

Guidance on minimum standards for canine assisted psychotherapy in adolescent mental health:

Delphi expert consensus on health, safety, and canine welfare.

Table S1 – Supplementary Information

Health & Safety

R1 No.	Round One Item	%	Mean SD Median	R2 No.	Round Two Item (where relevant)	%	Mean SD Median	Accepted
D1.2a 1a	Providers are trained in zoonotic infections, and methods to reduce risks	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.7 SD=0.5 Med=5.0					Yes
1b	Providers are first aid trained and qualified	E 3.6 I 89.3 N 7.1	M=4.4 SD=0.8 Med=5					Yes
1c	Providers are trained in canine first aid	E 0 I 96.4 N 3.6	M=4.4 SD=0.6 Med=4.0					Yes
1d	Providers are up to date with recommended (human) vaccinations (relevant to the geographic area and population group)	E 3.6 I 85.8 N 10.7	M=4.4 SD=1.0 Med=5.0					Yes
1e	Any <i>minor human injury</i> (bite, scratch) is washed with soap and running water for 5 minutes (SHAE guidelines), then Medical or first aid care and incident reporting as required	E 3.6 I 89.3 N 7.1	M=4.4 SD=0.9 Med=5.0					Yes
1f	Any <i>minor human injury</i> (bite, scratch) is washed with soap and running water for 45 seconds (in accordance with hand hygiene advice) followed by Medical or first aid care and incident reporting as required	E 0 I 96.3 N 3.7	M=4.7 SD=0.6 Med=5.0					Yes
1g	Incident reporting includes review of risk, and future planning for risk management or mitigation	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.9 SD=0.4 Med=5.0					Yes

key

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Suggestions – Salient categories where 5 or more experts (N=5) made suggestions in the same category, topic or domain

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1h	Incident reports are completed for all injuries to humans or animals (e.g., physical injury – scratch; psychological injury – fear)	E 0 I 92.9 N 7.1	M=4.6 SD=0.6 Med=5.0					Yes
1i	Incident reports are completed for all ‘near miss’ incidents (e.g., a situation where a canine or client intended or threatened to cause harm)	E 0 I 92.9 N 7.1	M=4.4 SD=0.6 Med=4.5					Yes
1j	Canines are up to date on recommended vaccinations by a licensed veterinarian	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.9 SD=0.3 Med=5.0					Yes
1k	Canines are up to date on internal and external parasite control (e.g., flicks, ticks, worms)	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.9 SD=0.3 Med=5.0					Yes
1l	Canines require regular vet checks and clearance when working (every 6-12 months)	E 0 I 96.4 N 3.6	M=4.8 SD=0.5 Med=5.0					Yes
1m	Canines are prohibited from eating any raw animal product within 90 days prior to contact with clients	E 10.7 I 46.5 N 42.9	M=3.6 SD=1.2 Med=3.0	1.1	Canines are prohibited from eating any raw animal product within 90 days prior to contact with clients	E 41.4 I 29.4 N 29.4	M=2.9 SD=1.5 Med=3.0	
1n	Canines do not work when obviously unwell (e.g., vomiting, diarrhoea)	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=5.0 SD=0.2 Med=5.0					Yes
1o	Canines do not work when on antibiotics or antimicrobials even if otherwise appearing well (e.g., prophylactic treatments, or to manage chronic/recurring conditions e.g., itchy ears)	E 14.8 I 55.5 N 29.6	M=3.7 SD=1.3 Med=4.0	1.2	Canines do not work when on antibiotics or antimicrobials even if otherwise appearing well (e.g., prophylactic treatments, or to manage chronic/recurring conditions e.g., itchy ears)	E 41.1 I 58.8 N 0	M=3.2 SD=4.0 Med=1.5	

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R1 No.	Round One Item	%	Mean SD Median	R2 No.	Round Two Item (where relevant)	%	Mean SD Median	Accepted
1p	Canines do not work when obviously unhappy or displaying behavioural changes indicative of not wanting to engage in client work	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.9 SD=0.3 Med=5.0					Yes
1q	Zoonotic clearance is obtained from a vet prior to return to work following illness	E 0 I 82.2 N 17.9	M=4.5 SD=0.8 Med=5.0					Yes
1r	Canines are screened for intestinal infections (e.g., salmonella) regularly (e.g., every 60-90 days)	E 14.2 I 46.4 N 39.3	M=3.6 SD=1.2 Med=3.0	1.3	Canines are screened for intestinal infections (e.g., salmonella) regularly (e.g., every 60-90 days)	E 41.2 I 47.0 N 11.8	M=3.2 SD=1.5 Med=3.0	
1s	Canines with illness, injury or disability must obtain veterinary clearance prior to working with clients	E 3.6 I 87.5 N 10.7	M=4.4 SD=0.8 Med=5.0					Yes
1t	Only sterilised (de-sexed, neutered, spayed) canines can work with clients	E 46.5 I 17.8 N 35.7	M=2.5 SD=1.2 Med=3.0	1.4	Only sterilised (de-sexed, neutered, spayed) canines can work with clients	E 41.2 I 29.4 N 0	M=2.8 SD=1.5 Med=3.0	
1u	Canines must not work when on heat/in season	E 7.2 I 60.7 N 32.1	M=4.0 SD=1.1 Med=4.0	1.5	Canines must not work when on heat/in season	E 11.8 I 88.2 N 0	M=4.4 SD=1.3 Med=5.0	Yes
1v	Canines are hydrobathed (shampoo down to the skin) within 24 hours prior to client contact	E 39.3 I 21.4 N 39.3	M=2.8 SD=1.3 Med=3.0		Item redundant			
1w	Canines are hydrobathed regularly (weekly to fortnightly)	E 21.4	M=3.6		Item redundant			

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R1 No.	Round One Item	%	Mean SD Median	R2 No.	Round Two Item (where relevant)	%	Mean SD Median	Accepted
		I 60.7 N 17.9	SD=1.4 Med=4.0	<i>Some support</i>				
1x	Canines are hydrobathed when obviously soiled or malodorous	E 7.1 I 85.7 N 7.1	M=4.3 SD=1.1 Med=5.0	Yes				
1y	Canines are groomed (brushed/wiped) every workday, as required	E 3.6 I 92.8 N 3.6	M=4.5 SD=0.7 Med=5.0	Yes				
1z	Clients use adequate hand hygiene before and after contact with the canine	E 3.6 I 92.8 N 3.6	M=4.5 SD=0.9 Med=5.0	Yes				
1aa	Cross-contamination measures are taken between clients (e.g., use of antiseptic wipes) NOTE: Clients are working together in a group setting	E 3.6 I 75.0 N 21.4	M=4.2 SD=1.0 Med=5.0	1.6	Cross-contamination measures are taken between clients (e.g., use of antiseptic wipes) NOTE: clients are working together in a group setting	E 17.7 I 58.8 N 23.5	M=3.8 SD=1.5 Med=5.0	
1bb	Cross-contamination measures are taken between GROUPS of clients (e.g., use of antiseptic wipes) I.e. the dog is wiped down prior to working with a new group of clients	E 7.4 I 77.7 N 14.8	M=4.1 SD=1.1 Med=4.0	1.7	Cross-contamination measures should be taken between GROUPS of clients (e.g., use of antiseptic wipes). I.e. the dog is wiped down prior to working with a new group of clients	E 29.4 I 58.8 N 11.8	M=3.3 SD=1.7 Med=4.0	
1cc	Canines are prevented from licking the client's mouth or eyes	E 3.7 I 81.5 N 14.8	M=4.3 SD=0.9 Med=5.0	Yes				
1dd	Canines are prevented from licking clients at all	E 18.5 I 48.1 N 33.3	M=3.6 SD=1.2 Med=3.0	<i>Item redundant</i>				

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1ee	Clients are prevented from coming into contact with canine saliva, paws, ears, peri-anal region as they are potential infection sources (i.e., not allowed to feed, touch toys from dog's mouth, handle dog's face/ears, 'shake' paws etc)	E 46.4 I 25.0 N 28.6	M=2.8 SD=1.4 Med=3.0		<i>Item redundant</i>			
D1 1d 1p	Risk assessment of venue/environment (e.g., hazards to humans or animals)	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.8 SD=0.5 Med=5.0					Yes
D1 1d 1q	Risk assessment of client-animal interaction (e.g., suitability, zoonoses, physical harm)	E 0 I 97.0 N 3.0	M=4.9 SD=0.3 Med=5.0					Yes
2	<u>Other Health and Safety Suggestions</u> None met inclusion criteria of n=5 per category							

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Welfare

R1 No.	Round One Item	%	Mean SD Median	R2 No.	Round Two Item (where relevant)	%	Mean SD Median	Accepted
D1.2b 1a	Providers are trained in canine welfare and body language	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.8 SD=0.4 Med=5.0					Yes
1b	Welfare is informally assessed by provider observations during work	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.7 SD=0.5 Med=5.0					Yes
1c	Canine welfare is regularly <i>assessed</i> and documented by provider observation (such as non-standardised questionnaires) kept in the canine's health record	E 3.6 I 85.8 N 10.7	M=4.2 SD=0.9 Med=4.0					Yes
1d	Welfare is regularly <i>assessed</i> with formal observational measures (e.g., video-recording and subsequent expert coding of stress; behavioural questionnaire from the PAT-WAT)	E 7.2 I 53.6 N 39.3	M=3.7 SD=1.0 Med=4.0		<i>Item redundant</i>			
1e	Canine welfare is regularly <i>assessed</i> and documented with standardised therapy dog welfare assessment tools (e.g., PAT-WAT) including behavioural coding and physiological testing	E 17.8 I 60.7 N 21.4	M=3.7 SD=1.2 Med=4.0		<i>Item redundant</i> <i>Some support</i>			
1f	Canine welfare is <i>maintained</i> by adhering to strict guidelines, e.g., work duration of no more than one hour, rest breaks, recovery days (irrespective of individual canine differences).	E 11.5 I 61.5 N 26.9	M=3.8 SD=1.2 Med=4.0		<i>Item redundant</i> <i>Some support</i>			
	If yes, please describe: Welfare guidelines should be in place (5) and must be responsive to the individual dog/situation (5)							

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1g	Canine welfare is <i>maintained</i> by flexible response to observed behaviour/wellbeing of the individual canine	E 3.6 I 89.2 N 7.1	M=4.4 SD=0.8 Med=5.0	Yes
1h	Canines are free to engage or disengage, or to rest (e.g., off lead) during sessions	E 3.7 I 96.3 N 0	M=4.7 SD=0.7 Med=5.0	Yes
1i	Human welfare (not safety) is given priority over animal welfare	E 53.6 I 7.1 N 39.3	M=2.2 SD=1.0 Med=2.0	<i>Item redundant</i>
1j	Animal welfare (not safety) is given priority over human welfare	E 40.7 I 22.2 N 37.0	M=2.6 SD=1.2 Med=3.0	<i>Item redundant</i>
1k	Human and animal welfare are given equal importance	E 0 I 96.4 N 3.6	M=4.8 SD=0.5 Med=5.0	Yes
D1 1d 1k	Clients and animals meeting under supervision to familiarise themselves <i>prior</i> to commencing therapy	E 33.3 I 57.6 N 9.1	M=3.3 SD=1.3 Med=4.0	<i>Item redundant</i>
D1 1d 1l	Client and animal familiarisation occurs <i>during</i> the initial phases of therapy, and is seen as integral to the therapeutic process	E 3.1 I 90.7 N 6.1	M=4.4 SD=0.8 Med=5.0	Yes
D1 1d 1m	Animal familiarisation with the venue, setting or location, <i>prior</i> to commencing client interactions	E 9.1 I 84.9 N 6.1	M=4.2 SD=1.0 Med=4.0	Yes
D1 1d 1n	Animal familiarisation with venue, setting or location can occur <i>simultaneously</i> with group therapy	E 35.5 I 48.4 N 16.1	M=3.0 SD=1.5 Med=3.0	<i>Item redundant</i>

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D1 1d 1o	Suitability assessment of venue/environment (e.g., access, temperature, rest areas, ability for animals to express natural behaviour)	E 0 I 100 N 0	M=4.8 SD=0.4 Med=5.0	Yes
2	<u>Other Suggestions for Welfare</u> Nil met inclusion criteria of n=5 per category			

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