

Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) with dogs in retirement and nursing homes

The University Hospital Center of Clermont-Ferrand

Pr Laurent Gerbaud, Dr Didier Vernay

Présentation

Objective :

To compare AAI practices with dogs in retirement homes in different European countries
→ to propose improvement of practices (white book on line)

Visited places

Retirement homes : Kunheim (France), Padoue (Italy), Berlin (Germany)

Nursing home for elderly people : Nijmegen (the Netherlands)

Study team : trade / AAI practice *

15 European members / 6 foreigners : administratives and association members (3), Medical doctors (3/1*), veterinarians (3/2*), university researchers (4/3*), Translator (1).



Observations

Terminology, definitions and contents of programmes

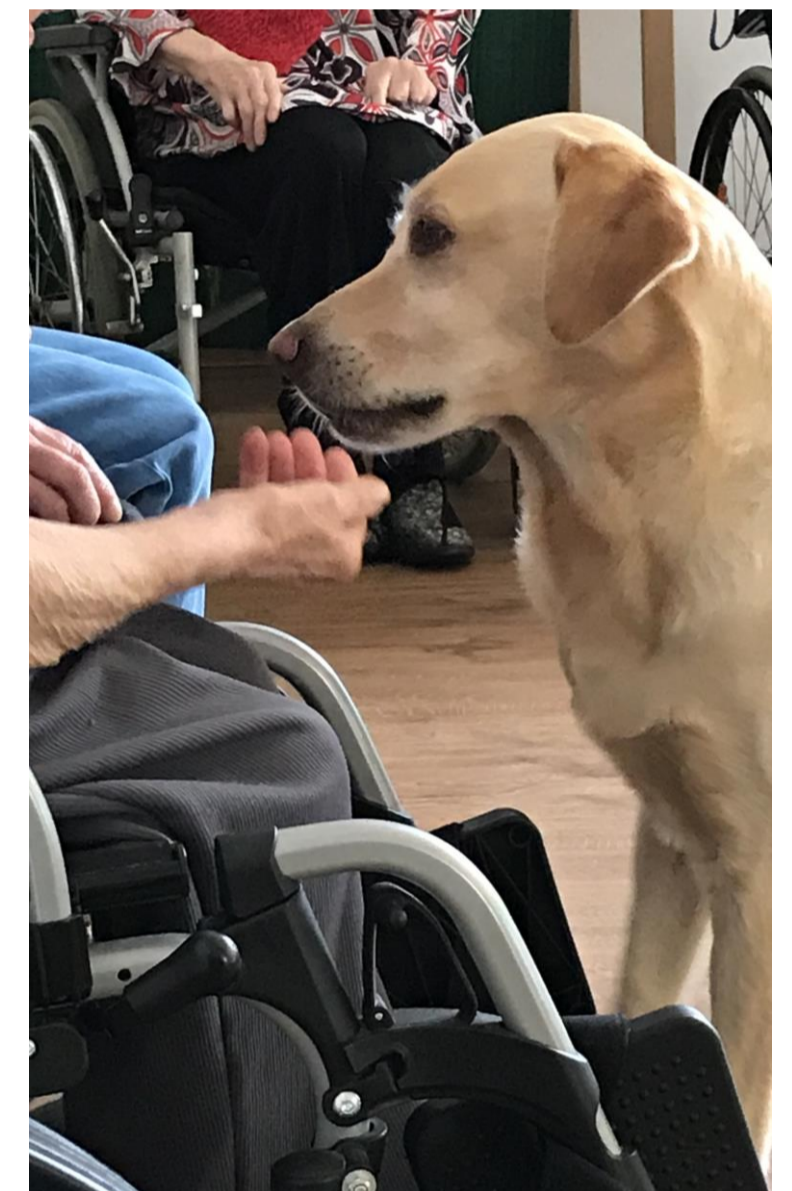
Only France uses the term « Médiation Animale », the others use the anglo-saxon terminology : Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI, see white-paper IAHAIO)

Beneficiaries

In each country the main targeted public is elderly people with cognitive disorders including Alzheimer disease.

Rules

Only Italy has an AAI National Reference Centre. In the other countries retirement and nursing homes define their own rules on a non official basis.



Bilan & Recommandations

What has been learnt?

The French should adopt the corresponding international terminology to communicate internationally and keep the term « Médiation Animale » between themselves since it is a federating term for the different currents in France.

The noticed benefits are similar : psychophysical, emotional, behavioural and social stimulation

though the assessment methodology of the impacts is often insufficient and non standardized.

Interest of the « Italian model »; it takes into account the questions about AAI and care

A major point of interest : the sanitary and behavioural piloting of dogs should be underlined.

Perspectives

Carry on the work done in this pluridisciplinary international group = white book to be put on line

Proposition of recommendations for good administrative, therapeutical and veterinary practices

Carry on the « Italian model »

It could help the other countries to make up a regulatory framework. .