



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

IAHAIO

International Association of
Human-Animal Interaction
Organizations

25 - 26 SEPT, 2021

ONLINE

LONDON/BST/GMT+1

**HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS:
CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECTIONS IN A CHANGED WORLD**

DAY 1

London/BST/GMT+1

25 SEPTEMBER

9:30AM-9.45AM

OPENING & INTRODUCTION



SPEAKER: MARIE-JOSE ENDERS-SLEGERS

Opening and introduction to IAHAIO
Introduction to sponsor: CEVA

9.45AM-10.45AM

PLENARY



SPEAKER: DENNIS TURNER

Reflections on the past - dreams for the future

Moderator: Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers

11.00AM-12.00PM

SYMPOSIUM



SPEAKERS: JO FRASCA, MEG KIRBY, KATARINA LUNDGREN AND NANCY PARISH-PLASS

Animal-assisted psychotherapy: It's all about the relationships

Moderator: Richard Griffioen & Adele Lau

12:30PM-1:15PM

LUNCHTIME SESSION

IAHAIO

International Association of
Human-Animal Interaction
Organizations

IAHAIO MEMBERS

IAHAIO members online exhibition
(public) and member networking (IAHAIO
members only)

Moderator: Jo-Ann Fowler & Elizabeth Ormerod

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**HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS:
CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECTIONS IN A CHANGED WORLD**

DAY 1

London/BST/GMT+1 25 SEPTEMBER

1:30PM- 2:30PM

SYMPOSIUM



SPEAKERS: SARA KARLBERG & TESS ERNGREN

Choice and control and animal welfare
in AAI

Moderator: Adele Lau & Jo-Ann Fowler

3:00PM-4:00PM

WORKSHOP



**SPEAKERS: MARIE-JOSE ENDERS-SLEGERS, MELISSA
WINKLE, AMY JOHNSON AND JO-ANN FOWLER**

A re-look at definitions in AAI

Moderator: Bob Mitchell & Michal Pregowski

4:30PM-5:30PM

PLENARY



SPEAKER: NANCY GEE

Plenary: The State of the Science - Where
we are now and a vision for the future

Moderator: Brinda Jegatheesan & Bob Mitchell

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DAY 2

London/BST/GMT+1 26 SEPTEMBER

9:30 AM-9.45AM

OPENING & INTRODUCTION



SPEAKER: MARIE-JOSE ENDERS-SLEGERS

Welcome to Day 2, reflections on Day 1
Introduction to sponsor: Purina

9.45AM-10.45AM

SYMPOSIUM



**SPEAKERS: MARIE-JOSE ENDERS-SLEGERS,
RICHARD GRIFFIOEN, KARIN HEDIGER AND
STEFFIE VAN DER STEEN**

Mechanisms underlying AAI

Moderator: Sara Karlberg & Michal Pregowski

11.00AM-12.00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION



**SPEAKERS: ELIZABETH ORMEROD, TARYN
GRAHAM AND BRINDA JEGATHEESAN**

Pets in Housing: What next for policy and
practice?

Moderator: Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers & Jo-Ann Fowler

12:30PM-1:15PM

LUNCHTIME SESSION

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DAY 2

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1:30PM- 2:30PM

PLENARY



SPEAKER: SANDRA MCCUNE

Our bond with companion animals in a changing world

Moderator: Adele Lau & Jo-Ann Fowler

3:00PM-4:00PM

SYMPOSIUM



SPEAKERS: MARIE-JOSE ENDERS-SLEGERS, KARIN HEDIGER, ELIZABETH ORMEROD AND BRINDA JEGATHEESAN

Animal welfare standards in AAI (IAHAIO published standards)

Moderator: Bob Mitchell & Michal Pregowski

4:30PM-5:30PM

PLENARY



SPEAKER: LYNETTE HART

Human-elephant interactions: "You never get enough of an elephant"

Moderator: Bob Mitchell and Richard Griffioen

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**Plenary: Reflections on the past and dreams for the future, — 1982 to 2022,
40 years as a witness to, and participant in the field, Dennis Turner**

This will be my last major international talk, sort of a review and view as “an elder statesman” in the field of human-animal relations. I will reflect on the original ‘giants in the field’ and mention what I consider to be the landmark studies that have helped establish anthrozoology as an accepted academic discipline; the practitioner's work in social institutions which led historically to the founding of IAHAIO by the original member organizations and indirectly to the founding of ISAZ; the professionalization of training in the field including accreditation of training programs by ISAAT and ESAAT; the development of standards for best practice and quality development and control; research into the efficacy of interventions and mechanisms explaining their success; and the financing of both basic and applied research on human-animal interactions. Journals specific to the field have become established and first academic positions created. One theme has always accompanied and advanced the field and should never be forgotten: the importance of the interdisciplinary approach in both research and programs. On the research side academics and practitioners have started to, and need to cooperate even more often in the future; and on the applied programs side, they have always benefited from the involvement of experts from various disciplines and all of the stakeholders. Now it is time for the younger generation to take up the torch from those earlier ‘giants in the field’ and continue to build on the past while bringing new ideas and methods into this still exciting field with many discoveries waiting to be made just around the corner.

Dennis Turner

Born in the USA, moved to Switzerland with his Swiss wife in 1973 and also became Swiss in 1992. ScD degree (Doctor of Science) in 1974 from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health (Dept. of Mental Hygiene), Baltimore. From 1975 to 2011, Senior Lecturer and Research Associate, Animal Behavior, Dept. of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zurich (Head of the Companion Animal Ethology and Human-Animal Relations Group). Since 2000, also Priv. Doz. (PD title), Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich. From 2001 to 2014 elected yearly as Invited Professor for Animal-Assisted Therapy and Anthrozoology, Azabu University Graduate School, Fuchinobe (Tokyo), Japan. Author/co-author of numerous peer-reviewed research papers and book chapters, co-editor/author of several books available in a number of languages. President of IAHAIO from 1995 to 2010. Founding secretary of ISAAT, 2006 to 2015.

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Symposium: Animal-Assisted Psychotherapy

- It's all about the Relationships: Four Perspectives, Meg Kirby, Jo Frasca, Katarina Lundgren and Nancy Parish-Plass

This symposium brings together four experts from around the world in the field of animal-assisted psychotherapy, all steeped in theory, training and practice in the field. Whereas they all recognize the critical role for the therapy process of the numerous relationships occurring in the AAP setting, they each place their unique emphasis on those relationships. In this symposium, attendees will be exposed to these emphases and then invited to participate, together with the presenters, in an ensuing dialogue.

Based in Relational Gestalt Psychotherapy and Somatic-based Trauma Therapy, **Meg Kirby** will present her approach to Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy in which clients experience and explore relationships with horses and therapist as a “live experiment” in which clients experience safe, mutually beneficial and aware relationships, leading to positive therapy outcomes. Meg presents a model in which the role of the horse and animal, as well as the relationships developed in the EAP/ AAP setting, serves as a change-agent that advances the psychotherapy process.

Jo Frasca will discuss how animals in the psychotherapy environment can play the role as a ‘bridge’ from the unconscious to the conscious, from the dissociated to the experienced, from the intrapsychic to the interpersonal, to form a new version of relational psychoanalytic practice, leading to the symbolizing of relational capacity, therapeutic breakthrough and intrapsychic change.

Coming from an intersubjective approach towards Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, **Katarina Felicia Lundgren** will discuss how interaffectivity (leading to a feeling of being understood), interattentionality (sharing attention and preparing to act together, and interintentionality (leading to the ability to take another’s perspective and negotiate) between client, horse, horse practitioner and therapist in their relationships with each other (with emphasis on relationships with the horse) enhance the therapy process.

Nancy Parish-Plass will present an approach to psychotherapy in which the presence of a variety of animals, each with their own unique personality, creates a laboratory of relationships which enhances the relational aspects of psychodynamic psychotherapy for children and provides unique opportunities for working through emotional issues, reaching insight, change, and practicing new behavior and cognitions. She will also touch upon the implications of neurobiological aspects of the human-animal bond for the AAP process.

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Meg Kirby BA, MASW, Dip Gestalt Therapy (Australia)

Psychotherapist, Mental Health Social Worker, Principal Trainer

Founder of The Equine Psychotherapy Institute (EPI), the EPI model of EAP and EAL, Animal Assisted Psychotherapy and Learning (AAP/ AAL)

Author of:

- An Introduction to Equine Assisted Psychotherapy: Principles, Theory, and Practice of the Equine Psychotherapy Institute Model
- Equine Therapy Exposed: Real life case studies of equine assisted psychotherapy and equine assisted learning with everyday people and horses

Jo Frasca BSocSc CTA (Australia)

Psychotherapist in private practice in Sydney, Australia, working with adults, adolescents and couples.

Co-editor of Animals as the Third in Relational Psychotherapy

Author of Delving Deeper: Understanding diverse approaches while exploring psychotherapy

Katarina Felicia Lundgren MA (Cognitive Science) student, BA, BA, EP, TSM Instructor (Sweden)

Researcher, Author, Facilitator and Educator in Equine-Assisted Interventions and Equine Welfare

CEO and Board Chairperson of the MiMer Centre - Equine-Human Education and Research Centre

Nancy Parish-Plass BA, MA (SW), Cert. AAP, Cert. Advanced Psychotherapy Studies AAP psychotherapist and social worker in various welfare institutions (retired) with a specialty in developmental trauma

Founding and Current Chairperson of the IAAAP – Israeli Association of Animal-Assisted Psychotherapy

Member of Editorial Board – HABRI Central

Private AAP practice with children

Researcher and author of journal articles and chapters

Editor of Animal-Assisted Psychotherapy: Theory, Issues, and Practice

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Symposium: Choice and control in animal welfare in AAI, Sara Karlberg and Tess Erngren

Can we give social working dogs a feeling of autonomy? Would this result in a more effective intervention? Do all dogs experience an innate motivation for social work? How far is it ethically acceptable to use dogs for the purpose of helping humans?

Sara Karlberg and Tess Erngren will, in this talk, use existing science and practical examples to explore the possibilities of how to apply choice and control in AAI. They will also look into what genetic predisposition is necessary for dogs to truly enjoy human social interactions. This ultimately leads to the question - is it ethically right to use dogs in social work who don't have these traits? By the end of the talk, the speakers will invite the participants for further discussion on this important topic.

Sara Karlberg

Sara Karlberg has a bachelor degree in media and communications from Södertörns University in Stockholm. Quite soon after taking her degree and working as a tv-photographer she changed course and has studied public science, rehabilitation science, ethology, and psychology at different universities. She is also educated as a dog instructor. In 2008 she trained her first therapy dog and as a dog instructor with a therapy dog she started up the Swedish school for therapy dogs. Her organization has expanded to the Nordic schools for therapy dogs and has courses in Sweden, Finland and Norway. In 2008 she was one of the founders of the Scandinavian therapy dog association, a non-profit organization for the dog teams. 2011-2013 Sara was a member of the committee that developed the Swedish standard for training and educating dog teams in healthcare.

Sara has also been a board member of the Swedish HAI organization Manimalis who unfortunately is no longer active. She is also a frequent lecturer at the Swedish university of agriculture. 2018 Sara and her colleague Helena Eriksson published a book about animal assisted interventions who now have been translated in English (Animal assisted interventions, Professionals Embrace the Power of the Dog, 2020).

Tess Erngren

Tess Erngren is a certified dog instructor, dog psychologist, dog philosopher and TAGteacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in applied psychology and is owner and founder of GoodDog, Norway.

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25 SEPTEMBER

Workshop: A re-look at definitions in AAI, Melissa Winkle, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, Amy Johnson and Jo-Ann Fowler

Despite repeated calls to adopt commonly shared terminologies in the practice of animal-assisted interventions, there are still inconsistencies in how animal-assisted interventions (AAIs) are described, practiced and reported on in research papers and the media. This lack of consensus impacts the quality of the interventions, the quality of research outputs, how training, qualifications and competencies are defined, and the adoption of agreed standards of practice.

AAII and IAHAIO have recently joined forces to facilitate discussions on terminologies with a view to addressing some of the ambiguity in existing definitions, addressing the current absence of animal welfare considerations in definitions and, ideally, reaching an international consensus on common terminologies that can be applied in practice and adopted by researchers.

Following on from the recent ISAZ workshop on this topic earlier in the year, this workshop will look at the current status of discussions, inviting input from participants and outline plans for the future.

Melissa Winkle

Melissa Winkle has been an occupational therapist and assistance dog trainer for nearly two decades. She is President of Dogwood Therapy Services. In her private practice, Winkle uses animal-assisted interventions in her work to improve independent living and vocational skills for children and adults of all ages and abilities. She specializes in animal-assisted intervention program development and consultation, and evaluations for assistance dogs as assistive technology options. She is an occupational therapist, researcher, and writer, and she speaks internationally on disability, integrated and community-based program development, animal-assisted interventions, and assistance dogs. She serves as President of the European-based organization Animal Assisted Intervention International, and serves a number of local, national, and international organizations including universities within the U.S., Chile, Spain, Argentina, and Costa Rica. She is a member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT), and is a Pet Partners licensed evaluator.

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Amy Johnson

Amy Johnson is a licensed professional counselor and dog trainer. She developed and has instructed courses within the AAI certificate program since its inception in 2007. Additionally, she developed and directs a non-profit called Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together (est. 2006) that pairs at-risk youth, adjudicated youth, and inmate workers with harder-to-adopt rescue dogs. She has shared dozens of journal articles, book chapters and national/international presentations on AAIs and the human-animal bond. Additionally, she is the Competencies and Ethics Chair for the American Psychological Association Human Animal Interaction Division 17.

Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers

Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, PhD has been Professor in Anthrozoology at the Faculty of Psychology at the Open University in Heerlen, the Netherlands, since June 2013. She successively obtained her Doctoral Diploma Psychology (1990) at the University of Utrecht; a Doctorate (PhD) in Psychology (2000); a Diploma Health Care Psychologist (2001), Certificates Basic- and Senior Lecturer (2003) at the Utrecht University and until now numerous post doctorate courses for further qualifications in research and clinical psychology. She specializes in human-animal interactions. Her research is focused on the development of human-animal relations and the meaning of human-animal interactions for vulnerable people (e.g. elderly, demented elderly, traumatized children, mentally handicapped people, children with psychiatric disorders, autistic children, and psychiatric patients) and on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Furthermore, she was founder and is nowadays adviser of AAIZOO (Animal Assisted Interventions in Zorg (Care), Onderzoek (Research), Onderwijs (Education)); is Fellow at the Denver University; has been member of the Expert Advisory Group Sociology of the CALLISTO project of the European Union (until 2016), is founder and board member of IVA, (Institute for Anthrozoology in the Netherlands), is board member (ex officio) of ISAZ (International Society of Anthrozoology), is on the advisory council of Green Chimneys, Brewster, N.Y. and at HABRI Central Management Advisory Board, U.S.A. She is President of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions (IAHAIO).

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Jo-Ann Fowler

Jo-Ann Fowler, MSocSci, qualified as a counselling psychologist in South Africa. She held an academic position as a researcher and lecturer at the University of Natal, Durban, with a specialism of social psychology. She moved to the UK in 1998 where she worked for The Blue Cross animal welfare charity for over 14 years. During this time, she developed the Pet Bereavement Support Service in partnership with the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) and was also responsible for producing training materials for volunteers and for people working within the veterinary profession who support pet owners through pet loss. In 2003 she took up the position of Director of SCAS, managing all aspects of the charity – strategy, financial, PR and media, service delivery and editorial – she was editor of the SCAS Journal for over 10 years. Since 2013, Jo-Ann has been working as an independent consultant, offering project management in an online research trial; strategic and management advice to charities as well as support to IAHAIO in a number of areas, including conference and event management, administration, website management and development and other miscellaneous tasks where needed. She is currently Director of IAHAIO and also main editor for the practice section of the IAHAIO online journal, *People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice*.

Plenary: The State of the Science – Where we are now and a vision for the future, Nancy Gee

This presentation will provide a top line overview of the existing evidence in the field of Human-Animal Interaction, providing a developmental perspective, along with some indication of the strength and quality of the evidence. It will further explore the gaps in our knowledge and highlight important directions for future research, including quality science of all varieties, innovative approaches, next generation ideas, and suggestions for interdisciplinary and international collaborations. It will envision the future in terms of proposals for translating the growing evidence-base into the most effective and efficient practices, focusing on animals as partners in the process deserving of a good life, while consistently adhering to overarching and well-established standards of best practice.

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Nancy Gee

Nancy R. Gee, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry, Bill Balaban Chair in Human Animal Interaction, and the Director of the Center for Human Animal Interaction at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, USA. The Center is situated in the School of Medicine and in addition to research and educational activities it also houses the “Dogs on Call” therapy dog program, which includes 90+ dog/handler teams who visit patients throughout the VCU health system.

Dr. Gee has extensive research and teaching experience and has specialized in the area of Human Animal Interaction (HAI) for the past 16 years. She served for five years as the HAI Research Manager for the Waltham Petcare Science Institute, located in Leicestershire, UK. In this role she managed a large portfolio of collaborative university-based research projects spanning multiple countries and topics, including; how companion animals impact the lives of older adults, or help students learn, or reduce the impact of PTSD symptoms in military veterans. Dr. Gee’s own program of research has focused primarily on the impact of dogs on aspects of human cognition, including working memory, executive functioning and physiological responses such as heart rate variability to interactions with dogs. Currently she is focusing on how hospital-based therapy dog visitation programs may impact loneliness and other health related indices in vulnerable populations such as older adults and people with mental illness.

A recipient of multiple grants and awards, Dr. Gee has more than 50 peer reviewed publications specific to HAI and has edited and contributed to numerous books on the subject. Dr. Gee regularly delivers international presentations on a variety of HAI topics, serves on the editorial review boards of several peer reviewed journals and has actively promoted the field of HAI through participation on the boards of several HAI organizations including the International Society for Anthrozoology and Pet Partners.

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Symposium: Mechanisms underlying AAI, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, Richard Griffioen, Karin Hediger, and Steffi van der Steen

Several theories are used to hypothesize the changes in physical, social and emotional wellbeing as effects of Animal Assisted Interventions: Attachment theory, Social Support Theory, Social Learning Theory. No theory has been identified so far to explain the mechanisms of the changes.

The main aim of this presentation is to shed light on the underlying mechanism supposed to (partially) explain the effects of Animal Assisted Interventions and to take a first step in looking if the theoretical construct of synchrony can be identified in an Animal Assisted Therapy setting

Synchrony can be considered as a rhythmic pattern of behavior that is mutually regulated, reciprocal, and harmonious. Synchrony is a pattern created by two interaction partners, and can be expressed as a temporal match between their behaviors. Importantly, synchrony in human interactions facilitates the development of social emotional skills (such as between mother and child). It has therefore been hypothesized that animal-assisted interventions may contribute to client's ability to synchronize by offering a training context, in which they learn to synchronize with the animal. To illustrate we will present some results from different recently conducted studies in the Netherlands.

Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers

Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, PhD has been Professor in Anthrozoology at the Faculty of Psychology at the Open University in Heerlen, the Netherlands, since June 2013. She successively obtained her Doctoral Diploma Psychology (1990) at the University of Utrecht; a Doctorate (PhD) in Psychology (2000); a Diploma Health Care Psychologist (2001), Certificates Basic- and Senior Lecturer (2003) at the Utrecht University and until now numerous post doctorate courses for further qualifications in research and clinical psychology. She specializes in human-animal interactions. Her research is focused on the development of human-animal relations and the meaning of human-animal interactions for vulnerable people (e.g. elderly, demented elderly, traumatized children, mentally handicapped people, children with psychiatric disorders, autistic children, and psychiatric patients) and on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Furthermore, she was founder and is nowadays adviser of AAI ZOO (Animal Assisted Interventions in Zorg (Care), Onderzoek (Research), Onderwijs (Education)); is Fellow at the Denver University; has been member of the Expert Advisory Group Sociology of the CALLISTO project of the European Union (until 2016), is founder and board member of IVA, (Institute for Anthrozoology in the Netherlands), is board member (ex officio) of ISAZ (International Society of Anthrozoology), is on the advisory council of Green Chimneys, Brewster, N.Y. and at HABRI Central Management Advisory Board, U.S.A. She is President of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions (IAHAIO).

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Richard Griffioen

Griffioen is an experienced health professional, coach and trainer, previously at Medical Center IBIS and The Human academy. In 1997 he started Stichting SAM, a foundation for animal-assisted interventions, and started his research into the development of children with Down and autism. In 2015, this resulted in a PhD at the Open University, which he successfully completed in 2020. From 2013 to 2016 he was a member of the board (including as chairman, currently he is still connected as an advisor) of AAIZOO, Animal Assisted Interventions in care, education and research. Since 2020 he has been a member of the board of the global umbrella organization IAHAIO (International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations). Currently he works as a professor of Animal Assisted Interventions at AERES University of Applied Sciences.

Karin Hediger

Dr Karin Hediger is a psychotherapist and researcher at the University of Basel, Switzerland, at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and a neurorehabilitation clinic, investigating effects of animal-assisted interventions. After studying psychology at University of Zürich, Switzerland, she did her PhD in Rostock, Germany, in the field of human-animal interaction. She has a certificate in animal-assisted therapy, a diploma in equine-assisted therapy and recently founded a centre for animal-assisted psychotherapy.

Karin Hediger is president of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Human-Animal Relationship (IEMT Switzerland), secretary of the International Society for Animal Assisted Therapy (ISAAT) and gives courses on animal-assisted interventions in many different institutes. Karin also holds the positions of Professor of Anthrozoology at the Open University, The Netherlands and Assistant Professor in Psychology at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Steffie van der Steen

Steffie van der Steen is an Associate professor at the Department of Special Needs Education and Youth Care of the University of Groningen. Her research focuses on interactions that children with special needs have, including interactions during animal-assisted interventions. Steffie is currently involved in several studies on animal-assisted interventions, often with a focus on human-animal synchrony. Among the research methods she uses, are systematic observations, time-serial analyses and movement registrations.

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Plenary: Our bond with companion animals in a changing world, Sandra McCune

The global pandemic has changed our world in so many ways in the last year. But even before we had ever heard of COVID-19, our world was changing in ways that impact our lives and the way we relate to our companion animals and study them. Where and how we live, how we age, the companion animals we prefer to acquire, and changes in how we study our relationship with animals, are some of the themes covered in this plenary talk as well as looking to what the future might hold for Human-Animal Interaction studies. And yes, COVID-19 changed things for our companion animals too.

Sandra McCune

Sandra McCune qualified as a registered veterinary nurse before completing a degree in zoology from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She has a PhD in ethology and animal welfare from the University of Cambridge, U.K. She has studied a range of companion animal topics including aspects of temperament, behavior, cognition and welfare. She has extensive experience studying Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) from both animal and human perspectives in collaborations with researchers from many countries. Until early 2019, Sandra was a scientific leader for Mars Petcare, part of Mars Inc. where she led the Human-Animal Interaction area for 12 years. She was instrumental in the establishment of the public-private partnership between the National Institutes of Health and Mars Inc/WALTHAM resulting in a multi-million dollar programme of high quality HAI research, four workshops, three edited volumes and two themed journal issues including the Frontiers Special Topic, Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) Research: A Decade of Progress highlighting research from 10 years of the partnership. She is Visiting Professor of Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Lincoln, U.K. and a Trustee of the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS), the UK's national HAI organisation. Sandra currently leads the ANIMAL MATTERS consultancy providing expert input on animals in society and how they impact people, animals and the environment.

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26 SEPTEMBER

Panel discussion: Pets in Housing: What next for policy and practice? Elizabeth Ormerod, Taryn Graham and Brinda Jegatheesan

The IAHAIO Tokyo Declaration 2007 stated “It is a universal, natural and basic human right to benefit from the presence of animals. Acknowledgement of this right has consequences requiring action in various spheres of legislation and regulation. IAHAIO urges all international bodies and national and local governments:

- 1.To enact housing regulations which allow the keeping of companion animals if they can be housed properly and cared for adequately, while respecting the interests of people not desiring direct contact with such animals;
- 2.To promote access of specially selected and trained, healthy and clean animals to medical care facilities to participate in animal-assisted therapy and/or animal-assisted activities;
- 3.To recognize persons and animals adequately trained in and prepared for, animal-assisted therapy, animal-assisted activity and animal-assisted education;
- 4.To allow the presence of companion animals in care/residential centres for people of any age, who would benefit from that presence;
- 5.To promote the inclusion of companion animals in school curricula, according to the “IAHAIO Rio Declaration on Pets in Schools”.

In the intervening years good progress has been achieved in accomplishing the aims relating to Animal Assisted Interventions i.e. in items 2,3,4 and 5. However, the implementation of item 1, which concerns pets in housing regulations, has been more problematical. In this session delegates will be provided with examples of how pets in housing practices, culture and regulations differ across the globe. These affect opportunities for pet ownership, and can seriously impact human and animal health and wellbeing.

Elizabeth Ormerod

Dr Elizabeth Ormerod, BVMA MRCVS, is a retired Scottish veterinary surgeon with 37 years experience in companion animal practice. She became attuned to the importance of the human-animal bond (HAB) in 1975 whilst managing the University of Glasgow’s inner city charity clinic. In 1984 she and her husband, a veterinary pathologist, purchased a companion animal practice. Strategies were developed to assess, support and strengthen client’s human-animal bonds, creating a bond-centred practice. As a Churchill Fellow and during subsequent study trips Elizabeth has had opportunities to visit outstanding AAI programmes in USA, Europe and Japan. Working with colleagues from the other health and social care professions, she has introduced Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) programmes to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, sheltered housing and prisons.

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Elizabeth is co-founder of Canine Partners, the UK assistance dog programme, is a visiting lecturer on the HAB at UK veterinary schools and is a trainer on AAI courses offered by The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS). She is a current Board member of SCAS, an international, interdisciplinary HAB membership organisation, the first to be established in the world and the largest outside North America. Elizabeth Ormerod received the first William F McCulloch award in Chicago, 2013.

Taryn Graham

An award-winning researcher, speaker, and educator, Dr. Taryn M. Graham focuses on promoting health in cities through pet-friendly policies and programs. She holds degrees from Concordia University (BA), the University of Waterloo (MA) and the University of Calgary (PhD).

Taryn's work has received widespread coverage by the media and press including Canadian Vet Practice, CBC Radio, National Post, Montreal Gazette, Huffington Post, and Psychology Today, and she consults for local governments across Canada.

Taryn is also the founder of PAWSitive Leadership, a humane education program that uses the fun and engaging world of dogs to teach compassion to kids. For the past decade, she has been actively involved with the animal welfare/animal sheltering sector. She also has experience training dogs.

Brinda Jegatheesan

Brinda Jegatheesan is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. She studies the dynamics of culture and childhood experiences in family and school settings and the traumatic impact of changes and continuities in family life (e.g., forced migration, colonization, domestic violence) with a specific focus on the complexities of these in vulnerable children forming multiple meaning systems with animals. In particular, she examines children's opportunities to participate and learn across diverse environments to develop altruistic relationships with animals and the natural world, documenting the therapeutic benefits for children in ways that are personally consequential and memorable for them. She conducts and helps develop Humane Education programs in traditionally underserved schools in the USA and Asia. Central to her work are dimensions of social justice and equity in historically underserved and underprivileged non-dominant families and communities. Brinda is Vice President Development & Outreach of IAHAIO and serves on the board of several international and national human-animal bond organizations.

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London/BST/GMT+1 26 SEPTEMBER

Symposium: Animal welfare standards in AAI, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, Karin Hediger, Elizabeth Ormerod, Brinda Jegatheesan

IAHAIO is creating international guidelines for best practice in AAI. Building on the IAHAIO White Paper Definitions for Animal Assisted Intervention and Guidelines for Wellness of Animals Involved, (published in 2014 and revised in 2018), IAHAIO has established an international, multi-disciplinary task force on 'Standards of Best Practice in Animal-Assisted Interventions and Animal Welfare.' to undertake this important work. IAHAIO recognises that excellent work is already taking place in AAI programmes across the globe and that there are good examples of sound protocols that have already been developed. Members of this task force have worked together since 2018 to develop international guidelines for future practice, including education and training of people working with animals, animal selection and animal welfare issues.

The IAHAIO international guidelines will serve the wider aims of:

- Bringing greater professionalism to the field
- Improve uptake in the field
- Enhance client and public confidence in the field
- Enhance the quality of AAI programmes

In this symposium, we will present the IAHAIO international guidelines specifically for the care, welfare and training in AAI for:

- Equines
- Small animals
- Farm animals

Karin Hediger

Dr Karin Hediger is a psychotherapist and researcher at the University of Basel, Switzerland, at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and a neurorehabilitation clinic, investigating effects of animal-assisted interventions. After studying psychology at University of Zürich, Switzerland, she did her PhD in Rostock, Germany, in the field of human-animal interaction. She has a certificate in animal-assisted therapy, a diploma in equine-assisted therapy and recently founded a centre for animal-assisted psychotherapy.

Karin Hediger is president of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Human-Animal Relationship (IEMT Switzerland), secretary of the International Society for Animal Assisted Therapy (ISAAT) and gives courses on animal-assisted interventions in many different institutes. Karin also holds the positions of Professor of Anthrozoology at the Open University, The Netherlands and Assistant Professor in Psychology at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

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Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers

Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, PhD has been Professor in Anthrozoology at the Faculty of Psychology at the Open University in Heerlen, the Netherlands, since June 2013. She successively obtained her Doctoral Diploma Psychology (1990) at the University of Utrecht; a Doctorate (PhD) in Psychology (2000); a Diploma Health Care Psychologist (2001), Certificates Basic- and Senior Lecturer (2003) at the Utrecht University and until now numerous post doctorate courses for further qualifications in research and clinical psychology. She specializes in human-animal interactions. Her research is focused on the development of human-animal relations and the meaning of human-animal interactions for vulnerable people (e.g. elderly, demented elderly, traumatized children, mentally handicapped people, children with psychiatric disorders, autistic children, and psychiatric patients) and on the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Furthermore, she was founder and is nowadays adviser of AAI ZOO (Animal Assisted Interventions in Zorg (Care), Onderzoek (Research), Onderwijs (Education)); is Fellow at the Denver University; has been member of the Expert Advisory Group Sociology of the CALLISTO project of the European Union (until 2016), is founder and board member of IVA, (Institute for Anthrozoology in the Netherlands), is board member (ex officio) of ISAZ (International Society of Anthrozoology), is on the advisory council of Green Chimneys, Brewster, N.Y. and at HABRI Central Management Advisory Board, U.S.A. She is President of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions (IAHAIO).

Elizabeth Ormerod

Dr Elizabeth Ormerod, BVMA MRCVS, is a retired Scottish veterinary surgeon with 37 years experience in companion animal practice. She became attuned to the importance of the human-animal bond (HAB) in 1975 whilst managing the University of Glasgow's inner city charity clinic. In 1984 she and her husband, a veterinary pathologist, purchased a companion animal practice. Strategies were developed to assess, support and strengthen client's human-animal bonds, creating a bond-centred practice. As a Churchill Fellow and during subsequent study trips Elizabeth has had opportunities to visit outstanding AAI programmes in USA, Europe and Japan. Working with colleagues from the other health and social care professions, she has introduced Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) programmes to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, sheltered housing and prisons. Elizabeth is co-founder of Canine Partners, the UK assistance dog programme, is a visiting lecturer on the HAB at UK veterinary schools and is a trainer on AAI courses offered by The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS). She is a current Board member of SCAS, an international, interdisciplinary HAB membership organisation, the first to be established in the world and the largest outside North America. Elizabeth Ormerod received the first William F McCulloch award in Chicago, 2013.

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HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS: CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECTIONS IN A CHANGED WORLD

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Brinda Jegatheesan

Brinda Jegatheesan is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. She studies the dynamics of culture and childhood experiences in family and school settings and the traumatic impact of changes and continuities in family life (e.g., forced migration, colonization, domestic violence) with a specific focus on the complexities of these in vulnerable children forming multiple meaning systems with animals. In particular, she examines children's opportunities to participate and learn across diverse environments to develop altruistic relationships with animals and the natural world, documenting the therapeutic benefits for children in ways that are personally consequential and memorable for them. She conducts and helps develop Humane Education programs in traditionally underserved schools in the USA and Asia. Central to her work are dimensions of social justice and equity in historically underserved and underprivileged non-dominant families and communities. Brinda is Vice President Development & Outreach of IAHAIO and serves on the board of several international and national human-animal bond organizations.

Plenary: Human-elephant interactions: "You never get enough of an elephant", Lynette Hart

The Indian parable of the elephant and six blind men dates to Buddha's lifetime. Each of the six men had a different view when they touched the elephant. Similarly, my naturalist collaborator, Sundar, explained, "You never get enough of an elephant." Elephants are endlessly fascinating, mysterious, and endearing, and can be viewed from a wide range of perspectives. Ancient relationships of Asian elephants with their mahout families provide close-range views and one-to-one lifelong interactions that persist today, although in diminishing numbers. At the same time, emerging schemes with both Asian and African elephants include group management, especially for tourism, where all guides work interchangeably with the entire group of elephants. Yet, even with this structure, special relationships emerge between various human-elephant pairs, as shown with African elephants. The prodigiously large brain of elephants is structured differently than primate brains, maximizing their long-term memory and geographic orientation, but with neural processing on a slower time scale. Elephants have been the focus of extensive longitudinal field studies for many decades, yet they continue to yield new exciting information about these tantalizing species with whom we sometimes have interactions or even long-term relationships.

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Lynette Hart

Lynette Hart is Professor of Anthrozoology and Animal Behavior at the UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, where she is an Anthrozoology Educator, teaching courses, leading research, and mentoring students on human-animal interactions and animal behavior. She taught junior high school science for several years while completing a Masters degree in Educational Psychology at UC Berkeley, and then went on for a PhD at Rutgers University in Animal Behavior.

Once at UC Davis, she spearheaded data-based studies in the newly developing field of anthrozoology, publishing well over 100 papers. From the early 1980s, this work has focused on service dogs, optimizing people's relationships with dogs or cats, special contributions of pets to vulnerable people, and pet loss. Another research emphasis from the 1990s on is represented in over 20 papers dealing with Asian and African elephants--their varied behaviors and interactions with mahouts and others. She is a founding member and fellow of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ), and was selected as the first distinguished anthrozoologist in 2017.

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