



## Discretionary Services Fee Schedule Credentialed Services



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### Animal Assisted Interventions

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#### Service Description:

Animal-assisted interventions (AAI) are goal oriented and structured interventions that intentionally incorporate animals in health, education and human service for the purpose of therapeutic gains and improved health and wellness. Mounting research reveals that the physical presence, touch, comfort, and safety that animal exudes is beneficial to many in need: children, veterans, the elderly, and the developmentally disabled. An AAI team consists of an animal and the animal's handler (often the owner) and the team is "registered" by an AAI organization that provides training and an evaluation of the team to determine readiness.

AAI for DCF children and youth is a non-clinical delivered service, specifically utilized to provide comfort and/or to reduce anxiety for DCF children and youth who have experienced trauma. In addition, within the scope of this service, the animal/handler team will provide structured age appropriate educational activities for children and youth that aims to strengthen bonds and advance the child's awareness, respect, and empathy for animals.

The DCF AAI service will allow animal handler teams that comprise either a dog/human team or horse/human team. The AAI service will take place in the community or at the DCF office, as applicable. The AAI provider will not be transporting children.

#### Duration:

**a. Event based:** (3 visits) is short term for child/youth in preparation for forensic interview and or court testimony. Will include one introductory session and a closing visit at the conclusion of occurrence.

**b. Child removal from home/foster home:** (10 visits) is provided when a child/youth is removed from home or disrupting in a foster care placement. Will include one introductory session and a closing visit.

- Referral will be made at the time of the DCF Considered Removal meeting or at time of disruption in order to prepare AAI team;
- 1<sup>st</sup> introduction with child/youth is at the time of removal;
- Initially approved for (10) ten 1 hour sessions;
- 2 sessions per week will occur in weeks 1 to 4 and 1 session per week, in weeks 5 and 6;
- DCF can approve up to 4 additional sessions depending on child functioning;
- Child/youth may be transitioned to a Husky reimbursed or Credentialed afterschool program or a clinical service that incorporates animals (as needed), to maintain connections with animals.

c. **Preserve foster home placement:** (10 visits) - provided when a child/youth is struggling in a foster home related to trauma experienced and not engaging with services in place. Will include one introductory session and a closing visit.

- Initially approved for ten (10) 1 hour sessions;
- 2 sessions per week will occur in weeks 1 to 4 and 1 session per week, in weeks 5 and 6;
- DCF can approve up to 4 additional sessions depending on child functioning;
- Child/youth can be transitioned to an afterschool/farm program or a clinical service (as needed) that incorporates animals, to maintain connections with animals.
- Child/youth may be transitioned to a Husky reimbursed or Credentialed afterschool program or a clinical service that incorporates animals (as needed), to maintain connections with animals.

**Service Type:**

- Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI)

**Service Rate (Maximum):**

- \$50 per hour

**Supervision:**

The Provider must receive 30 minutes of supervision per month per case (can be two 15 minute check-ins).

**No Shows:**

DCF does not reimburse for “**NO SHOWS**” if the appointment has been cancelled by DCF before the provider/staff has left for the service. If DCF fails to cancel the appointment, payment will be a flat fee of \$25 if the total miles from/ to the credentialed staff’s starting location or where the agency vehicle is garaged to/ from child's location is 20 miles or under and \$50 if the total miles from/ to the credentialed staff’s location to/ from child's location is over 20 miles.

**(footnote 1)** Only time spent delivering the service is reimbursable. For example, time spent driving is not reimbursable, unless the provider is transporting the child that is receiving the service.