

Fall 2024 | Issue 59

# News & Notes from ISAZ



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# A Message from ISAZ President - Nancy Gee



Dear ISAZ members,

I hope that this message finds you well. As we begin a new year and I look forward, I am contemplating the future of ISAZ.

As you know ISAZ membership fees do not cover all of our expenses. We rely on sponsorship and conference fees to support our activities. At our most recent Board meeting we were notified by the Finance Committee that if it weren't for the generous contribution of an anonymous donor we would be facing an \$8,000 deficit in 2025. I am deeply grateful to this donor for supporting the society in this way!

The changing financial situation is due in large part to decreased sponsorship dollars in recent years, alongside increased costs. While we are working on a number of ideas to improve/generate revenue streams, we are looking to our loyal members for their support. I hope you will consider donating (tax deductible in the US) in support of ISAZ and our journal, Anthrozoös, to help us offset our projected losses.

Our ultimate goal is to establish an endowment to support continued growth and stability of our organization, our journal, and our amazing staff and your donations can help make this happen.

In an effort to encourage donations from our membership the same anonymous donor is willing to match all donations 1 to 1 up to \$4,000. Please help us meet this challenge by donating now!

To donate [click here](#) – or send a payment via Zelle to [adm.manager@isaz.net](mailto:adm.manager@isaz.net). If you want to make your donation in honor or memory of an individual or animal you may do so by adding a note to your donation or sending an e-mail of instruction to our Administrative Manager ([adm.manager@isaz.net](mailto:adm.manager@isaz.net)) who can acknowledge them to the honorees or their families.

Please also consider adding ISAZ to your estate planning. For more information, please reach out to our Administrative Manager ([adm.manager@isaz.net](mailto:adm.manager@isaz.net)) or to me personally ([president@isaz.net](mailto:president@isaz.net)).

In addition to being extremely grateful to this anonymous donor, I'd also like to extend a special thank you to all the people who volunteer their time in service of our mission. This includes all of our board members, student volunteers, our Deputy Editor, Associate Editors and our Editorial Review Board members, conference hosts, among others who work without pay or acknowledgement in service of ISAZ. I see you, and I am grateful for you!

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year ahead.

Nancy R. Gee

President, ISAZ

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## ISAZ Conference News



**Now Accepting Proposals for #ISAZ2025!**

Now accepting **Symposium Submissions, Oral/Poster Abstract Submissions, Lightning Abstract Submissions, Workshop Proposals, and Community and Personal Experience Submissions!**

The deadline for submissions is 17:00 PST on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

Learn more and submit your proposal at [www.isaz2025.net/submissions](http://www.isaz2025.net/submissions)

**JUNE 19 - 22, 2025**  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
*TREATY 6 TERRITORY AND HOMELAND OF THE MÉTIS*

# Award Applications Open for #ISAZ2025!

ISAZ will offer **Student Travel Awards**, a **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Award**, and a **Distinguished Anthrozoologist Award** in 2025.

Additionally, student presenters can opt-in to the **Student Presentation Award Competition** through the submission portals.

The deadline for these awards is 17:00 PST on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

To learn more about these awards and apply, visit:  
[www.isaz.net/news-events/awards/overview.html](http://www.isaz.net/news-events/awards/overview.html)



**JUNE 19 - 22, 2025**  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
TREATY 6 TERRITORY AND HOMELAND OF THE MÉTIS

## ISAZ 2025 Location and Website: We'll see you in Canada!

The banner features the University of Saskatchewan logo and the motto 'BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS' in a white box on a green background. Below this, there are three images: a cityscape with a river and bridge, a large historic building, and the Aurora Borealis over a city at night. The dates 'June 19 - 22, 2025' are displayed at the bottom in a white box on a green background.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

June 19 - 22, 2025

Journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology

# Anthrozoös

A multidisciplinary journal of the interactions  
between people and other animals

## Featured Articles

Research Articles

### **The Association Between Companion Animal Attachment and Depression: A Systematic Review**

Annalyse Ellis ✉, Roxanne D. Hawkins, Sarah C. E. Stanton & Steve Loughnan

Pages 1067-1105 | Published online: 12 Aug 2024

Research Articles

### **Unleashing the Personality Divide: Resilience in Dog Owners, Neuroticism in Cat Owners**

Leah Michelle Baines & Jessica Lee Oliva ✉

Pages 1155-1170 | Published online: 29 Jul 2024

[Read the newest issue of Anthrozoös, Volume 37, Issue 6](#) (available free to ISAZ members)!

Interested in submitting your work to Anthrozoös? [Click here.](#)

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## Call for Reviewers

### Anthrozoös – Call for reviewers

We are keen to grow our list of reviewers. If you are interested in reviewing for the Journal, please send an email to ISAZ Administrative Manager Abbey Thigpen ([adm.manager@isaz.net](mailto:adm.manager@isaz.net)) and provide the following information:

1. Contact details
2. Type of research you can review (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods)
3. Your discipline(s) (e.g., anthropology, history, media studies, medicine, psychology, veterinary science)

4. Analytic techniques you are familiar with (e.g., multivariate analyses, nonparametric analyses, thematic analysis, content analysis, systematic review, meta-analysis)
5. Topics you are happy to review (e.g., cultural/cross-cultural studies, history, animal-assisted services, attitudes to animals/animal issues, personality research, animals and human health, psychometric scale development, visitor studies, farmed animal–stockperson research)
6. Types of interaction/relationship research you are interested in (e.g., human–companion animal, –farmed animal, –laboratory-housed animal, –zoo-housed animal, –wild animal). Please be specific: for example, you might want to only review human-cat relationship papers
7. Please also attach a short CV

If you are a Masters or PhD student, you are welcome to nominate yourself, but please tell your supervisor(s) and confirm that they will supervise any reviewing that you do.

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## Member Survey

ISAZ DEI-B optional survey:

Your ISAZ board is in the process of defining a new role focused on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility. We are looking for members willing to take a short survey to gather information on members' needs, goals, and perspectives regarding these topics. It should take less than ten minutes and can be done anonymously. There is an opportunity to ask related questions within the survey.

Your answers will assist the board in defining the 'job title' and activities of this role. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Please click here for the survey: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lf4s\\_VnHbP\\_tsH8w\\_4xG0-J3S23pm1JKBCZog7RKYjc](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lf4s_VnHbP_tsH8w_4xG0-J3S23pm1JKBCZog7RKYjc)

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# Meet the Practitioner: Anke van Shooten, Netherlands



## Tell us about the animals who have shaped your career.

*Incorporating animals into my work as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist stemmed from my personal experiences with our dogs, rabbits and pony's at home, and from the positive experiences of scientific research into dog-assisted therapy as a form of treatment for adults with autism spectrum disorders by PhD student Carolien Wijker and her team. As her colleague and manager, I followed her process closely.*

## How did you get started in HAI practice? What drew you to this line of work?

*I was fortunate to have the opportunity to connect innovative projects with scientific research as part of an advanced study. In my work as a therapist for people with intellectual disabilities who had been admitted to a mental health facility for a long time, I noticed that having conversations in an office often resulted in insufficient space to achieve the desired level of therapeutic cooperation. A number of people expressed a fondness for animals. I observed a notable change in the individuals when I accompanied them to the animal park. They appeared to flourish as they engaged in mutual observation and play with the rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, and ponies. From the shared experience and enjoyment, it became easier to connect with each other and discuss more complex issues. With the support of these experiences and several studies on how experience-oriented therapies match with patients with intellectual disabilities, my colleagues and I decided to set up an Animal-Assisted Services project combined with qualitative research on the experiences of the participants.*

## What kind of setbacks have you experienced in your practice and what have you learned from them?

*The project we had prepared for the animal park, which would have involved preparing the indoor and outdoor areas for therapy, thus providing both therapeutic activities for the participants and visiting activities for other patients, in the end got cancelled due to insufficient support within the organization. We then switched and set up a Dog-Assisted Therapy project similar to the one already running at the centre for people with ASD. What I have learnt is that it is important to personally introduce the intervention to the people who directly influence decisions for the project. I suspect that unfamiliarity with the form of therapy and one's own perceptions of contact with animals can strongly influence the image of animal-assisted interventions in all respects.*

## What advice do you have for young professionals and graduate students in this field?

*Given the unexpected twists and turns that come with the development of the AAS field, I would recommend a combination of support from a solid team of experts and the opportunity to learn by doing.*

*I was greatly assisted by the expertise and guidance of leading professionals in the fields of animal-assisted services, Marie-José Enders-Slegers, and research on individuals with intellectual disabilities, Robert Didden and Nienke Peters-Scheffer. Together we facilitated the alignment between our aspirations and the implementation of viable interventions. Additionally, I derived immense satisfaction from interacting with the therapy dogs of Hulphond Nederland, whose enthusiasm was unwavering, and from engaging with Dog-Assisted Therapy therapist Carmen Maurer, whose expertise and passion were evident. I also had the privilege of interacting with the people of Hulphond Nederland, the volunteers who looked after the dogs on therapy days, and, most importantly, the participants themselves and their staff.*

### **How do you think the field of HAI practice will change or progress in the future?**

*I believe it is important to develop and expand quality registers and certified training for people providing animal-assisted services. Working within a tested framework ensures the welfare of animals, clients and therapists. In addition, the field can grow rapidly in quality if enthusiastic and knowledgeable professionals can learn from each other and demonstrate the effectiveness of AAS.*

### **What is your favorite HAI-related book?**

*I love to browse through the Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy (Fine, A. H., 2024) and I was most inspired by Karin Hediger's inaugural speech for the chair of the Institute of Anthrozoology. She pointed out how working with animals can teach us to be patient, open-minded and humble as therapists.*

### **What do you think the field of HAI clinical practice needs the most?**

*Perseverance and, like the animals, unconditional enthusiasm.*

### **What are your goals as an HAI practitioner?**

*I have been fortunate to work with an experienced AAS therapist, Carmen Maurer. Like her, my aim is to focus on open and experiential contact with people as the basis for therapy. I also keep my eyes and ears open for opportunities to introduce AAS into the world of specialist care for people with mental health problems.*

### **What do you enjoy most about your work?**

*I love watching the magic happen between the therapy animals and the people whose life experiences have made them cautious about opening up to contact. This happens both in therapy contexts and during spontaneous encounters while walking the dogs.*

### **What's your biggest success to date in your career?**

*The joy that all of us experienced during our project and the publication of the research article on the project.*

<https://www.mdpi.com/2697696>



## Who do you most admire or look up to?

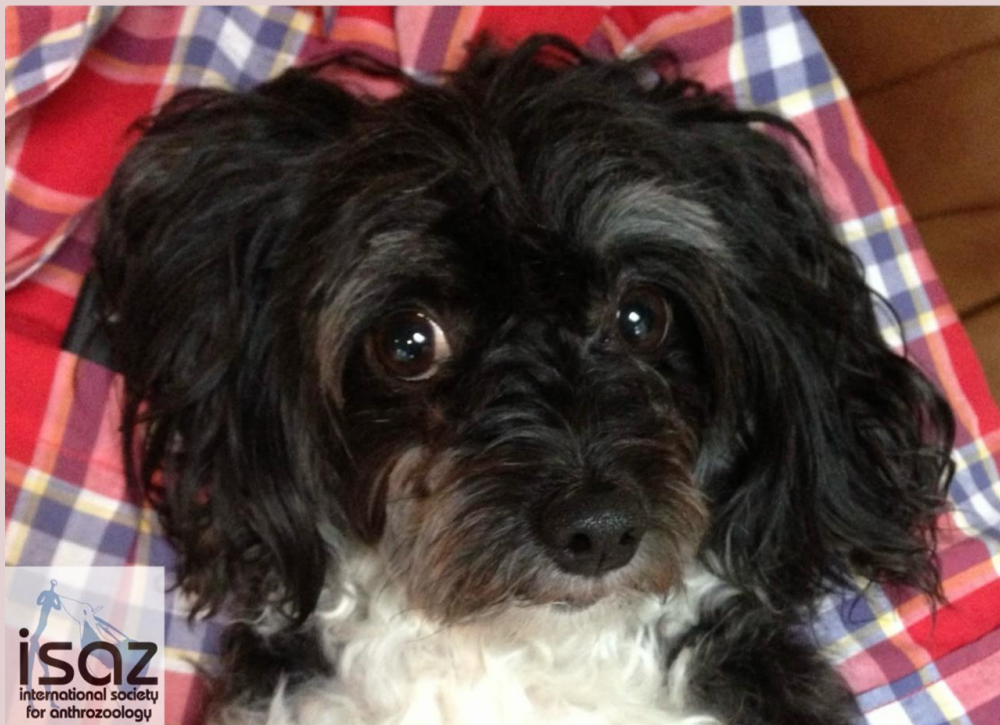
*I look up to Peter Kanters, that manager who continued to stand for Animal Assisted Services in the mental health sector for the past 15 years. He always managed to find ways to let therapists do their job.*

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## Minnie's Memorial

Losing my "heart" dog in September brings to mind the beautiful, complicated relationships we have with animals. Minnie was a rescue with many special needs; she was also the most loving individual I have ever known. We had the privilege of being her family for nearly fifteen years and her death left a chasm in our lives and hearts. ISAZ is committed to examining the multifaceted nature of the human-animal bond, including improving relationships between humans and animals, and nurturing the well-being of both. As I adjust to life without Minnie, I am grateful for our HAI community which understands the importance of animals in our lives and hearts. I also know that no matter how many times I suffer the heart-rending loss of an animal companion, my life is infinitely better because they shared it with me. Thank you, Minnie, for the joy you brought us and for living on in our hearts.

By: Lisa Townsend



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## Become an ISAZ Member

Not an ISAZ member? [Find the application for membership here.](#)

Membership benefits include:



- Six (6) issues per year of Anthrozoös
- Online access to the full back catalog of Anthrozoös
- Eligibility for membership in the ISAZ listserv
- Access to the Society's annual membership directory
- Substantially reduced registration fees for all ISAZ conferences
- A 30% discount on books published by Routledge

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## Follow ISAZ on Social Media



For your safety and privacy, please remember to avoid sharing any personal information, such as addresses, phone numbers, or financial details, unless you have verified the recipient's identity. It's always best to exercise caution and ensure that you are communicating with trusted individuals or entities before exchanging any sensitive information.

Thank you for helping to keep our community secure!

Interested in supporting ISAZ? Email [adm.manager@isaz.net](mailto:adm.manager@isaz.net) to learn about donation opportunities.

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