Enhance Artistic Skills at Canine Assisted Activities

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Main Benefits of Canine Interactions

- A dog's behaviour and feeling towards human are honest and accepting (unlike in most human relationships)
- Dog-human relationship is/should be based on mutual respect.
- Directed relationship can be effectively used in a wide variety of areas (i.e. personality development, social interactions, children's development, emotional wellbeing, health conditions improvement)
- Why dogs?
  - Easy to transport
  - Adapt well, tolerate changes
  - Similar social setup than humans (communication, sharing of work, emotional life etc.)
  - Relatively cheap

- What is the dog's role?
  - Motivational tool ->
  - Multifunctional role (motivation, redirection of attention, processing of everyday life topics, learning tool, awakening of emotional needs etc.)

Types of Animal Assisted Interactions

- **AAA Animal Assisted Activities**
  - General objectives are defined
  - Main objective is to improve the internal world, mood and feeling of the target group

- **AAT Animal Assisted Therapy**
  - More complex and goal-oriented
  - Tasks are defined based on the target persons' profile. The main objective is the skills development tailored to the person
  - Is continuously documented
  - The target person will be able to perform more and more specific and complex movements

- **AAE Animal Assisted Education**
  - The dog is integrated into a group or class.
  - In this case also, the use of the dog is conscious, planned and documented.
  - Main objectives: memorisation, motivation, knowledge, self-expression, etc.

Aspects of Canine Assisted Art Therapy

Since artistic education and skills development is a very wide topic, we present the main aspects based on which a canine assisted interaction can be built up.

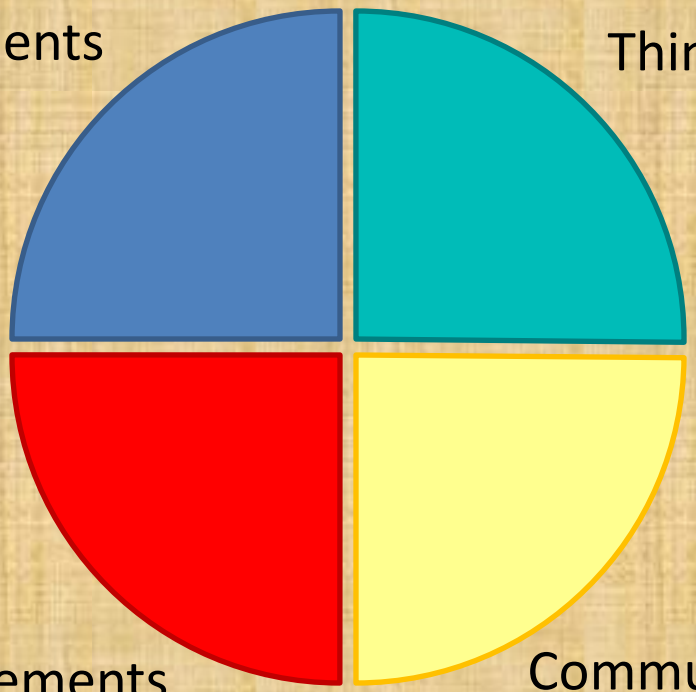
- **Elements of Artistic Education**: what to transmit
- **Age**: how old is the target group/person and what is their development level
- **Animal Assisted Interaction**: what is the best form

Elements of Artistic Education	Age	Animal Assisted Interaction
Music	Newborn, toddler	Animal Assisted Activity
Drawing	**Kindergarten, preschool**	**Animal Assisted Therapy**
Dance	Primary school	Animal Assisted Education
Puppet play, marionette	Adolescent	
Etc.	Adult	
	Elderly	

Bold: basis for presentation.

Development Areas

In this early age, the various educational areas cannot be separated. The developed skills form a unity and they have an effect on the development of the other areas. Over time, the skills become specialized, this is why dog assisted interactions are *best used at kindergarten and primary school years*.



Deep Analysis and Alignment

After selecting the 3 aspects, we deeper analyse the area, the development needs, the age group characteristics and the objectives of the work: based on this, the different areas can be aligned.

Elements of Artistic Education	Age	Animal Assisted Interaction
• Develop hearing skills • Develop sense of rhythm • Develop singing skills • Introduce musical instruments • Enhance senses of musical forms • Enhance mood for musical creativity • Movement, space forms • Etc.	• More coordinated movements • Save on steps • More skillful at drawing (more realistic) • Uses extended sentences • „Why" period • Uses more adjectives • Egocentric thinking • Dream and reality are mixed • Cause and consequence are mixed • Play are organised around movement • Gradually, theme is in the center, sharing of tasks, playing roles • „I" image is developed – jealousy, remorse, pride	• Prevention, correction, skills development, education, improvement of quality of live • Lessen/compensate disadvantages due to disabilities • Development of psycho functions (sense, memory, attention, thinking) • Development of motoric functions: large movements, fine movements coordination, correction of unclean movements, creation of adequate movements • Development of sense of measure and balance • Positive influence on emotional, volitional life, behaviour, activities

Sample Activities for Various Development Areas

Animal Assisted Therapy has a definite form and practice, it would take too much time to show. Now let's see some sample activities for the different development areas:

Skills Development	Dog Assisted Excercise
1. Develop hearing skills • Quiet – Loud • Low – High	1. Call dog quietly and loudly When dog lays down, sing deeply, when sits, sing high.
2. Develop sense of rhythm • Sense quarter • Make feel pause	2. Hold dog's paw, say a child rhythm , make a heavy and light movement. Clap with the rhythm, at pause hit legs so dog would get closer.
3. Develop singing skills • Songs with low range of voice	3. „Search a song" game: hold dog's harness, search for a butterfly containing a picture (i.e. cat) – together sing a song with it.
4. Introduce musical instruments	4. When dog barks, make noise with instrument, when handler claps, silence.
5. Enhance senses of musical forms Go towards centre of a circle	5. Make a circle, dog is in the middle. Four steps towards the dog, and back.
6. Enhance mood for musical creativity Question and answer game	6. Kindergarten teacher asks a question in singing about the dog, answer singing
7. Movement, space forms (Children's rhythm)	7. Create orderly, well formed shapes accompanied by the dog

Situation in Hungary

- In Hungary, Animal Assisted Education is not yet widespread however there are great opportunities in its use. Animal Assisted Activity and Therapy are used more.
- Professional staff's education level is better and better: there are specialised courses for Rehabilitation Dog Trainer and Therapy Dog Handler with a history of several years and good experiences.
- There is yet a need to train professional staff in institutions which use canine assisted interactions.

High - Sit

Low - Down

Rhythm excercise

Sing and get through

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