.au.

The Code of Ethics should be cited in text as "Animal Therapies Ltd Code of Ethics (2021)" and referenced as Animal Therapies Ltd. (2021). *Code of Ethics*. Brisbane, Queensland.

Any persons seeking clarification or further information regarding the Code of Ethics should contact:

Animal Therapies Ltd
467 Hotham Creek Rd,
Willow Vale,
QLD 4209.
info@animaltherapies.org.au

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 1 December 2021
VERSION: 2.0

Available in full at:

<https://www.animaltherapies.org.au/download-document/>



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CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. Acknowledge that all life has an intrinsic value and will treat all people, animals, and the environment with respect, dignity, empathy, and compassion.**
- 2. Consider the safety of all professionals, volunteers, clients, animals, and the general public by focusing on harm prevention and risk management at all times.**
- 3. Be always mindful, and committed to the improvement, of animal welfare/wellbeing and human health, recognizing the importance of One Health-One Welfare (the acknowledgment that animal, human, and environmental health are intrinsically linked). Accordingly, I will refrain from prioritizing the rights and welfare of humans over that of animals engaged in animal-assisted services, and vice versa.**



CODE OF ETHICS

- 10. *Respect the individuality of people and animals, being tolerant of and responsive to differences. I shall practice equality and not discriminate based on age, gender, origin, nationality, ethnicity, culture, language, religion or spiritual view, political beliefs, social or economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, health condition, or disability.***
- 11. *Recognise and value the unique cultural knowledge and skills, history, lived experiences, and community relationships of the people of First Nations, and endeavour to engage in culturally sensitive practices.***
- 12. *Promote inclusivity, accessibility, diversity, client autonomy, and self-determination.***



THE ATL CODES – CODE OF CONDUCT

Version 2.0 - 1 December 2021



Australian Code of Conduct for the Animal-Assisted Services Sector

National Advisory Group

Associate Professor Carlie Driscoll – Chair, The University of Queensland

Wendy Coombe – Founder, Animal Therapies Ltd

Dr Susan Hazel – The University of Adelaide

Dr Jessica Hill – The University of Queensland

Dr Tiffani Howell – La Trobe University

Deborah Lovett – Horse Safety Australia

Christine Sercombe – TAFE NSW

Dr Janette Young – The University of South Australia

Additional Members of Original Steering Group

Cheri Allanby – True Trails, Tasmania

Claire Dickson – Assistance Dogs Australia

Melinda Farrell – Delta Society Australia

Dr Mandy Paterson – RSPCA QLD

The ATL Australian Code of Conduct for the Animal-Assisted Services Sector (herein referred to as "The Code") was ratified by the Board of Animal Therapies Ltd (ATL) at the regular meeting of January, 2022.

The Code will be subject to annual review. Any amendments will be communicated to ATL members through updates on the ATL website. All members must ensure that they are up-to-date on the most recent version of The Code. The current Code is available at www.animaltherapies.org.au.

The Code should be cited in text as "Animal Therapies Ltd (2021)" and referenced as Animal Therapies Ltd. (2021). *Australian Code of Conduct for the Animal-Assisted Services Sector*. Brisbane, Queensland.

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CODE OF CONDUCT

SECTION A

Animal-Assisted Therapies
Animal-Assisted Learning (Education & Coaching)
Animal-Assisted Activities

SECTION B

Assistance Animals





CODE OF CONDUCT - SECTION A

A1. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (13)

A2. TRAINING & ASSESSMENT (10)

A3. HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES (21)

A4. ANIMAL WELFARE & WELLBEING (27)

A1. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (13)

Business practices

Employment matters

Insurance

Administration

Records management

Conflict of Interest

Sustainability

Environmental impact

Informed consent

Research participation

A2. TRAINING & ASSESSMENT (10)



Handler & animal suitability



Qualifications



Mode of team assessment



Skills & behaviours included in assessment



Assessment timeframes



Prohibited training equipment



Training Methods

A3. HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES (21)



SCOPE OF PRACTICE



FOUNDATIONAL
KNOWLEDGE



DUTY OF CARE



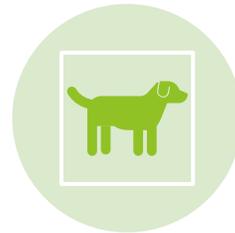
HANDLER SELF-CARE



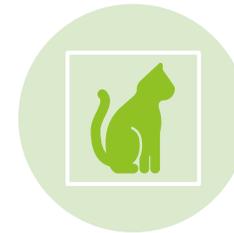
EVIDENCE-BASED
PRACTICE



CONTINUING
EDUCATION



RESPONSIBLE, HUMANE,
AND RESPECTFUL
ANIMAL OWNERSHIP



ADVOCACY FOR ANIMAL
WELFARE AND
WELLBEING

A4. ANIMAL WELFARE & WELLBEING (27)

Animal selection

Vet consultations

Minimum age of animals

Maximum working hours

Transportation

Nutrition and housing

Rest requirements

Temperature and environment

Retirement planning

Equine Welfare & Mental State During Equine-Assisted Services in Australia

- ▶ AMANDA HANCOCK (MPHIL CANDIDATE)
- ▶ EDWARD NARAYAN, CARLIE DRISCOLL, SURESH KRISHNASAMY
- ▶ School of Agriculture & Food Sciences, Animal Welfare
- ▶ School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Animal-Assisted Interventions Alliance



Project Rationale & Aims



It is in the space between “a human in need” and “an animal to serve” where the possibility exists that animals can be exploited

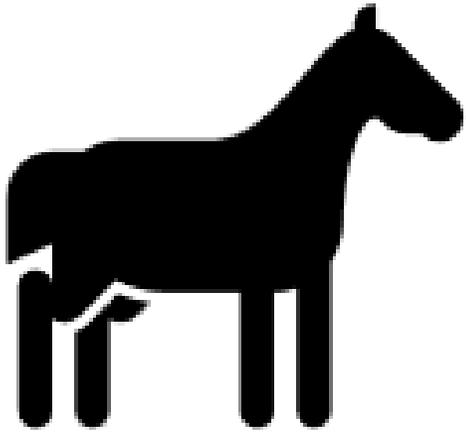
Kirby L. Wycoff, Psy.D., Ed.M., MPH., NCSP Associate Professor, School and Counseling Psychology Co-Director, School Psychology Program Eastern University.



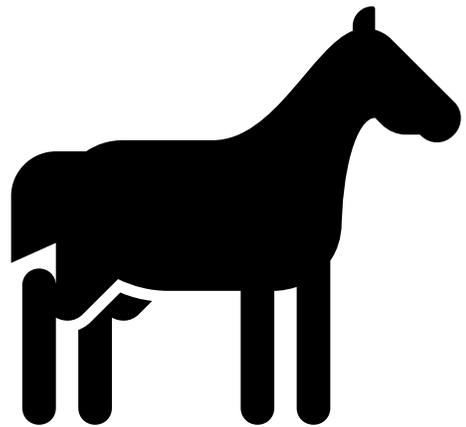
THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Create change

Project Rationale & Aims



- ▶ To investigate perspectives and practices of Australian EAL/EAP practitioners in regard to equine welfare and wellbeing
- ▶ Specifically, practitioner/horse & program/client demographics, as well as welfare science (resource) needs



- ▶ To identify welfare concerns
- ▶ Allowing equine welfare to be more effectively addressed in program design, horse selection, and training
- ▶ Further development of welfare monitoring methods and resources to support practitioners
- ▶ Phase I: Written survey method
- ▶ 4 Major EAL/EAP Organisations

Preliminary Results Analysis

- ▶ Approx 89% believed horses could experience stress from horse-client interactions but most did not have any regular stress monitoring systems in place.
- ▶ 62% worked with Off-the-track horses, with 90% of these displaying stereotypical behaviours in all settings. Only 50% of the OTT horses had completed rehoming training.
- ▶ Approx half were aware of welfare codes: Animal Therapies Ltd, Five Domains Welfare Model, IAHAIO.
- ▶ 32% were aware of guidelines for heat stress in equines.
- ▶ Over half did not follow any industry or other guidelines for working hours, number of clients, no. of horses etc. in program management.
- ▶ Inclusion of pregnant mares, foals, juveniles, other equids (e.g., donkeys) employed in some programs.

Preliminary Results Analysis

- **SIGNIFICANT WELFARE CONCERNS FOR HORSES WITHIN AUSTRALIAN EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAMS**
- PRACTITIONERS ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH TO ADVANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF EQUINE WELFARE AND NON-INVASIVE IDENTIFICATION OF EQUINE STRESS
- PRACTITIONERS SUPPORT NEED FOR AN EXTERNAL AUDITING BODY

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS



WE
BELIEVE IN
COLLABORATION
&
PARTNERSHIPS



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