



Animal Assisted Therapy Information

Extensive research by the University of Miami's Touch Research Institute has revealed that human touch has wide-ranging physical and emotional benefits for people of all age groups. Adolescents and adults need touch, but societal inhibitions sometimes get in the way. Researchers at the University of Miami Touch Research Institute found that touch with moderate pressure stimulates a cranial nerve that slows the heart rate and lowers blood pressure. This produces a state that is relaxed but more attentive. Touch also reduces stress hormones and may enhance immune function. <http://www.livestrong.com/article/186495-importance-of-human-touch/#ixzz2jJhZEhWA>

“Results indicated that Animal-Assisted Therapy did appear to have a positive impact on the aggression levels of the participants...Boys appeared to respond more significantly than did girls.” Long. Tennessee State University, 2008.

Parents whose children participated in a University of Montreal study reported a decrease in their children's tantrums and other disruptive behaviors, as well as improvements in their performance of daily routines and participating in casual social interactions.

AAT can address the emotional, behavioral, and social components of ADHD. For example, most children feel comfortable with opening up to animals and telling them things they would not reveal directly to a therapist. Jordan, Barbara.

Animal Assistant Therapy will be incorporated as a treatment intervention by Matthew Royster, M.A., LMHC and Valorie Royster, M.A., LMHC. The therapy dogs' name is Angel and she is a Great Pyrenees with Golden Retriever mix. Angel would be considered an extra-large dog by the AKC. She has been trained to perform tasks by the Royster's and Midwest Dog Training. Royster and Royster, PLLC agrees to have proof that Angel is up to date and current on all vaccinations appropriate for the dog.

The Great Pyrenees is a keen worker, faithfully guarding his flocks no matter the weather or terrain. With his intelligence, scenting ability and excellent sight, he is an invaluable companion to the shepherd. The breed possesses a beautifully thick, weather resistant white coat that may contain markings of badger, gray, or various shades of tan. While affectionate with his family and quiet and tolerant in general, if there is something to guard or protect, the Great Pyrenees can become quite territorial. Because they were bred to work independently and make decisions on their own, Pyrs may not be the star of the local obedience class. The breed should be exercised daily on leash or in a fenced area. New owners should be prepared for barking, especially at night, and brushing approximately once per week.





Animal-Assisted Waiver

I understand that participation in the Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Intervention Program with Royster and Royster, PLLC includes an element of risk. These risks may include without limitation, risks of illness, falls, scratches, bites, nips, and injury through contact.

I understand that participation is voluntary and that each person expressly agrees to hold Midwest Christian Services and/or Royster and Royster, PLLC and their employees harmless from any liability whatsoever resulting from injuries or damages sustained as a result of participation in animal assisted therapy even though such liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the person named in this Waiver and Release.

I, and attending family members hereby expressly waives, releases and discharges Midwest Christian Services and Royster and Royster, PLLC and their employees, from any claims, demands, injuries, damages or causes of actions that are in any way related to participation in animal assisted therapy, even though such liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons names in this Waiver and Release.

It is fully understood that regardless of the extensive training received by the animal, a dog always possesses the ability to bite.

I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Midwest Christian Services and/or Royster and Royster, PLLC and their employees from any and all claims, or claims by any member of my family or any other person while on the grounds, or the surrounding area thereto.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DHS or JCO