

# Symposium on Animals as Therapeutic Agents

## Workshop Descriptions

**Friday, February 8, 2008**

*Tamara Herbert-Ward*

### **The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse** (6 contact hours)

One of the biggest problems facing society today is violence. Research has revealed that people who abuse animals often abuse other people. The therapeutic approach of AniCare is designed to address this relationship and to support the development of a more compassionate and caring society. With the increased use of animals in therapeutic and educational settings, it is paramount that therapists and educators be able to distinguish animal assisted therapy candidates from those who would benefit from the AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse. This one day workshop will provide participants with an introduction to the AniCare Model for children and for adults. This workshop is intended for social workers, counselors, psychologists, occupational therapists and other professionals with a psychology background.

#### **Objectives:**

- List factors relating to the abuse of animals
- Recognize the link of animal abuse and domestic violence
- Implement basic screening methods to identify animal abusers/witnesses
- Discuss introductory treatment techniques for individuals and families
- Develop violence prevention activities for a variety of populations and settings



**Saturday, February 9, 2008**

*Melissa Winkle, OTR/L*

### **Dogs in Practice** (6 contact hours)

This one-day course is designed to educate participants (including occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, behavioral therapists, recreational therapists, social workers, counselors and educators) about the value dogs have in practice. The focus of this training is on animal assisted interventions using a dog in healthcare, community and educational settings. Participants will be introduced to the human animal bond and related research. A variety of functional and measurable intervention activities will be presented including productive and leisure activity exploration and participation, sensory and perceptual processing, neuromusculoskeletal and motor functioning, cognitive integration and psychosocial components. This course will explore program development considerations with a focus on minimum standards of practice, documentation, funding, and program precautions for using a dog in practice. Participants will leave this learning experience fully prepared to engage in animal assisted therapy program in a variety of settings. Participants are encouraged to provide in-services to introduce and incorporate colleagues into programming.



#### **Objectives:**

- Integrate components of evidence based practice - Introduction to the research
- Differentiate pet therapy, animal assisted therapy and assistance dogs
- Discuss recommended minimum standards for use of animals in practice
- Detail program considerations- development, program precautions and risk management
- Demonstrate functional and measurable animal assisted activities in a variety of settings

*Participants will receive certification of contact hour attendance at the end of each day. If additional information is needed, please contact Dogwood Therapy Services Inc. 6 weeks prior to the workshop.*