

Digital Pet: an IT-tool developed by Italian authorities for the governance of animal assisted interventions

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The Italian authorities have subscribed and implemented National Guidelines for Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) since 2015. In order to ensure uniformity within the national territory, the NRC AAI and the Italian Ministry of Health have developed, in collaboration with the Italian Regions, the "Digital Pet" project. This is an IT-tool with the intention to manage, on a whole country level, 4 official lists.

Digital Pet is a web-based platform developed with standard tools like PHP, jQuery, Apache and MySQL. It has multiple functions: it is a useful control tool for the control and local authorities, as well as a database source of reports and information on the development of AAI in the field. Moreover, the open access to the lists of professionals through the website <https://digitalpet.it/> is a transparent tool to promote AAI providers.

1

AAI Professionals list includes professionals and operators with specific academic backgrounds, at the end of an authorized training.

Animal assisted therapy (AAT) and animal assisted education (AAE) specialized centers and recognized structures list contains data about authorized places in which AAT and AAE are performed.

2



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AAT and AAE projects list collects information about all projects activated during the calendar year. NRC AAI has to draw up an annual report containing an overall picture of the Italian situation.

Animals list includes forms completed with information about animals involved in AAI.

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