

Dr. Aubrey Fine, Ed.D. honored for his achievement in the field of Animal Assisted Interventions

July 20, 2016 Bellevue, WA Dr. Aubrey Fine, Ed.D. has devoted his career as an educator, practitioner (as a psychologist) and author in the field of the Human-Animal Bond. He is a leading expert in the field of Human-Animal Interactions (HAI). Dr. Fine presently is a *Professor* of Education at CA Poly State University, Pomona. Dr. Fine serves on numerous editorial review boards and has served as a peer reviewer for various child development and HAI-related journals. Dr. Fine has published 12 books and numerous academic articles on various topics in the fields of animal-assisted therapy, children, parent child relations and sports psychology. His best-known works are *The Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy* (now in its fourth edition, July 2015), and his previous monthly column, "The Loving Bond," which appeared in *Dog Fancy* magazine. Dr. Fine has also written three other books on the Human-Animal Bond. Dr. Fine serves on the Board of Directors of Pet Partners, Chairs Pet Partners Human-Animal Bond Advisory Board, and is a member of the Steering Committee for Human Animal Interactions for the American Veterinary Association.

In recognition of his efforts, Dr. Fine received the 2016 International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) William F. McCulloch award. This award acknowledges outstanding achievements of practitioners and educators in the field of human-animal relations, in particular Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI), such as Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) and Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT). Successful individual applicants, organizations or projects pursue evidence-based practice approaches in agreement with the IAHAIO principles and strive for evaluating their results via objective outcome measures. A main criterion is the impact their contributions made to the positive perception of the field by the public and by decision makers and also, whether and how much their contributions were perceived at a regional, national, or international level.

"It is a great honor to be recognized for your contributions to the field," says Dr. Fine. "What once started as just an interest has become a significant part of my personal and professional life. Over the years I have witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact of the human animal bond and how these relationships cultivate quality of life."

Dr. Fine was nominated by Annie Peters Magnant, President and CEO of Pet Partners. She says "Dr. Fine has been a pioneer in the field of Animal Assisted Interventions, and we are so thrilled he has been recognized by IAHAIO."

The award was given on July 12, 2016 in Paris, France at IAHAIO's triennial international conference.

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#### About Pet Partners

Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting animal-assisted therapy, activities and education. Nearly forty years since the organization's inception, the science that proves these benefits has become indisputable. Today, Pet Partners is the nation's largest and most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interventions. For more information visit [www.petpartners.org](http://www.petpartners.org).