Overview of Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies in the United States

Leif Hallberg
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4.6 Million People are Involved in the U.S. Horse Industry

- 43% Horse Owners
- 39% Employees
- 15% Service Providers
- 3% Family & Volunteers

Fun Fact: 1 out of every 63 Americans is involved with horses.
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Cost of Horse Ownership
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$3,000-$6,000 Per Year
U.S. Horse Industry Standards

- No competency standards for riding instructors
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- No competency standards for riding instructors
- No competency standards for horse trainers
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- No competency standards for horse ownership
Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies
Definition of Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies (EAAT)

EAAT services include recreational, educational, or therapeutic goals achieved through relationship with horses.
Terminology

Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies

Activities
- EFL & Therapeutic Horsemanship
  - Ground
  - Riding
  - Vaulting

Therapies
- Equine Assisted Mental Health
- Hippotherapy
  - EFP
  - EFC
  - EAP
Historical Timeline of EAAT in the US
1966 – Cheff Center Opens in Augusta, Michigan

1960’s
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1967 – Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)
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1969 – North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA)
1992 – American Hippotherapy Association (AHA)

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1996 – Equine Facilitated Mental Health Association (EFMHA)

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1999 - Equine Assisted Growth & Learning Association (EAGALA)

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2003 – Equine Guided Education Association (EGEA)
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2006 – Certification Board for Equine Interaction Professionals (CBEIP)

2000-2009
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2007 – Equine Experiential Learning Association (E3A)
2010 – NARHA/EFMHA Integration

2010-Current
2010 – NARHA/EFMHA Integration

2011- NARHA becomes the Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.)
U.S. EAAT Organizations

- PATH International
- American Hippotherapy Association
- EAGALA
- CHA
- CBIEP
- Equine Experiential Education Association
- EGEA
Colleges and Universities

16 colleges or universities across the United States offer degrees or coursework in EAAT
Doctors Learning From Horses

The University of Arizona’s College of Medicine and Stanford School of Medicine teach doctors about bedside manner through horse interactions.....
Lessons Learned Along the Way

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- Emphasis should be placed on unifying the competencies for the EAAT professional
- Well designed & implemented research needs to be conducted
- Cost Benefit Analysis needs to be addressed
- EAAT isn’t for every client, patient, or student
Sources

Thank You!

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