

Speakers and Topics

We offer two concurrent sessions: Professional and General Audience.



Beginning at 8:00 am on March 31, 2012, Dr. Aubrey Fine - *Licensed Psychologist, Professor- Department of Education and Graduate Studies, College of Education and Integrative Studies*

CA Poly State University - ahfine@csupomona.edu (click [HERE](#) for bio) will present the Keynote address - **Why We Love Animals: Understanding the Therapeutic Value of Pets in our Lives and in Therapy** - for both the Professional and General audiences.

Companionship, pleasure, affection, nonjudgmental acceptance, love, connection to the outside world, a reason to live –are just a few of the countless benefits enjoyed by those who share their lives with beloved pets. The session will provide an overview of the human animal bond and will foster a greater appreciation for understanding our unique kinship with all living creatures. Attention within this portion of the discussion will be to explain why these relationships are so meaningful as well as highlight some of the physiological and psychological benefits derived. Finally, attention will be given within this session to help participants gain a clearer understanding of what are animal assisted interventions and why they can become a powerful resource in their clinical work.

Professional Audience Schedule

8:00 - 9:00 am **Keynote: Why We Love Animals: Understanding the Therapeutic Value of Pets in our Lives and in Therapy presented by Dr. Aubrey Fine (See Above.)**

9:10 - 10:40 am **More than a Feeling: The Physiology of Human-Animal Interactions**
presented by **Phil Arkow** - *Instructor, Animal-Assisted Therapy, Harcum College & Camden County College, Consultant, ASPCA Consultant, Animals and Society Institute Chair, Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation Coordinator, National Link Coalition*
arkowpets@snip.net
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This presentation will focus on the medical aspects of human-animal interactions and their implications for the healthcare field. We will review the evolution of research into animal-assisted therapy/activities and the human-animal bond and how current research is examining physiologic changes, as well as psychosocial ones, experienced with human-animal interactions. Studies regarding physiologic changes in hormones, cardiovascular functioning, allergies, and exercise will be summarized. An extensive list of challenges confounding current research, and opportunities for future research, will be presented.

10:40 - 11:10 am Break

11:10 am - 12:40 pm **Understanding the Fundamentals of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) in Clinical Practice: Bridging Research to Practice: Part I** presented by

Dr. Aubrey Fine

The psychosocial benefits of the human/companion animal bond have led to the development of a treatment modality presently known as Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI)]. It can facilitate spontaneous expression of emotion, enhance functional abilities, serve as a social lubricant, provide diversion from pain, reduce stress levels, increase self-esteem, and foster openness to learning. This topic will be divided into two subsections. The first session explores the history, theory and research behind AAI; details how clinicians and educators can incorporate AAT into out-patient psychotherapy and classroom settings; and gives guidelines and ethical considerations in selecting different kinds of animals for AAI and how to best match up patients and students with them. In the afternoon session Dr. Fine will elaborate on various AAI techniques and how one applies AAI with children with special needs specifically children with ADHD and Autism.

12:40 - 2:00 pm Lunch and Animal Adoption Day

2:00 - 3:30 pm **Understanding the Fundamentals of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) in Clinical Practice: The Application of AAI with Children with Developmental and Attention Disorders: Part II** presented by Dr. Aubrey Fine

General Audience Schedule

- 8:00 - 9:00 am **Keynote: Why We Love Animals: Understanding the Therapeutic Value of Pets in our Lives and in Therapy presented by Dr. Aubrey Fine (See Above.)**
- 9:10 - 9:45 am **Healing Therapy with Cold-Nosed Angels** presented by **Glenn W. Smith**, Director of Therapy Dogs, The Gift of Sunshine, Inc., Allentown PA and **Jim Knisley**, Therapy Dog Trainer, www.thegiftofsunshine.org
This presentation will describe how dogs are used as a tool to motivate patients with speech, mobility, behavioral, cognitive and emotional issues using case examples from rehabilitation and long term care settings. We will discuss how to start a program of this nature, the accreditation process and the networking needed for a structured program.
- 9:45 - 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 - 10:50 am **The Role of Animals in the Treatment of Autism - a family's personal experience – Maria and Susan Oscilowski**
Members of a large, diverse and creative family, Maria (15) and her mother, Susan, will share their experiences with several creatures who have facilitated their journey with autism. Three of her siblings have Asperger's Syndrome and Maria has found solace, companionship, comfort and more as she has cared for a menagerie of animals in and around their home. Maria and Susan will relate their personal life experience and special with animals.
- 10:55 - 11:30 am **Service Dogs - Making the Miracle of Independence Possible** presented by **Darlene Sullivan**, Executive Director/Founder, Canine Partners for Life
This session will be presented by the founder of Canine Partners for Life, a non profit organization in Chester County, PA which trains and places service dogs with people who have a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities. Learn how a service dog can change the life of a person who has a disability and see a demonstration by Ripley, Mrs. Sullivan's personal service dog partner.
- 11:35 am- 12:10 pm **Horses and Healthcare** presented by Carole Laulis, an Instructor from **Thorncroft Equestrian Center**
Hippotherapy refers to therapy aided by a horse and has been shown to improve balance, strength, mobility and self-esteem for those who have difficulty with walking, or for those with sensory or motor problems. The movements of the horse help to teach the human body natural motions of walking and balance. This local facility specializes in therapeutic horseback riding for mentally, emotionally and physically disabled children and adults and will present the wide range of healing that horses can help with.
- 12:15 - 4:00 pm **Animal Adoption Day**

In addition, there will be two Therapy Dog Certification Demonstrations at 1 pm and 3:30 pm. The demonstration will be conducted by Therapy Dogs International.

The Animal Adoption and Therapy Dog Certification Demonstration are free and open to the public.

Continuing Education Information

Continuing Education Designation statements:

Physicians:

The College of Health Sciences at West Chester University of Pennsylvania designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the activity. The College of Health Sciences at West Chester University of Pennsylvania is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

NCHEC Designation Statement (pending):

Sponsored by West Chester University and the College of Health Sciences, as designated provider of continuing education contact hours (CECH) in health education by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. This program is pending approval by the Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) to receive up to 4.5 Category I contact hours in health education. Total contact hours earned: 4.5 contact hours.

Nursing CE Statement (pending):

An application for contact hours has been submitted to the PA State Nurses Association. Please call Mary Ann Robinson (610-436-2310) at West Chester University, College of Health Sciences, for more information about contact hours.

Act 48 (pending):

This Act 48 education activity is pending approval for 4 contact hours.

Veterinary Medicine (pending):

This education activity is pending approval for 4.5 credit hours.

Social Work (pending):

This education activity is pending approval for 4 credit hours.

Disclosures: Learners will be informed of a speaker's conflict of interest and/or commercial support with an announcement at the beginning of each session.

Special Needs:

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request by calling the Office of Conference Services at 610-436-6931. Please make your needs known as soon as possible, but not less than one week in advance, to allow time to make the necessary arrangements.