

International Scientific Conference  
***Animal assisted therapy - impact on human health and future prospects*** ***Gyvūnų asistuojamoji terapija - poveikis žmogaus sveikatai ir ateities perspektyvos***

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LSMU Veterinary Academy, Tilžės 18, Kaunas September 29, 2023

**PROGRAM**

8:00 – 9:00 Registration of guest speakers and listeners of the event.

9:00 – 09:30 Welcome message of the event manager  
*Prof. PhD. Rolandas Stankevičius* - LSMU Veterinary Academy, Dean of the Faculty of Animal Sciences, Head of the Department of Animal Nutrition.  
The intended topic of the report is:  
***"Animal-human interaction study program and postgraduate study programs at LSMU related to animal-assisted therapy"***.

9:30 – 10:00 Event coordinator's message  
*Živile Sadauskaitė* - LSMU lecturer. Animal Assisted Therapy Association - President. Ministry of Health Protection of the Republic of Lithuania Department of Public Health, Advisor. 2021-09-02 to 2022-12-30 responsible for the area of legal regulation of complementary and alternative health services. The intended topic of the report is: ***"Animal-assisted therapy - legal regulation in Lithuania and good practice in EU countries"***.

Components: Cannitherapy. 2 Sessions:

10:00 – 10:30 *PhD. Sonia Carla Ricciu* - doctor of medical sciences, more than 20 years of practice in the field of mental health, one of the founders of the "Archi pet association" (canithery activity), more than 10 years of practice in the field of animal-assisted therapy. The intended topic of the report: ***"Animal-assisted therapy - activities and exercises with a dog according to the patient's health status, physical or mental disability, impact on human health"***.

10:30 -11:00 Discussion and answers to questions.

11:00 -11:30 Coffee and tea break

11:30 – 12:00 *PhD. Marta Pardini* - Psychiatrist, Medical Director of ASL 3 / SPDC Villa Scassi (Genoa, Italy) Psychiatrist "Coordination of SPDC Villa Scassi", also practicing level 5 professional psychiatrist. ***The intended topic of the report is: "Animal-assisted therapy - impact on human health" .***

12:00 -12:30 Discussion and answers to questions.

12:30 - 13.30 Lunch break.

2. Hippotherapy. 2 Sessions:

13:30 - 14:00 *Michela Riceputi* - has been working at the Milan Niguarda Hospital (Italy) for more than 10 years in the Department of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry, Mental Health and Addictive Diseases and the Milan Niguarda Equestrian Rehabilitation Center.  
The expected topic of the report:

*"Animal-assisted therapy - activities and exercises with a horse according to the patient's health condition, physical or mental disability, impact on human health" Two clinical examples: one for psychological needs, one for neuromotor.*

14:00 – 14:30 Discussion and answers to questions.

14:30 – 15:00 *Annalisa Marnoni* - developmental neurologist and psychomotor therapist, works at the Milan Niguarda Hospital (Italy) in the Department of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry, Mental Health and Addictive Diseases and the Milan Niguarda Equestrian Rehabilitation Center. Analysis, structuring and delivery of individualized rehabilitation projects integration with a team, multidisciplinary for patients with autism spectrum disorder in the developmental age. Assessment of patients with ASD using scales and special instruments TNPEE profession. Individual or group interventions with animals. The intended topic of the report is:  
*"Animal-assisted therapy - History of rehabilitation in equestrian sports, proposals for intervention" Two research studies autism and dyspraxia.*

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion and answers to questions.

15:30 – 16:00 *Prof.PhD. Elena Bartkienė* - Professor at the Department of Food Safety and Quality, Head and Chief Researcher at the Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU). The intended topic of the report is: *"Personalized Strategy for Animal-Assisted Therapy for Individuals Based on the Emotions Induced by the Images of Different Animal Species*

*and Breeds".*

16:00 – 16:20 Discussion and answers to questions.

16:20 – 16:40 *Dr. Viktorija Grigaliūnienė* - doctor of biomedical sciences, European health and clinical psychologist qualification. LSMU lecturer of clinic, Director of the Kaunas Psychiatrists and Psychologists Club, member of the LSMU Professional Canine Therapy Service. The intended topic of the report is: ***"Animal-Assisted Therapy: Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder "***.

16:40 – 17:00 Discussion and answers to questions.

17:00 End of day one event.

### **September 30, 2023**

8:00 – 9:00 Registration of guest speakers and listeners of the event

Other animals assisting in therapy.  
2 Sessions:

9:00 – 9:30 *PhD. Gaele Dibou* - clinical psychologist, mental and human behavior specialist, representative of "The Equiphoria association" La Canourgue (France). Performs clinical psychological analysis and assessments of patients experiencing psychological distress to help them overcome it. Develops and implements preventive and remedial measures, such as hearings or counseling. The intended topic of the report is:

*"Animal-assisted therapy - activities and exercises with animals according to the patient's health condition, physical or mental disability, impact on human health".*

09:30 – 10:00 Discussion and answers to questions.

10:00 – 10:30 *Nathalie Schindelman* - psychologist, author of the book on animal-assisted therapy: "I, an animal, 200 g, I can help you." The intended topic of the report is: *"Animal-assisted therapy - activities and exercises with dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs according to the patient's state of health, physical or mental disability, effects on human health"*.  
Stories about her practice in the hospital in the Palliative Care Department with patients who are ending their lives, as well as her practice in the psychiatry department, how patients relax with the help of an animal, and how to work on yourself.

10.30 -11.00 Discussion and answers to questions.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee and tea break

Future perspectives for animal-assisted therapy.  
2 Sessions:

11:30 – 12:00 *Mindaugas Paleckaitis* - LSMU VA lecturer , head of the LSMU Canine Center, head of the LSMU Professional Canine Therapy Service. The intended topic of the report is: *"Development of canine therapy as an additional field of medicine at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences"*.

12:00 – 12:30 Discussion and answers to questions.

12:30 – 13:00 *Ugnė Nedzinskaitė* - LSMU VA Department of Animal Nutrition junior researcher, assistant. Practicing canine therapist.  
The intended topic of the report is: ***"The need for animal-assisted therapy in Lithuania"***.

13:00 – 13:30 Discussion and answers to questions.

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch break.

14:30 – 15:00 *Prof. dr. Vilma Vilienė* - LSMU VA Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies, professor .The intended topic of the report is: ***"Evaluation of the effectiveness of horse-human interaction and emotions"***.

15:00-15:20 Discussion and answers to questions.

15:20 – 15:50 *Contalbrigo Laura*, - MA - Veterinary Surgeon, Expert AAI - Digital Pet E-0020, Department of Experiments and Animal Welfare, SCS3 - UO Pet Welfare, Human-Animal Relations and National Animal Assistance Center. Venice Experimental Institute of Zooprophyllaxis.  
The intended topic of the report is: ***"Animal assisted interventions: a new perspective for local welfare"***.

15:50 – 16:10 Discussion and answers to questions.

16:10 – 16:40 *Rocío García Vílchez*  
The intended topic of the report is:  
***"Animal-assisted therapy - activities and exercises"***

*with animals according to the patient's health condition, physical or mental disability, impact on human health".*

16:40 – 17:00 Discussion and answers to questions.

17.00 End of the second day's event.

