

Job Description for Animal Assisted Psychotherapist

Position

Animal Assisted Psychotherapist / Equine Assisted Psychotherapist

Job Requirement

The role holder will provide a full range of Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) services, inclusive of mental health and emotional well-being services using AAT methods, in the clinical context and is required to establish the framework and best practices for therapy practice adhering to international standards and professional requirements.

Animal Assisted Psychotherapist will clinically assess diagnosis, evaluate and provide appropriate therapeutic treatments incorporating animals (horses or other animals) to clients, in order to alleviate the patient's mental health and emotional problems.

Skills

Experience and Qualification

- Degree in Masters of Psychology/Human Behavior Sciences/Sociology would be essential, PhD would be an added advantage.
- At least 3 years post Graduate work experience in AAT providing counseling for psychologically and medically ill patients especially with depression, anxiety and adjustment issues and/or special needs and learning disabilities. Experience in brief therapies an advantage.
- Qualified to use a range of clinical assessment tools is essential.
- Qualifications and experience as AAT supervisor will be highly regarded.
- Membership or certification from the Pet Partners, EAGALA or Path International or other international professional body will be highly regarded.
- Experience in delivering psycho education workshops incorporating animals will be an added advantage.

Additional Skills

- Ability to project a positive public image of self and the therapy institute whilst exhibiting a culture of outstanding service and high ethical standards.
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in spoken and written English is essential with the ability to speak other languages would be an added value.
- Capable of establishing and maintaining constructive interpersonal relationships within the Company.
- Demonstrated experience of working within a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment.
- Practical knowledge of the Gulf culture an advantage.

Overview of Tasks and Responsibilities

(The tasks listed below are included in the responsibilities but will not be limited to this list)

- Manage a substantial individual case load whilst delivering psychological assessment and treatment to patients.
- Provide assessment of new patients, prepare individual assessments for patient screening and formulate and provide psychological treatment plans for patients.
- Maintain any records necessary for the evaluation of service needs and efficiency and ensure that medical records and documentation are clear, accurate and in compliance with legal requirements.
- Undertake research relevant to the assessment of patients need and the development and evaluation of interventions when needed.
- Maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality at all times.
- Prepare delivery structure for AAT therapeutic workshops.
- Ensure that required recruiting needs are fulfilled by hiring future Animal Assisted Psycho-therapists whilst providing coaching and training for junior staff and interns.
- Providing supervision of others with clinical responsibilities to ensure our clinical practice remains at the highest possible standard.

Details of Tasks & Responsibilities (during Project Implementation)

Stage	Activity	Method
Stage 1: Ground Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up Frameworks and Guidelines • Obtaining Program Accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the framework and best practices for Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) practice adhering to international standards and professional requirements. • Developing universal standards of practice (SOP), policies and procedures for AAT program. • Review and recommendation on facility infrastructure and type of setup. • Obtaining Program Accreditation from international governing bodies.
Stage 2: Animal Selection & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection and training of the therapy animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the right kind of animals (horses or other animals – dogs, cats, rabbits) with right kind of temperament for the purpose of therapy. • Training animals for therapy work.
Stage 3: Facilitator Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection and training of animal handler/therapist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting the animal handler/therapist and providing relevant training to incorporate animals in their therapy practice.

Stage 4: Program Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing the therapy and/or activity modules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing the therapy plans and activities as per the setting. • Developing the content of the program and creating program manuals. • Create and contribute to BD content for this program.
Stage 5: Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating templates for the purpose of documentation and the maintenance of patient records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating template to document patient assessment, intermediate reports, records and recommendations. • Training the facilitator on documentation methods and the maintenance of patient records.
Stage 6: Program Delivery, Process Monitoring & Regulatory Compliance checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring program delivery, providing support and monitoring ongoing process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring facilitation of therapy sessions. • Monitoring and evaluating the entire process of the establishment of the AAT center. • Training on monitoring and evaluation process. • Conducting audit checks on medical records to ensure that documentation is clear, accurate and in compliance with legal requirements.

License Requirements

- Current and valid license, registration or certificate to practice psychotherapy counseling
- A certificate of good standing from each country where the applicant has held or currently holds a license to practice.

Salary & Benefits

- We offer an attractive tax-free salary, paid in Dirhams, the local currency of the UAE.