Key-note Lecture
Dog-assisted interventions
Concepts, case-studies, and welfare

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Summary

Conducting a quick literature search, one might conclude that there are already many publications concerning 'dog-assisted interventions' (DogAIs). However most of these studies describe short-term effects and case-studies with no control groups. Only few of these articles study or even mention the concept itself. In practice there are only few settings working with comparable techniques for comparable client-groups trying to reach comparable goals. Diversity is rather the rule at every level.

Therefore we choose in this lecture to focus on the different aspects of DogAIs and on the factors that make them unique, or at least distinguish them from each other.

- First, we will present a brief summary of a classification system, a theoretical framework to place DogAIs in the wider field of animal-assisted interventions (AAIs) and human-animal interaction studies (HAI)
- Second, we will talk about different concepts of DogAI programmes. These case-studies will consider the labelling differences in a more practical way and will therefore help to understand the nomenclature of today's field
- Finally, we will discuss some ethical topics related to DogAIs

Conclusion

As a wrap-up of this lesson, we could say that:

Although popular press states the idea that there is already strong evidence found by scientists about the effectiveness of DogAIs, we can only conclude that there is still a substantial gap between the practical field and the scientific field. Many concepts and points of interests are still left unstudied, leaving us with a daunting challenge.