

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

Music
Drawing
Dance
Puppet play, marionette
Etc.

Age

Newborn, toddler
Kindergarten, preschool
Primary school
Adolescent
Adult
Elderly

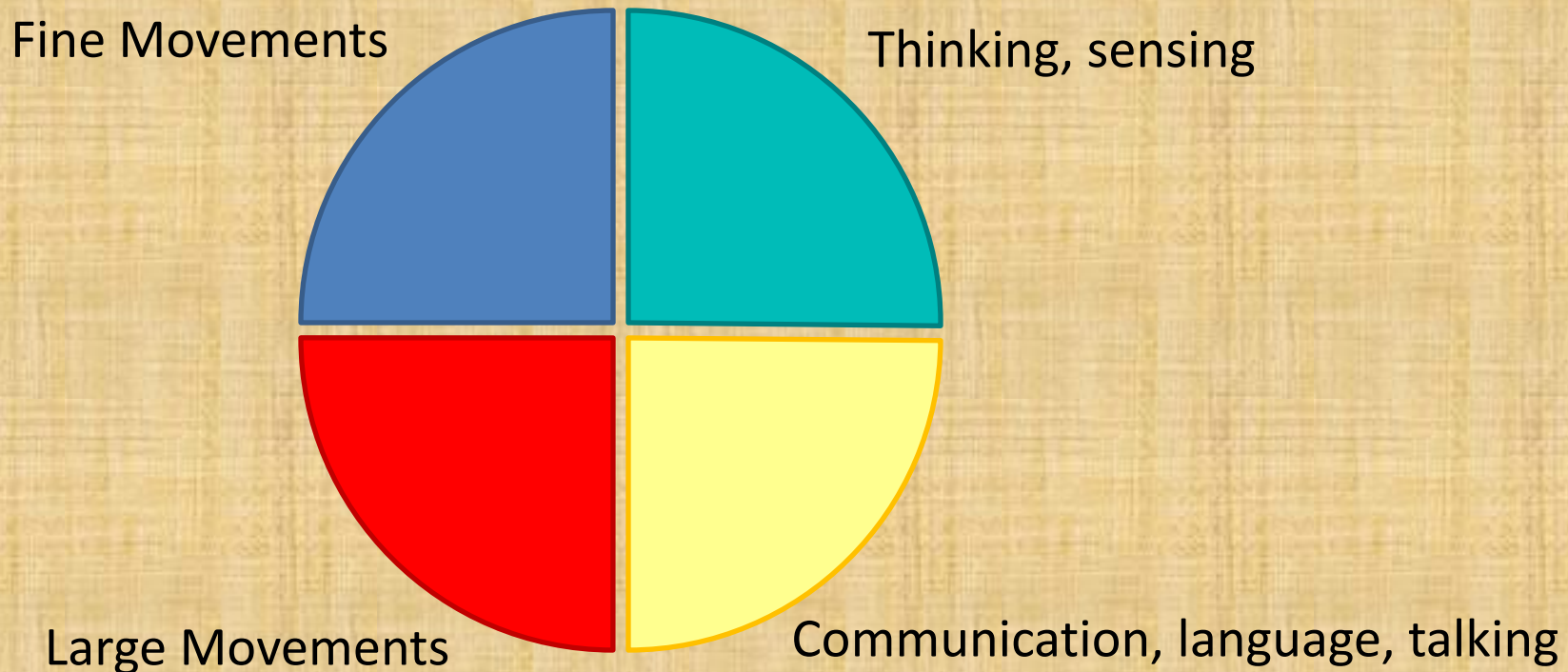
Animal Assisted Interaction

Animal Assisted Activity
Animal Assisted Therapy
Animal Assisted Education

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

- 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.



Age

- 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

Animal Assisted Interaction

- 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 Exercise
1. Develop hearing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
exercise



Sing and get
through

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