

The Federation of Horses in Education & Therapy International

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# What's in a Name?

## Sociological Insights on Creating and Uniformizing Terminologies

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# Introduction

- *A research agenda*: to understand the renewal of human-animal relationships in Western societies

- PhD Dissertation (2011) :

*"The animal therapist" Socio-anthropology of the emergence of care practices using animal contact*

(Dir. Isabelle Mauz-Arpin)

- *Perspective* : Sociology of Science and Sociology of Professions

- *Materials and methods* :

- *Extensive bibliography of scientific literature (1960-2007)*

- *Interviews with promoters and therapists*

- *Ethnographic observations of AAT (horses, dogs, farm animals)*

- *Description of the networks of actors (Industry, NGO, Professions etc.)*

- *Professional literature (guidelines etc.)*



# Introduction

- *Historical view*: 1950 - 2011
- *International comparison*: France, Western Europe and the Anglo-American world
- *Focus on two social worlds*: "dog" practices and "horse" practices (two predominant species)
- *Observation*: since the beginning, there has been a desire to create a "profession" (= possibility of defining one's practice in a relatively autonomous manner and being able to make a living from it)
- "*Autonomy*" : ability to define it's own rules, and it's **own name**
- A new name is an important step in professionalization process :

***Terminology is a matter of professionalization***

# Introduction

- *Creating a distinctive professional identity* : integral to the history of AAT



- *In fact* : profusion of terminologies, of names, of different practices, very confusing for an outside look

Apparent tension between an aspiration to professionalization and the diversity of existing practices and terminology

# Introduction

- “*One name to rule them all*” : unifying terminology is also a recurring aspiration
- *Terminology* : indicator of social dynamics in the AAT worlds
- *Analyzing terminology* : provides information about the **state** of the professionalization process as well as about the **strategies** to be implemented in order to reach a higher level of professionalism
- *Reading history through terminology* : helps to understand the broader process to which AAT contributes
- *Evolution of human-animal relationships in the XXth century* : benevolence + personification of animals
- *AAT* : a way to promote caring, respectful, and personified relationships to animals.

***Terminology is also a matter of (new) ways of seeing animals***

# Introduction

- *Two times :*

- *1 : The Diversity of Terminology as a Reminder of AAT Philosophy/Agenda*

- Will insist on the similarity between the “dogs” and “horses” practices

- They both evolve towards “therapy”, and value animals as “singular and unique beings”

- *2 – Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive*

- Address the Pet Dog Leadership on AAT as an example of how incentives to uniformization come from powerful actors can be detrimental to practitioners

*1 : The Diversity of Terminology as a Reminder of AAT  
Philosophy/Agenda*

# Diversity in dog practices



- *Assistance* : continuous presence with the owner, who is also a beneficiary of the aid



- *Intervention (care/therapy)* : occasional intervention, supervised by a handler who is not the beneficiary

- Different practices now but a shared history !



# Diversity in dog practices



- Assistance



- Intervention (care/therapy)

Early 20th  
Century

Late 1960's

Mid 1970's

Late 1970's

Guide Dogs

Hearing Dogs

Service Dogs

Therapy Dogs

« Rise of Therapy » Process

# Diversity in dog practices



- *Assistance*



- *Intervention (care/therapy)*

GUIDE DOGS  
*Early 20th Century*

HEARING DOGS  
*Late 1960's*

SERVICE DOGS  
*Mid 1970's*

THERAPY DOGS  
*Late 1970's*

- *Technical tasks*

- *Relational tasks*

- *Act: « To do things properly »*

- *Interact : « To be(have) properly with »*

*« Rise of Personhood » Process*

# Diversity in dog practices

*« Rise of Therapy » & « Rise of Personhood » as entangled processes*

The more these practices are defined as “therapy”, the more the personhood of dogs is valued

*AAT = Symptom or Catalyst of the Personification of Animals ?*

# Diversity in horse practices

	France	United-States	Practice
1950-1960	<i>Equitation adaptée</i>	<i>Riding for The Disabled</i>	Classic horse riding adapted to motor disabilities
<p>- « <i>Rise of Therapy</i> » :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From « adapted sport » to « therapy »</li> <li>- From physical disabilities to mental disabilities</li> <li>- From « technical » to « relational »</li> </ul>			
1970-1980	<i>Thérapie avec le Cheval</i>	<i>Hippotherapy</i>	Therapeutic practice for psychomotor disorders
2000	<i>Equithérapie</i>	<i>Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy / Learning</i>	Therapeutic practice for psychic disorders

# Diversity in horse practices

## The « Thérapie Avec le Cheval » Manifesto (1986)

1. *We are therapists.*
  2. *We are doctors or paramedics and riders.*
  3. *We possess essential theoretical and practical knowledge.*
- This leads us to define our activities differently.***

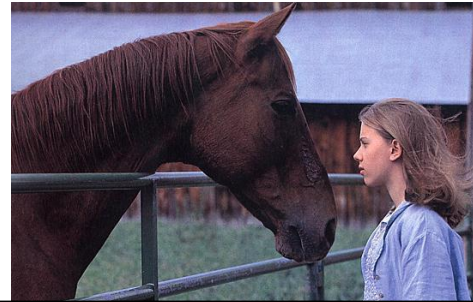
TAC Manifesto as an act of defiance against the equestrian world:

- *Therapy is not* about learning how to ride
- Riding becomes *optional*
- « Side aspects » of riding (grooming, feeding, brushing etc.) are revalued as more central aspects

~~THE HORSE~~ *instead of HORSE RIDING. Horse riding is, first and foremost, horsemanship. Horses, in TAC, represent all that the horse brings us as a living being, through its presence, its contact, its relationship that is both enriching and singular”.*

# Diversity in horse practices

New forms of relationships to horses:



- *New definitions of the correct ways of « being with horses » : riding is not the only one anymore*





# Diversity in horse practices

	France	United-States	Practice	Ontological framing of the Horse
1950-1960	<i>Equitation adaptée</i>	<i>Riding for The Disabled</i>	Classic horse riding adapted to motor disabilities	Horse = Activity (Riding)

- « *Rise of Personhood* » :

“The interest in using the horse is explained by its qualities as a living being with its own psychic apparatus.”

*Société Française d'Equithérapie*

“Horses are sentient beings with feelings, thoughts, emotions, memories, and empathetic abilities.”

*Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy/Learning Association*

2000	<i>Equithérapie</i>	<i>Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy / Learning</i>	Therapeutic practice for psychic disorders	Horse = Psyche
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- « Therapy » transformed BOTH anthro-canine and anthro-equine relationships
- To converge towards the same relational regime, where individuality, singularity, and personhood of animals are acknowledged and valued
- *Evolution in terminology* : not only a matter of professionalization (the human side)
- Also involves statements on the “animal side” !
- *Diversity in terminology* : an heritage, a reminder of where we come from and where we want to go
- But diversity can also be seen as an obstacle to professionalization, to recognition...



## *2 – Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive*

# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- Equine and Canine Assisted Therapies both emerged in the late 1960's, early 1970's



Horses



« **Equine**-Assisted Therapy »



Dogs



« **Animal**-Assisted Therapy »

# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- *AAT and The Pet Industry* : a long history



Associate from Mars receives the Pioneer Award from Dr. Dennis Turner, IAHAIO

**MARS**  
petcare  
*A better world for pets*

2007

We receive the pioneer award from the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organization (IAHIO) for our contribution to the field of human-companion animal bond.

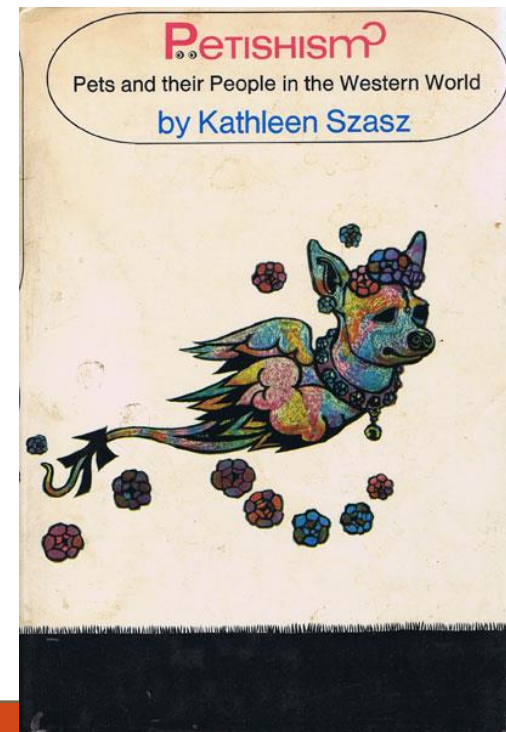


# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

Pet owner's stigma: irrationality, sensibility, narcissism, selfishness, misanthropy, antisocial behaviors...



The more I get to know some people~the more I like dogs.



# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- *AAT as the perfect counter narrative: an altruistic version of pet ownership*

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## Press Center

### Doing a Story on Pets?

[Did you know that in addition to loving us unconditionally, our pets also reduce our stress, lower our blood pressure, and can even help us live longer?](#)

**Did you know that in addition to loving us unconditionally, our pets also reduce our stress, lower our blood pressure, and can even help us live longer?**

**Currently, APPA is working to educate the public on how interacting with pets is beneficial to their health. The unique bond we share with our pets dramatically enriches our lives, our physical health and our emotional well-being.**

# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

## - The Human-Animal Interactions Community:



*Sponsors of the last International Society for AnthroZoology Conference in Sydney*



# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- From “Pet” to “Animal” Assisted Therapy :

Terminology	date of occurrence
Pet Therapy	1962
Pet Facilitated (Psycho)Therapy	1975
Animal Facilitated Therapy	1983
Animal Assisted Therapy	1987
Animal Assisted Activity	1996

# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- The Pet Dog universe speaks for the “Animals” (including horses)

**What are the Pre-Requisites for becoming a Pet Partner?**

**Prerequisites for the Animal Partner**

## **FOR ALL ANIMALS**

If you are registering with a friend or family member’s dog you must have known the animal for 6 months.



## **ELIGIBLE SPECIES**

There are a great many species that make wonderful visiting animals and can form a strong human-animal bond. Only domesticated animals may become Pet Partners. Examples of registered pets include: Dogs, Cats, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, Domesticated Rats, Horses, Goats, Llamas, Donkeys, Potbellied Pigs, Miniature Pigs, Cockatoos, African Gray Parrots, Chickens.

**SPECIES NOT ELIGIBLE:** Wild or exotic animals (e.g., snakes, ferrets, lizards) may not be Pet Partners.



# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- *Canine assisted therapies and equine assisted therapies: two separated social worlds.*
- *Uniformizing, ruling, regulating AAT as a generalist sector: comes from the pet dog universe.*
- *Pet Dog leadership in AAT: Canization of Human-Animal Relationships ?*

# Uniformizing Terminology as An External Incentive

- *Uniformizing terminology*: sometimes comes from external actors (not practitioners and/or not even from the species field)
- *Those actors have their own agenda* : professionalization and standardisation of AAT serve them to confort leadership
- *In the anthropoequine world* : what about the Equestrian institutions ?

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**Thanx for your attention !**

*Jérôme Michalon*