

IAHAIO in Amsterdam, 24-26 October 2018

DEMONSTRATIONS/VISITS TO AAJ PROGRAMMES

Attendees at the symposium have the opportunity to attend TWO demonstrations/visits during the symposium. Please read a synopsis of each demonstration below and make your selection online (1st, 2nd and 3rd choice). Please note that it may not be possible to accommodate your choice due to number restrictions, but we will do our best.

Demonstration 1: Visit to Zoo Program (off-site, bus transport provided)

The program 'With animals more fun in life' takes place in the Oude Donk House next to petting zoo De Grootbeheer of Ouwewerds Dierpark Haren and is an animal assisted activity. The interaction between child and animal is central. The program has been developed for children with Down syndrome and children with autism (ASD) aged between 6 and 14 years. These children often have problems with participating in activities that society requires from them. Working with children in a petting zoo in this way is an innovative approach. The animals on the farm are trained animals and can partner safely in all kinds of activities. Many children like the interaction with animals. Under the guidance of a therapist/pedagogue and an experienced animal caretaker from Ouwewerds Dierpark Haren, they learn how to perform various activities with the animals thus improving and acquiring (new) life skills.

Demonstration 2: Virtual reality Dolphin swim program * (on-site)

For some time there has been a keen interest in the therapeutic qualities of being close to dolphins. Dolphins are highly intelligent, very sensitive and live in complex societies. For that reason there is much opposition to them being kept in captivity and engaged in animal-assisted programmes, and alternatives continue to be developed. Virtual Reality is one such alternative, and this demonstration will introduce you to the work of the Dolphin Swim Club. Wild Dolphin Waterproof VR Club founder Marijke Spikema and her husband Boono Trade (producer) invite you to put on their newly developed waterproof VR goggles and immerse yourself in the water. Then you are close to becoming a 'member' of the Dolphin Swim Club, an organization that helps patients with multiple disabilities, without compromising the welfare of dolphins.

** You are invited to participate in this workshop by standing in the water, so do bring your swimming costume. If you prefer, you can also observe at the side of the pool, without going in to the water.*