

Conference Purpose

The Michigan State University College of Nursing Human-Animal Bond Initiative and the Michigan State University School of Social Work invite you to the 4th Annual Human-Animal Bond Initiative Conference. The goal of this conference is to create momentum for the study of the important relationship between humans and animals.

Sessions will focus on:

- How animals can improve therapeutic outcomes for children, adults and elders
- Hospital-based animal-assisted therapy—a European perspective
- Therapeutic riding — benefits for humans and horses
- Speech and language therapy

This two-day conference is for health care professionals and others who are interested in learning more about the latest research findings on the benefits of the human-animal bond. In addition, there will be opportunities to meet with some of the leading scholars in this emerging field.

Featured Speakers

Rebecca Johnson, PhD, RN is the Millsap Professor of Gerontological Nursing and Public Policy and Associate Director for Research of the MU Center of Excellence on Aging at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing. Dr. Johnson also holds an adjunct appointment with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and is Associate Director for Research of their Center for the Study of Animal Wellness. A widely respected researcher, Dr. Johnson's interest areas are in the study of the human-animal bond, relocation of older adults, sense of coherence in older adults' life transitions and human-animal interaction and wellness. In 2000, she was invited to meet with the U.S. Surgeon General to acquaint him with research on the role of animals in promoting human health and well-being. Dr. Johnson has authored numerous publications and is a sought-after speaker at national and international conferences. A supporter of this conference since its inception, she returns in 2004 as the Keynote speaker.

Eva Fuchswans, MD is head of a 150-patient Geriatrics Department in The Geriatric Center, "Am Wienerwald" in Vienna, Austria. Am Wienerwald is the largest geriatric center in Europe with over 2,600 patients. Dr. Fuchswans earned her medical degree at the University of Vienna. From the beginning of her career, she has been interested in animal-assisted therapy. In 1988, she started an animal visiting program and in 1992 introduced a program of animal-assisted therapy at Am Wienerwald. She lives in a small town near Vienna with her husband, a physician and physiologist, and 13 cats.

Objectives

At the end of the conference, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how the interaction between humans and animals impacts health and quality of life.
2. Discuss current research findings related to the human-animal bond.
3. Identify how animals are used in therapeutic interventions for individuals and groups across practice settings.
4. Discuss future topics for human-animal bond research.

Podium Presentations

Kathy Gerbasi, PhD is a Social Psychologist and faculty member at Niagara County Community College, in Sanborn, NY, Resource Coordinator for the Society and Animals Forum and the Director of Research and Education for People, Animals and Nature, Inc. a nonprofit organization in association with DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Dr. Gerbasi earned her PhD from the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

Helen J. Kahn, PhD, CCC/SLP is a Professor at Northern Michigan University in the Department of Communication Disorders and a consultant with the Upper Michigan Memory Diagnostic Center. Dr. Kahn completed a PhD in Experimental Psychology at the University of North Dakota and a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the University of Montreal. Her current research interest is in the effects of animal-assisted therapy on rehabilitation.

Lana Kaiser, MD, DVM is a Professor in the Colleges of Human Medicine and Nursing at MSU. She received a BA in English and a BS in Nursing from the University of Buffalo, and MD and DVM from Michigan State. She is a founding member and coordinator of the Human-Animal Bond Initiative. Trained in cardiovascular pathophysiology and parasitology, Dr. Kaiser has recently focused her research on the relationship between humans and animals, including the effect of therapeutic riding on both the rider and the horse. Dr. Kaiser breeds and raises Maine-Anjou cattle, and in addition to cows, shares her life with 3 dogs, 4 barn cats and a horse.

Bonnie DePue, OTR is President of CHUM Therapeutic Riding. She is a therapeutic riding instructor, member of a hippotherapy team, 4H leader and riding instructor. She has participated in multidisciplinary research projects involving the relationship between horses and humans, both as a therapeutic riding instructor and an occupational therapist. Because of her desire to document the effect of therapeutic riding after 20 years as a therapeutic riding instructor, she returned to school and received a bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from Baker College. Bonnie is a lifelong companion to horses.

Conference Agenda

Friday—September 24, 2004

- 2:00–2:45 p.m.** **Registration**
- 2:45–3:00 p.m.** **Welcome and Overview of 2004 Conference**
Audrey Gift PhD, RN, FANN
Lana Kaiser, MD, DVM
- 3:00–3:45 p.m.** **Attitudes toward food animal welfare**
Camie Heleski, PhD
- 3:45–4:30 p.m.** **The Yerkes-Dodson Law and Social Facilitation:
A Predictive Model for Animal-Assisted
Therapy Effects**
Kathy Gerbasi, PhD
- 4:30–4:45 p.m.** **Break**
- 4:45–5:30 p.m.** **Animal-Assisted Therapy in a Geriatric Center
in Vienna, Austria**
Eva Fuchswans, MD
- 5:30–6:00 p.m.** **Demonstration**
Eva Fuchswan, Kathy Gerbasi, Debbie Coultis, Sue Fischer and Ripley
- 6:00 p.m.** **Posters and Reception**

Saturday—September 25, 2004

- 8:15–8:45 a.m.** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45–9:00 a.m.** **Welcome and Overview**
- 9:00–10:15 a.m.** **The Benefits of Human-Animal Interaction:
Research and Practice**
Rebecca Johnson, PhD, RN
- 10:15–10:45 a.m.** **Break and Exhibits**
- 10:45 a.m.–
12:15 p.m.** **Short Presentations**
**Pets are Wonderful Support: A Model for Furthering the Development of the
Human/Animal Bond**
Andrea Brooks
- Exploring the Animal Human Bond: The Relative Importance of Select
Demographic Factors**
Christina Risley-Curtiss, PhD
- In-Class Animal Visits Alter Elementary School Children's Humane
Attitudes**
Kate Nicoll, MSW, LCSW
- PetSafe In Michigan**
Hillary Noyes
- 12:15–1:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:00–1:45 p.m.** **Therapeutic Riding — Is It Good for the Horse? Is
It Good for the Rider? Is It Good for the Researcher?**
Lana Kaiser, MD, DVM
- 1:45–2:30 p.m.** **Therapy Horses — Our Horses, Our Patients.**
Bonnie DePue, OTR
- 2:45–3:15 p.m.** **Wrap-up**