



Animal-assisted Interventions for Individuals with Autism

By Merope Pavlides

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This book looks at how therapies involving animals can be used to help individuals with autism to develop skills, including sensory and social skills, to manage challenging behaviours, and improve quality of life.

Whether participating in therapeutic horseback riding, utilizing a trained service dog, visiting a dolphin therapy center, or simply experiencing companion animal therapy, people with autism can reap a multitude of benefits from interaction with furry, feathered, and finned friends. Merope Pavlides relates the success stories of different animal-assisted interventions, as well as noting the challenges of working with particular animal species. She also emphasizes the importance of tailoring interventions to the specific needs of the individual and of monitoring progress.

With recommendations for resources and further reading, this book will be of great interest to people with autism, their parents, and the professionals who work with them.

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Editorial Review

Review

this book is ideal for parents of children with autism exploring options to help their children overcome common behavioral, verbal, pshysical, and social hurdles. It is essential for parents of children with autism or individuals with autism who have made the decision to incorporate animal service or therapy into their lives. This book would also be incredibly useful for animal trainers, especially those belonging to service organizations who are considering accommodating individuals with autism in their service and therapy schemes. -- Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders When I first received 'Animal-Assisted Interventions for Individuals with Autism' for review, I half expected it to be a cheerleading book filled with anecdotes about the panacea of using animals with those affected by autism. Thus, it was a pleasant surprise to find a well-written book that is well researched and addresses my interests and concerns as a psychologist new to the area of animal-assisted interventions. -- PsycCRITIQUES [E]ssential reading for families, teachers, and anyone who is interested in using service animals to help individuals on the autism spectrum -- from the foreword by Temple Grandin This book looks at how therapies involving animals can be used to help individuals with autism to develop skill, including sensory and social skills, to manage challenging behaviors, and improve quality of life. Whether participating in therapeutic horseback riding, utilizing a trained service dog, visiting a dolphin therapy center, or simply experiencing companion animal therapy, people with autism can reap a multitude of benefits from interaction with furry, feathered, and finned friends. With recommendations for resources and further reading, this book will be of great interest to people with autism, their parents, and the professionals who work with them. -- Autism Us Did you know that dogs may be trained to help children with autism? I didn't until I read this fascinating book. The book contains many heart warming case studies describing how the child's quality of life has been improved through their interaction with animals. So read, enjoy and be inspired. -- NAPLIC The book provides practical advice for families considering a service dog. It highlights funding issues, problems faced by families and professionals, and makes reference to the problems and benefits of using animals in the community. I found this book fascinating and inspiring. Families and professionals can benefit from reading this book and adapt many of the ideas and perhaps inspire more people to use animals to provide opportunities to assist with communication, independence, relaxation, sensory exploration and emotional support. -- PMLD Link Journal

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this book is ideal for parents of children with autism exploring options to help their children overcome common behavioral, verbal, pshysical, and social hurdles. It is essential for parents of children with autism or individuals with autism who have made the decision to incorporate animal service or therapy into their lives. This book would also be incredibly useful for animal trainers, especially those belonging to service organizations who are considering accommodating individuals with autism in their service and therapy schemes. (Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders)

When I first received 'Animal-Assisted Interventions for Individuals with Autism' for review, I half expected it to be a cheerleading book filled with anecdotes about the panacea of using animals with those affected by autism. Thus, it was a pleasant surprise to find a well-written book that is well researched and addresses my interests and concerns as a psychologist new to the area of animal-assisted interventions. (PsycCRITIQUES)

[E]ssential reading for families, teachers, and anyone who is interested in using service animals to help individuals on the autism spectrum (from the foreword by Temple Grandin)

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With recommendations for resources and further reading, this book will be of great interest to people with autism, their parents, and the professionals who work with them.

(Autism Us)

Did you know that dogs may be trained to help children with autism? I didn't until I read this fascinating book. The book contains many heart warming case studies describing how the child's quality of life has been improved through their interaction with animals. So read, enjoy and be inspired. (NAPLIC)

The book provides practical advice for families considering a service dog. It highlights funding issues, problems faced by families and professionals, and makes reference to the problems and benefits of using animals in the community. I found this book fascinating and inspiring. Families and professionals can benefit from reading this book and adapt many of the ideas and perhaps inspire more people to use animals to provide opportunities to assist with communication, independence, relaxation, sensory exploration and emotional support. (PMLD Link Journal)

About the Author

Merope Pavlides is a certified pet dog trainer specializing in work with special needs families, and has taught therapeutic horseback riding. One of her own sons has autism, the other has dyslexia and a central auditory processing disorder. Merope has an MS in special education from Johns Hopkins University with a graduate certificate in teaching children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders. She lives in Maryland, USA.

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