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Title: PERSPECTIVES OF EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY FROM THE EUROPEAN NETWORK (EEATN)

Keyword 1: Equine Assisted Therapy

Keyword 2: Collaboration

Keyword 3: Standardisation

Abstract:

Objective: The European Equine Assisted Therapy Network (EEATN) functions as a collaborative platform for associations and practitioners engaged in Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) across Europe. Its principal aim is to encompass the standardisation of terminology, the promotion of EAT recognition, and the facilitation of best practices exchange, educational competencies, and evidence-based practice.

Design: Face-to-face meetings provided opportunities for in-depth discussions and decision-making regarding terminology, research initiatives, education standards, and communication strategies within the network. Virtual meetings held quarterly furthered the Network's goals and allowed for ongoing updates and goal setting.

Results: These meetings resulted in the establishment of standardised definitions for Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT). Presentations and discussions highlighted the positive impact of EAT on various aspects of human health and well-being. Subgroups formed within EEATN focused on education, research, practice sharing, equine management, and best practice exchange, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among members.

Conclusion: EEATN serves as a platform for advancing the field of Equine Assisted Therapy in Europe. By fostering collaboration, standardising terminology, and promoting best practices. EEATN contributes to the growth and recognition of EAT as a valuable therapeutic modality. Ongoing efforts within the Network, including virtual meetings and specialised subgroups, ensure continued progress and innovation in the field of Equine Assisted Therapy across Europe.