

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

Start a program in your hospital



What is Animal Assisted Therapy?

Animal Assisted Therapy is a structured program that involves the therapeutic use of animals in a patient's healing or palliative care. That animals possess healing properties is not new. But the presence of therapeutic dogs in healthcare institutional settings still turns heads. While some long-term care and hospice facilities have dogs on the premises (often a staff member's dog), many facilities don't have a structured program in place with specific therapeutic objectives for a patient's treatment plan. Moss Communications has been in the field of Animal Assisted Therapy since 1996 and assists healthcare facilities in all phases of designing and implementing Animal Assisted Therapy programs.

The Best Low Cost, High Reward Program Around

Animal Assisted Therapy is an inexpensive program that yields measurable rewards including improved patient experience and staff satisfaction. Hospitals looking for measurable ways to improve their HHCAPS scores need look no further than adding an Animal Assisted Therapy Program. It is a low cost (volunteer-driven), high yield program that can be easily and quickly implemented in any facility.

The Healing Benefits of Animal Assisted Therapy

An effective Animal Assisted Therapy program brings genuine healing to patients, and stress reduction to their families as well as staff. The mere presence of a dog:

- ~ Significantly improves blood pressure, heart rate and salivary immunoglobulin-A levels (the marker for immune system health)
- ~ Reduces anxiety and stress, particularly in oncology patients, allowing the body to expend more energy on physical recovery
- ~ Drastically reduces (up to 50%) chemo patients' need for pain medication
- ~ Lessens the severity of psychiatric patients' experience of depression and anxiety and improves patients' outlook on life and self esteem
- ~ Offers many physical therapeutic uses to increase mobility, strength, and range of motion

A HIGH BENEFIT
LOW COST PROGRAM:

*greater patient experience
and staff satisfaction*

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

OUR SERVICES

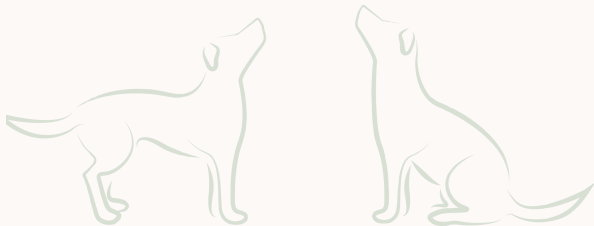
Consultation and Implementation of Animal Assisted Therapy Programs

Based on our years of experience, we offer healthcare facilities the following services:

- ~ **Educate** leadership on the elements of an Animal Assisted Therapy policy and how to maximize this program's benefits in their setting
- ~ **Assist** with policy development and implementation
- ~ **Support** implementation including:
 - ~ Screening and recommending therapy pet vendor
 - ~ Training leadership, managers and vendor volunteer teams
 - ~ Share proven techniques and methods to sustain your program and attain a positive improvement in patient outcomes

Education and Speaking

We speak at healthcare professional associations and to healthcare leaders and professionals about Animal Assisted Therapy, using research-based information, experience, and anecdotal evidence through story telling.



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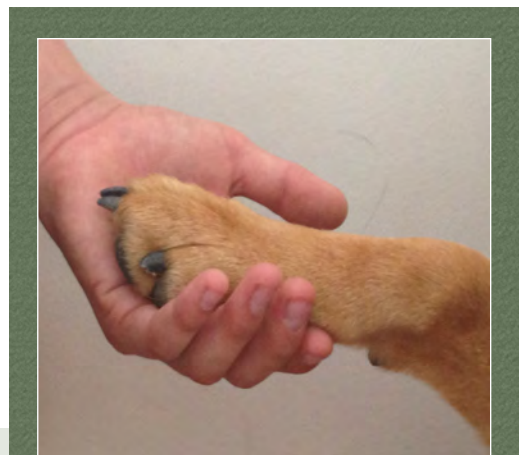
CONTACT US TODAY

Our Experience

Since 1996, we have:

- ~ Visited patients young and old: pediatrics/PICU and in retirement facilities and adult daycare settings
- ~ Served as a Board member of Therapy Pets, an all-volunteer non-profit organization
- ~ Evaluated therapy pet handlers/dog teams
- ~ Helped implement and coordinate animal assisted therapy program at a large California health system
- ~ Coauthored and published three books (including AJN Book of the Year, *Healing with Heart: Inspirations for Healthcare Professionals*), and wisdom cards

*In addition to consulting and speaking on Animal Assisted Therapy, Moss Communications creates gift-quality materials that are both practical and inspirational for healthcare professionals. We also facilitate interactive *Leading with Heart* workshops on self-care for healthcare professionals.*



How to Reach Us

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