

AAI Research Checklist



Including a therapy animal in your research design? Make sure to expand upon the following information in your publication to promote the standardization of the intervention!

Therapy Animal Information

- Where did the pet obtain the title of *therapy animal*?
- Given the therapy animal organization with which this pet belongs, is this animal considered registered or certified?
- Have I provided detailed information about the animal's species, breed (if applicable), age, sex, size, and any physical characteristics that might be helpful for the reader to know (coat color, texture, etc.)?
- Have I described this animals' temperament?
- What kind of training has this animal participated in?
- What history or experience does this animal have with my population of interest?

Handler Information

- What kind of AAI training has the animals' handler participated in?
- Is there anything about the handler that could impact my study's findings? Ex) professional background, nature of interactions with participants, etc.
- Would it be helpful to provide demographic information about the therapy animal handlers who participated in my study?

Therapy Animal Standards of Practice

- What are the Standards of Practice associated with the therapy animal organization to which the therapy animal teams belong?
- How long do the therapy animals in my study interact with clients at any given time?
- How did the research team respond to any signs of stress displayed by the therapy animal team?
- What steps were taken to prevent zoonotic transmission or prevent infection?
- What other steps were taken to protect the humane treatment of the therapy animals in this investigation?