



Zorgbeest

9. Information distribution

- Before starting the AAI programme:
 - Before the AAI programme is approved, it is a good idea to enquire about the employees' opinions about AAI. You can use a survey for this.
 - Give the cleaning staff the opportunity to voice their opinions as well, as AAI will mean extra work for them.
 - Consult the facility regulations in advance to ensure that the AAI programme is in line with what is possible at the facility (Kohler, 2011).
 - Organise info and awareness sessions about the AAI programme for the (care) personnel together with the dog handler, the therapists and the dogs before starting AAI sessions (Kohler, 2011; Ophorst et al., 2014) so that:
 - all of those involved can ask questions;
 - the care personnel is provided with basic knowledge of what AAI entails and in which cases AAI can be used;
 - the therapist and/or the dog handler can be introduced to the care personnel (Kohler, 2011);
 - all of those involved can meet the dogs. An info sheet with each dog's strengths and weaknesses can be helpful. This way those involved can assess which dog is best suited for which activity (of course always in consultation with the dog handler);
 - the involved parties can communicate what they expect from the dogs so that the dogs' training can be optimally matched with the needs of the patients.
- At the start of the AAI programme:
 - Organise one or more meetings with the care personnel, involved therapists (if applicable) and the dog handler to discuss the following subjects:
 - the various pathologies of the patients (Kohler, 2011);
 - defining the goals together (Kohler, 2011);
 - scheduling dog visits (Kohler, 2011);
 - comments and proposals of all those involved (Kohler, 2011);
 - appointing a project manager who can answer questions about the visits and is the contact person for the project (e.g. reporting problems) (Ophorst et al., 2014).
- When the AAI programme has started:
 - Organise meetings with the involved care personnel, therapists (if applicable) and the dog handler to discuss the patients, goals, (therapeutic) approach and results (Kohler, 2011).



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- Organise meetings or info sessions together with the care personnel or the therapist(s), the dog handler and the patient's family members to give feedback to the patient's family members and answer their questions (unless patient confidentiality is applicable) (Kohler, 2011). For AAT this will be for each individual patient and for AAA a group session will suffice.
- Always remain open to new proposals, complaints and comments from all the involved parties. A single contact person (the project manager) can be helpful.