00:03:37.000 --> 00:03:44.000

>> Welcome, everyone.

00:03:44.000 --> 00:03:45.000

We are so happy for our meeting and

00:03:45.000 --> 00:03:54.000

our day together today.

00:03:54.000 --> 00:03:58.000

On behalf of my team and everyone at

00:03:58.000 --> 00:03:59.000

futures without violence, the promisng

00:03:59.000 --> 00:03:59.000

futures team, we'd like to welcome you

00:03:59.000 --> 00:04:06.000

today.

00:04:06.000 --> 00:04:06.000

My name is Wendy Mota and my pronouns

00:04:06.000 --> 00:04:07.000

are she, her.

00:04:07.000 --> 00:04:10.000

I'm sorry.

00:04:10.000 --> 00:04:10.000

I don't know what's going on with my

00:04:10.000 --> 00:04:37.000

computer.

00:04:37.000 --> 00:04:41.000

I'm so sorry.

00:04:41.000 --> 00:04:41.000

I'm not sure what's happening with my

00:04:41.000 --> 00:04:45.000

computer.

00:04:45.000 --> 00:04:59.000

Here we go.

00:04:59.000 --> 00:05:00.000

Sorry about that.

00:05:00.000 --> 00:05:04.000

So, again, welcome.

00:05:04.000 --> 00:05:04.000

My name is Wendy Mota and I'm so happy

00:05:04.000 --> 00:05:12.000

to be here.

00:05:12.000 --> 00:05:18.000

Today is part 3 of the final webinar

00:05:18.000 --> 00:05:19.000

of a three part webinar series for

00:05:19.000 --> 00:05:19.000

families who have experienced domestic

00:05:19.000 --> 00:05:25.000

violence.

00:05:25.000 --> 00:05:28.000

Today's title is supporting children

00:05:28.000 --> 00:05:30.000

with therapy animals, human animal

00:05:30.000 --> 00:05:31.000

interactions for children survivors of

00:05:31.000 --> 00:05:31.000

domestic violence and child

00:05:31.000 --> 00:05:35.000

maltreatment.

00:05:35.000 --> 00:05:38.000

We are so excited to have wonderful

00:05:38.000 --> 00:05:39.000

presenters who will be walking us

00:05:39.000 --> 00:05:39.000

through on this very, very important

00:05:39.000 --> 00:05:44.000

topic.

00:05:44.000 --> 00:05:45.000

We'd like to thank everyone for making

00:05:45.000 --> 00:05:52.000

time and for being here today.

00:05:52.000 --> 00:05:54.000

Especially our partners who have been

00:05:54.000 --> 00:05:55.000

wonderful partners and have made a lot

00:05:55.000 --> 00:05:55.000

of this, most of this, all of this

00:05:55.000 --> 00:05:58.000

possible.

00:05:58.000 --> 00:05:58.000

So thank you to our federal partners.

00:05:58.000 --> 00:06:00.000

00:06:00.000 --> 00:06:00.000

Thank you to all of you who have

00:06:00.000 --> 00:06:04.000

joined today.

00:06:04.000 --> 00:06:04.000

We'd like to tell you a little bit

00:06:04.000 --> 00:06:08.000

about promising futures.

00:06:08.000 --> 00:06:09.000

We are a national capacity building

00:06:09.000 --> 00:06:11.000

center and we work on expanding

00:06:11.000 --> 00:06:13.000

services for children, youth and abused

00:06:13.000 --> 00:06:13.000

parents that have been impacted by

00:06:13.000 --> 00:06:17.000

domestic violence.

00:06:17.000 --> 00:06:19.000

Our vision is a world where all

00:06:19.000 --> 00:06:21.000

children and families have everything

00:06:21.000 --> 00:06:21.000

they need to thrive in a world that is

00:06:21.000 --> 00:06:26.000

free of violence.

00:06:26.000 --> 00:06:29.000

Some of our goals include helping

00:06:29.000 --> 00:06:31.000

programs create experiences and

00:06:31.000 --> 00:06:33.000

conditions that prevent family violence

00:06:33.000 --> 00:06:34.000

and helping children of families heal

00:06:34.000 --> 00:06:35.000

and thrive in the after math of family

00:06:35.000 --> 00:06:41.000

violence.

00:06:41.000 --> 00:06:44.000

We also work to strengthen programs'

00:06:44.000 --> 00:06:44.000

ability to be able to capture and share

00:06:44.000 --> 00:06:50.000

their stories of that impact.

00:06:50.000 --> 00:06:53.000

Another great resource that we'd like

00:06:53.000 --> 00:06:53.000

to talk a little bit about today is our

00:06:53.000 --> 00:06:59.000

website.

00:06:59.000 --> 00:07:03.000

Our website has a lot of resources for

00:07:03.000 --> 00:07:05.000

not only DV programs and advocates to

00:07:05.000 --> 00:07:05.000

enhance children's programming,

00:07:05.000 --> 00:07:10.000

capacity building resources.

00:07:10.000 --> 00:07:12.000

We focus on bridging research and

00:07:12.000 --> 00:07:14.000

practice, interventions for children

00:07:14.000 --> 00:07:15.000

and youth, trauma informed strategies

00:07:15.000 --> 00:07:15.000

and other practical tools and

00:07:15.000 --> 00:07:22.000

resources.

00:07:22.000 --> 00:07:25.000

So we invite you to please go to our

00:07:25.000 --> 00:07:25.000

website, take a look at a lot of the

00:07:25.000 --> 00:07:25.000

resources, at some of the resources

00:07:25.000 --> 00:07:28.000

that we have.

00:07:28.000 --> 00:07:36.000

If you have any questions, you can

00:07:36.000 --> 00:07:36.000

reach out to our project director

00:07:36.000 --> 00:07:38.000

leiana Kinnicutt.

00:07:38.000 --> 00:07:44.000

Her information is on the screen.

00:07:44.000 --> 00:07:44.000

So, like I said, we are so happy that

00:07:44.000 --> 00:07:47.000

you could join us today.

00:07:47.000 --> 00:07:48.000

I'd like to tell you a little bit

00:07:48.000 --> 00:07:53.000

about our two presenters today.

00:07:53.000 --> 00:07:55.000

The first one is Allie Phillips who

00:07:55.000 --> 00:07:58.000

has also presented or presented in the

00:07:58.000 --> 00:07:59.000

first webinar and helped us answer some

00:07:59.000 --> 00:08:00.000

of the great questions that our

00:08:00.000 --> 00:08:05.000

audience had the last webinar.

00:08:05.000 --> 00:08:08.000

Allie is an internationally recognized

00:08:08.000 --> 00:08:09.000

attorney, author, educator and advocate

00:08:09.000 --> 00:08:14.000

for families and vulnerable victims.

00:08:14.000 --> 00:08:21.000

She's a founder and CEO of sheltering

00:08:21.000 --> 00:08:22.000

animals and families together, a global

00:08:22.000 --> 00:08:22.000

initiative helping people

00:08:22.000 --> 00:08:27.000

>> Walt: Housing.

00:08:27.000 --> 00:08:30.000

She has received the 2018 trailblazer

00:08:30.000 --> 00:08:32.000

award from urban institute and is

00:08:32.000 --> 00:08:38.000

recognized for creating the guidelines

00:08:38.000 --> 00:08:41.000

on housing pets in family violence

00:08:41.000 --> 00:08:42.000

shelters, and incorporating therapy

00:08:42.000 --> 00:08:44.000

animals and children in the court

00:08:44.000 --> 00:08:44.000

system, therapy animals supporting kids

00:08:44.000 --> 00:08:49.000

program.

00:08:49.000 --> 00:08:54.000

She's a legal expert between violence

00:08:54.000 --> 00:08:57.000

to animals and people therapy animals,

00:08:57.000 --> 00:08:57.000

prosecuting animal abuse and sheltering

00:08:57.000 --> 00:09:03.000

pets of domestic violence.

00:09:03.000 --> 00:09:06.000

She has trial experience and has

00:09:06.000 --> 00:09:06.000

training criminal justice professional

00:09:06.000 --> 00:09:11.000

in the year 1997.

00:09:11.000 --> 00:09:12.000

She consults with many national

00:09:12.000 --> 00:09:15.000

associations and has been featured on

00:09:15.000 --> 00:09:15.000

many television shows, magazines,

00:09:15.000 --> 00:09:18.000

newspapers and national radio shows.

00:09:18.000 --> 00:09:19.000

So once again, welcome, Allie.

00:09:19.000 --> 00:09:24.000

Thank you for being here.

00:09:24.000 --> 00:09:28.000

Our other presenter that we are

00:09:28.000 --> 00:09:29.000

excited to introduce today is Stephanie

00:09:29.000 --> 00:09:41.000

Perkins.

00:09:41.000 --> 00:09:45.000

Stephanie is joining us as the

00:09:45.000 --> 00:09:46.000

director of the animal therapy

00:09:46.000 --> 00:09:51.000

Tallahassee memorial health care.

00:09:51.000 --> 00:09:54.000

When an Australian Sheppard came into

00:09:54.000 --> 00:09:56.000

her life, she began the journey from

00:09:56.000 --> 00:09:56.000

dog owner to animal therapy team to

00:09:56.000 --> 00:10:00.000

director of animal therapy.

00:10:00.000 --> 00:10:02.000

Stephanie has a great understanding of

00:10:02.000 --> 00:10:06.000

human animal bond and how to utilize

00:10:06.000 --> 00:10:07.000

that relationship in harmonious

00:10:07.000 --> 00:10:07.000

interventions that benefit all

00:10:07.000 --> 00:10:10.000

creatures.

00:10:10.000 --> 00:10:14.000

Combining her respect for animals and

00:10:14.000 --> 00:10:17.000

people, Stephanie directs a very

00:10:17.000 --> 00:10:17.000

successful animal assistance program

00:10:17.000 --> 00:10:23.000

for educational space.

00:10:23.000 --> 00:10:25.000

Stephanie was awarded the Leon

00:10:25.000 --> 00:10:28.000

county's purple paw and was awarded as

00:10:28.000 --> 00:10:29.000

one of Tallahassee's 25 women who need

00:10:29.000 --> 00:10:29.000

to know for her work in animal therapy.

00:10:29.000 --> 00:10:34.000

00:10:34.000 --> 00:10:37.000

Stephanie has spent the past 20 years

00:10:37.000 --> 00:10:39.000

building and nurturing Tallahassee

00:10:39.000 --> 00:10:39.000

memorial animal therapy to give it a

00:10:39.000 --> 00:10:40.000

strong foundation and great reputation.

00:10:40.000 --> 00:10:45.000

00:10:45.000 --> 00:10:48.000

She presently leads Tallahassee

00:10:48.000 --> 00:10:51.000

memorial animal therapy and continues

00:10:51.000 --> 00:10:55.000

her personal visits to the hospital,

00:10:55.000 --> 00:10:59.000

school and community events with her

00:10:59.000 --> 00:11:01.000

cavalier king Charles spaniels, her lab

00:11:01.000 --> 00:11:05.000

Margot and her lab golden mix.

00:11:05.000 --> 00:11:05.000

Without further ado, we want to thank

00:11:05.000 --> 00:11:08.000

you all for being here.

00:11:08.000 --> 00:11:09.000

Allie, the stage is yours.

00:11:09.000 --> 00:11:10.000

Thank you.

00:11:10.000 --> 00:11:15.000

>> All right.

00:11:15.000 --> 00:11:15.000

So, everybody, it's so good to be

00:11:15.000 --> 00:11:19.000

here.

00:11:19.000 --> 00:11:19.000

I can't believe this is our third

00:11:19.000 --> 00:11:22.000

presentation in this series.

00:11:22.000 --> 00:11:22.000

So I am just going to dive right into

00:11:22.000 --> 00:11:27.000

it.

00:11:27.000 --> 00:11:27.000

This is a big topic and I'm going to

00:11:27.000 --> 00:11:32.000

give you some highlights.

00:11:32.000 --> 00:11:34.000

But you are going to receive an E-mail

00:11:34.000 --> 00:11:35.000

after this so that you can actually

00:11:35.000 --> 00:11:40.000

have the TASK program manual.

00:11:40.000 --> 00:11:43.000

And this is a manual that I co-wrote

00:11:43.000 --> 00:11:44.000

with one of my colleagues when I worked

00:11:44.000 --> 00:11:50.000

at the American Humane Association.

00:11:50.000 --> 00:11:53.000

And it became a national initiative to

00:11:53.000 --> 00:11:55.000

really advise child protection

00:11:55.000 --> 00:11:57.000

professionals and criminal justice

00:11:57.000 --> 00:11:59.000

professionals on the importance and the

00:11:59.000 --> 00:11:59.000

safe process of incorporating therapy

00:11:59.000 --> 00:12:01.000

animals with children.

00:12:01.000 --> 00:12:07.000

So these are peer review guidelines.

00:12:07.000 --> 00:12:08.000

They have helped so many agencies open

00:12:08.000 --> 00:12:08.000

their doors to therapy animal programs.

00:12:08.000 --> 00:12:12.000

00:12:12.000 --> 00:12:16.000

So you all are going to get a copy of

00:12:16.000 --> 00:12:16.000

that, which will give you a lot of good

00:12:16.000 --> 00:12:16.000

details on what to do and what not to

00:12:16.000 --> 00:12:20.000

do.

00:12:20.000 --> 00:12:20.000

And Stephanie and I have known each

00:12:20.000 --> 00:12:26.000

other for a long time.

00:12:26.000 --> 00:12:29.000

I think it was just five years ago we

00:12:29.000 --> 00:12:31.000

were in Prague in the Czech Republic

00:12:31.000 --> 00:12:34.000

presenting about therapy animals and

00:12:34.000 --> 00:12:34.000

what we're doing here in the United

00:12:34.000 --> 00:12:34.000

States, in the criminal justice system.

00:12:34.000 --> 00:12:36.000

00:12:36.000 --> 00:12:37.000

So we get around.

00:12:37.000 --> 00:12:43.000

We get around.

00:12:43.000 --> 00:12:47.000

Really share this information, because

00:12:47.000 --> 00:12:47.000

in the end, it benefits children so

00:12:47.000 --> 00:12:54.000

have experienced harm.

00:12:54.000 --> 00:12:55.000

So in this presentation, I'm going to

00:12:55.000 --> 00:13:02.000

be talking about therapy animals.

00:13:02.000 --> 00:13:02.000

But first I want to define what a

00:13:02.000 --> 00:13:05.000

service or an assistance animal is.

00:13:05.000 --> 00:13:06.000

There's a lot of different titles

00:13:06.000 --> 00:13:10.000

being given to working animals.

00:13:10.000 --> 00:13:10.000

I like to define them so that you can

00:13:10.000 --> 00:13:16.000

understand the difference.

00:13:16.000 --> 00:13:18.000

Now, a service or assistance animal,

00:13:18.000 --> 00:13:21.000

this is any dog that is individually

00:13:21.000 --> 00:13:24.000

trained to do work, to perform a

00:13:24.000 --> 00:13:24.000

specific task for the benefit of one

00:13:24.000 --> 00:13:27.000

person.

00:13:27.000 --> 00:13:28.000

So I want you to think leader dog for

00:13:28.000 --> 00:13:31.000

the blind.

00:13:31.000 --> 00:13:34.000

That dog is specifically assigned to

00:13:34.000 --> 00:13:34.000

that person to perform a task because

00:13:34.000 --> 00:13:41.000

of a disability.

00:13:41.000 --> 00:13:43.000

This can also include dogs that are

00:13:43.000 --> 00:13:45.000

skilled in detecting a seizure, or they

00:13:45.000 --> 00:13:45.000

can open up a door or pick up a phone.

00:13:45.000 --> 00:13:50.000

00:13:50.000 --> 00:13:53.000

These animals have a task to perform

00:13:53.000 --> 00:13:55.000

for the benefit of someone with a

00:13:55.000 --> 00:13:57.000

disability, and these animals are

00:13:57.000 --> 00:13:59.000

covered by the American with

00:13:59.000 --> 00:14:00.000

disabilities act and they have a right

00:14:00.000 --> 00:14:06.000

to be in public settings.

00:14:06.000 --> 00:14:09.000

Now, because there has been a lot of

00:14:09.000 --> 00:14:10.000

confusion over the years about service

00:14:10.000 --> 00:14:10.000

animals, assistance animals, therapy

00:14:10.000 --> 00:14:13.000

animals.

00:14:13.000 --> 00:14:16.000

There was some clarification given

00:14:16.000 --> 00:14:22.000

about ten years ago that a service or

00:14:22.000 --> 00:14:24.000

an assistance animal does not have a

00:14:24.000 --> 00:14:25.000

crime deterrent effect and also is not

00:14:25.000 --> 00:14:25.000

an emotional support or a comfort

00:14:25.000 --> 00:14:27.000

animal.

00:14:27.000 --> 00:14:30.000

They don't provide companionship.

00:14:30.000 --> 00:14:30.000

They don't provide a therapeutic

00:14:30.000 --> 00:14:33.000

benefit.

00:14:33.000 --> 00:14:33.000

They are working animals that perform

00:14:33.000 --> 00:14:39.000

a task.

00:14:39.000 --> 00:14:42.000

So you'll often see these animals with

00:14:42.000 --> 00:14:45.000

a vest that says working animal,

00:14:45.000 --> 00:14:45.000

service animal, and it will say "do not

00:14:45.000 --> 00:14:47.000

pet me."

00:14:47.000 --> 00:14:51.000

I see these a lot in airports.

00:14:51.000 --> 00:14:52.000

While I want to get on the floor and

00:14:52.000 --> 00:14:53.000

roll around with them and pet them,

00:14:53.000 --> 00:14:57.000

these are not animals that you pet.

00:14:57.000 --> 00:14:57.000

They are accustomed to working with

00:14:57.000 --> 00:14:58.000

one person, not a lot of different

00:14:58.000 --> 00:15:04.000

people.

00:15:04.000 --> 00:15:07.000

Now, therapy animals, on the other

00:15:07.000 --> 00:15:08.000

hand, these are not legally defined,

00:15:08.000 --> 00:15:08.000

especially under the Americans with

00:15:08.000 --> 00:15:12.000

disabilities act.

00:15:12.000 --> 00:15:12.000

They can go into public settings by

00:15:12.000 --> 00:15:14.000

invitation.

00:15:14.000 --> 00:15:19.000

It's not a right.

00:15:19.000 --> 00:15:21.000

So these are family pets that have

00:15:21.000 --> 00:15:24.000

gone through a process of testing and

00:15:24.000 --> 00:15:28.000

registration with their handler to make

00:15:28.000 --> 00:15:30.000

sure they are appropriate to work in

00:15:30.000 --> 00:15:30.000

certain settings and certain

00:15:30.000 --> 00:15:33.000

populations, such as with children.

00:15:33.000 --> 00:15:33.000

These are animals that want to be

00:15:33.000 --> 00:15:34.000

around a lot of people.

00:15:34.000 --> 00:15:36.000

They want to be touched.

00:15:36.000 --> 00:15:38.000

They want to be cuddled.

00:15:38.000 --> 00:15:38.000

And they're there to provide a

00:15:38.000 --> 00:15:43.000

therapeutic benefit.

00:15:43.000 --> 00:15:46.000

So in this photo, I don't know if you

00:15:46.000 --> 00:15:49.000

can see Rocky's patch on his vest, but

00:15:49.000 --> 00:15:49.000

it says therapy dog and it says, I love

00:15:49.000 --> 00:15:51.000

working for hugs and kisses.

00:15:51.000 --> 00:15:57.000

That's a therapy animal.

00:15:57.000 --> 00:16:00.000

So, you know, these are personal pets

00:16:00.000 --> 00:16:00.000

who go through the process to then

00:16:00.000 --> 00:16:05.000

provide help out in the field.

00:16:05.000 --> 00:16:05.000

I'm going to be talking about therapy

00:16:05.000 --> 00:16:11.000

animals.

00:16:11.000 --> 00:16:12.000

Now, because there have been a lot of

00:16:12.000 --> 00:16:16.000

different titles over the years that

00:16:16.000 --> 00:16:24.000

have been assigned to working animals,

00:16:24.000 --> 00:16:26.000

the internationals asociation of

00:16:26.000 --> 00:16:29.000

interaction of animal have come through

00:16:29.000 --> 00:16:31.000

with guidelines, practitioners,

00:16:31.000 --> 00:16:32.000

veterinarians and academics in the

00:16:32.000 --> 00:16:38.000

field of human animal interactions.

00:16:38.000 --> 00:16:39.000

It's all about focusing on proper

00:16:39.000 --> 00:16:39.000

terminology as well as safety for

00:16:39.000 --> 00:16:42.000

people and safety for animals.

00:16:42.000 --> 00:16:43.000

This is a growing field.

00:16:43.000 --> 00:16:48.000

It is a greatly expanding field.

00:16:48.000 --> 00:16:51.000

And there's a lot of self-created

00:16:51.000 --> 00:16:52.000

terminology to try to fit animals into

00:16:52.000 --> 00:16:52.000

certain settings by tweaking their

00:16:52.000 --> 00:16:57.000

title.

00:16:57.000 --> 00:16:59.000

So it can result in a lot of confusion

00:16:59.000 --> 00:16:59.000

and conflicting guidelines and

00:16:59.000 --> 00:17:06.000

information.

00:17:06.000 --> 00:17:08.000

From a legal perspective, I'll talk

00:17:08.000 --> 00:17:12.000

about this near the end where this

00:17:12.000 --> 00:17:12.000

could actually create some appellate

00:17:12.000 --> 00:17:16.000

issues in a criminal case.

00:17:16.000 --> 00:17:19.000

So throughout this presentation, I'm

00:17:19.000 --> 00:17:21.000

going to refer to therapy animals as

00:17:21.000 --> 00:17:26.000

offering animal assisted interventions

00:17:26.000 --> 00:17:27.000

because it's a SPWROD broad definition

00:17:27.000 --> 00:17:27.000

that includes animal assisted

00:17:27.000 --> 00:17:30.000

education.

00:17:30.000 --> 00:17:30.000

It can also include animal assisted

00:17:30.000 --> 00:17:36.000

activities.

00:17:36.000 --> 00:17:36.000

All of these are goal oriented

00:17:36.000 --> 00:17:38.000

activities and situations.

00:17:38.000 --> 00:17:41.000

It's not just play time.

00:17:41.000 --> 00:17:41.000

There's actually a goal that is being

00:17:41.000 --> 00:17:45.000

met with this.

00:17:45.000 --> 00:17:45.000

But I'm going to call this animal

00:17:45.000 --> 00:17:52.000

assisted intervention.

00:17:52.000 --> 00:17:54.000

So what are the benefits of having

00:17:54.000 --> 00:17:55.000

animal assisted interventions,

00:17:55.000 --> 00:17:55.000

especially with children who have

00:17:55.000 --> 00:18:02.000

experienced maltreatment?

00:18:02.000 --> 00:18:04.000

Well, there's some really great

00:18:04.000 --> 00:18:04.000

research that has come onto the scene

00:18:04.000 --> 00:18:12.000

in the last couple of decades.

00:18:12.000 --> 00:18:13.000

And when we look to the benefits,

00:18:13.000 --> 00:18:18.000

they're -- it's amazing.

00:18:18.000 --> 00:18:18.000

So in this particular study, this was

00:18:18.000 --> 00:18:22.000

done at a university of London.

00:18:22.000 --> 00:18:26.000

What's interesting is that there were

00:18:26.000 --> 00:18:26.000

18 dogs, therapy animals that were

00:18:26.000 --> 00:18:28.000

exposed to groups of people.

00:18:28.000 --> 00:18:28.000

There was a group of people who were

00:18:28.000 --> 00:18:33.000

crying.

00:18:33.000 --> 00:18:34.000

There were a group of people who were

00:18:34.000 --> 00:18:34.000

humming, and a group of people who were

00:18:34.000 --> 00:18:40.000

talking.

00:18:40.000 --> 00:18:44.000

Most of the dogs actually approached

00:18:44.000 --> 00:18:44.000

and then touched the humans who were

00:18:44.000 --> 00:18:48.000

crying, who were weeping.

00:18:48.000 --> 00:18:50.000

They didn't really approach the people

00:18:50.000 --> 00:18:51.000

who were humming, and none of them

00:18:51.000 --> 00:18:51.000

approached the people who were talking.

00:18:51.000 --> 00:18:58.000

00:18:58.000 --> 00:19:01.000

So this really showed us how

00:19:01.000 --> 00:19:01.000

intuitively interactive dogs are with

00:19:01.000 --> 00:19:05.000

people.

00:19:05.000 --> 00:19:06.000

And they come to people when they're

00:19:06.000 --> 00:19:10.000

upset, when they're struggling.

00:19:10.000 --> 00:19:13.000

If you have a pet at home, your pet

00:19:13.000 --> 00:19:16.000

may come to you, may lay on you and

00:19:16.000 --> 00:19:16.000

want to be with you when you are

00:19:16.000 --> 00:19:17.000

emotionally or physically not feeling

00:19:17.000 --> 00:19:21.000

your best.

00:19:21.000 --> 00:19:21.000

This study proves what we already

00:19:21.000 --> 00:19:29.000

knew, and validated that.

00:19:29.000 --> 00:19:33.000

And so when we look to where can

00:19:33.000 --> 00:19:36.000

animal assisted interventions be

00:19:36.000 --> 00:19:38.000

utilized, they can be at child advocacy

00:19:38.000 --> 00:19:40.000

centers, social service agencies,

00:19:40.000 --> 00:19:42.000

medical offices that are performing

00:19:42.000 --> 00:19:45.000

medical exams for children and adults

00:19:45.000 --> 00:19:45.000

who have experienced some sort of

00:19:45.000 --> 00:19:51.000

physical vie Len.

00:19:51.000 --> 00:19:55.000

Can be therapeutic and counseling

00:19:55.000 --> 00:19:57.000

offices, domestic violence shelters,

00:19:57.000 --> 00:19:58.000

family justice centers, prosecutors

00:19:58.000 --> 00:19:58.000

offices, police departments and

00:19:58.000 --> 00:20:02.000

courthouses.

00:20:02.000 --> 00:20:05.000

And, you know, we're even finding

00:20:05.000 --> 00:20:07.000

animal assisted interventions being

00:20:07.000 --> 00:20:10.000

utilized during family group

00:20:10.000 --> 00:20:11.000

conferencing or family meetings,

00:20:11.000 --> 00:20:11.000

especially in the family court system.

00:20:11.000 --> 00:20:17.000

00:20:17.000 --> 00:20:17.000

And differential or alternative

00:20:17.000 --> 00:20:20.000

response meetings.

00:20:20.000 --> 00:20:25.000

Even in-home visits.

00:20:25.000 --> 00:20:27.000

I have spoken with some social workers

00:20:27.000 --> 00:20:28.000

who feel safer going into in-home

00:20:28.000 --> 00:20:28.000

situations if they have a therapy

00:20:28.000 --> 00:20:33.000

animal with them.

00:20:33.000 --> 00:20:35.000

We kind of joke about that the therapy

00:20:35.000 --> 00:20:37.000

animal isn't guard animal to protect

00:20:37.000 --> 00:20:37.000

them, but it just gives them a sense of

00:20:37.000 --> 00:20:43.000

comfort.

00:20:43.000 --> 00:20:44.000

And so when we look to the overall

00:20:44.000 --> 00:20:46.000

benefits of animal assisted

00:20:46.000 --> 00:20:48.000

intervention for children, there is a

00:20:48.000 --> 00:20:52.000

wide and growing body of research.

00:20:52.000 --> 00:20:53.000

In general, animal assisted

00:20:53.000 --> 00:20:56.000

interventions for children help to

00:20:56.000 --> 00:20:59.000

build rapport between the adult

00:20:59.000 --> 00:21:01.000

professional and the child, especially

00:21:01.000 --> 00:21:05.000

if the child has been subjected to

00:21:05.000 --> 00:21:08.000

abuse or neglect by an adult, and may

00:21:08.000 --> 00:21:08.000

even mistrust adults or have been

00:21:08.000 --> 00:21:14.000

taught not to talk to strangers.

00:21:14.000 --> 00:21:16.000

So the animals bridge the gap and

00:21:16.000 --> 00:21:17.000

allow children to feel safe so that

00:21:17.000 --> 00:21:17.000

they can communicate what happened to

00:21:17.000 --> 00:21:22.000

them.

00:21:22.000 --> 00:21:22.000

The animals provide comfort at

00:21:22.000 --> 00:21:25.000

therapeutic intervention.

00:21:25.000 --> 00:21:29.000

They reduce anxiety and stress.

00:21:29.000 --> 00:21:32.000

Simply when a child pets the dog or

00:21:32.000 --> 00:21:32.000

the cat or the rabbit or the donkey or

00:21:32.000 --> 00:21:37.000

the horse.

00:21:37.000 --> 00:21:39.000

So there's been quite a few studies

00:21:39.000 --> 00:21:39.000

that really have supported all of this.

00:21:39.000 --> 00:21:45.000

00:21:45.000 --> 00:21:49.000

And for those of us who have animals

00:21:49.000 --> 00:21:50.000

at home, we know that they provide

00:21:50.000 --> 00:21:50.000

nonjudgmental, unconditional, loving

00:21:50.000 --> 00:21:53.000

acceptance.

00:21:53.000 --> 00:21:53.000

Our pets don't care if we've had bad

00:21:53.000 --> 00:21:55.000

day.

00:21:55.000 --> 00:21:56.000

They just want to love us.

00:21:56.000 --> 00:21:58.000

They don't care what we look like.

00:21:58.000 --> 00:22:03.000

They just want to love us.

00:22:03.000 --> 00:22:05.000

And so animals offer this sort of

00:22:05.000 --> 00:22:06.000

nonjudgmental unconditional love which

00:22:06.000 --> 00:22:06.000

can be so important in the healing

00:22:06.000 --> 00:22:14.000

process for a child.

00:22:14.000 --> 00:22:16.000

Animals can also help a child with

00:22:16.000 --> 00:22:18.000

healing touch and, you know, therapy

00:22:18.000 --> 00:22:19.000

animals are just so happy to see

00:22:19.000 --> 00:22:23.000

everyone, which can help a child who

00:22:23.000 --> 00:22:25.000

has been alienated or depressed to

00:22:25.000 --> 00:22:29.000

actually feel welcomed and included.

00:22:29.000 --> 00:22:33.000

I hear frequently how therapy animals

00:22:33.000 --> 00:22:36.000

help to boost moraleof staff, because

00:22:36.000 --> 00:22:38.000

working with child or adult victims of

00:22:38.000 --> 00:22:38.000

crime can really take a toll on the

00:22:38.000 --> 00:22:41.000

professionals.

00:22:41.000 --> 00:22:42.000

It results in high turnover of staff.

00:22:42.000 --> 00:22:45.000

00:22:45.000 --> 00:22:46.000

So the therapy animals provide such a

00:22:46.000 --> 00:22:52.000

tremendous benefit.

00:22:52.000 --> 00:22:54.000

Now, there are some drawbacks that if

00:22:54.000 --> 00:22:57.000

you have a therapy animal program at

00:22:57.000 --> 00:23:01.000

your agency, or you're thinking about

00:23:01.000 --> 00:23:04.000

it, I always really come at it from my

00:23:04.000 --> 00:23:04.000

lawyer brain and I'm always thinking

00:23:04.000 --> 00:23:05.000

liability and let's do it safely for

00:23:05.000 --> 00:23:09.000

everybody.

00:23:09.000 --> 00:23:13.000

It is really important that a child be

00:23:13.000 --> 00:23:14.000

a proper match to a therapy animal and

00:23:14.000 --> 00:23:14.000

really understand how to properly

00:23:14.000 --> 00:23:19.000

interact with the animal.

00:23:19.000 --> 00:23:19.000

This is where the handler of the

00:23:19.000 --> 00:23:21.000

therapy animal is key.

00:23:21.000 --> 00:23:21.000

I'll talk about that in a little bit.

00:23:21.000 --> 00:23:25.000

00:23:25.000 --> 00:23:26.000

Because a sudden reaction by an animal

00:23:26.000 --> 00:23:29.000

or child can create injury.

00:23:29.000 --> 00:23:31.000

And so the handler is there for the

00:23:31.000 --> 00:23:33.000

animal to make sure that the situation

00:23:33.000 --> 00:23:35.000

is safe, but this is where you really

00:23:35.000 --> 00:23:36.000

need to make sure that this is an

00:23:36.000 --> 00:23:40.000

appropriate situation for a child.

00:23:40.000 --> 00:23:41.000

So it's important to prescreen the

00:23:41.000 --> 00:23:43.000

child for allergies.

00:23:43.000 --> 00:23:45.000

Are they allergic to animals?

00:23:45.000 --> 00:23:48.000

Are they afraid of animals?

00:23:48.000 --> 00:23:51.000

Because some children may grow up in

00:23:51.000 --> 00:23:51.000

homes where animals were mistreated or

00:23:51.000 --> 00:23:54.000

taught to be vicious.

00:23:54.000 --> 00:23:58.000

So, you know, I'm a cat person.

00:23:58.000 --> 00:23:58.000

I have a cat unicorn on my wall here.

00:23:58.000 --> 00:24:02.000

00:24:02.000 --> 00:24:06.000

I'm a big supporter of therapy cats.

00:24:06.000 --> 00:24:06.000

Because what do you do if a child is

00:24:06.000 --> 00:24:10.000

afraid of dogs?

00:24:10.000 --> 00:24:10.000

And this is why having a variety of

00:24:10.000 --> 00:24:12.000

animals can help.

00:24:12.000 --> 00:24:15.000

You need to know this beforehand.

00:24:15.000 --> 00:24:17.000

It's also important that the animal

00:24:17.000 --> 00:24:18.000

not be treated like a toy or subjected

00:24:18.000 --> 00:24:22.000

to rough handling by the child.

00:24:22.000 --> 00:24:23.000

And this is where the handler is so

00:24:23.000 --> 00:24:26.000

very important in these interactions.

00:24:26.000 --> 00:24:28.000

It's also not recommended that

00:24:28.000 --> 00:24:30.000

children with a history of violence

00:24:30.000 --> 00:24:31.000

towards animals be placed in a setting

00:24:31.000 --> 00:24:31.000

with a therapy animal until it is known

00:24:31.000 --> 00:24:36.000

to be safe.

00:24:36.000 --> 00:24:38.000

And handlers really must be trained in

00:24:38.000 --> 00:24:40.000

how they work with the therapy animal,

00:24:40.000 --> 00:24:41.000

as well as how they work in the setting

00:24:41.000 --> 00:24:46.000

that they're going into with a child.

00:24:46.000 --> 00:24:46.000

And so how do you start one of these

00:24:46.000 --> 00:24:50.000

programs?

00:24:50.000 --> 00:24:54.000

If you're at a child advocacy center

00:24:54.000 --> 00:24:56.000

or in a prosecutor's office or in a

00:24:56.000 --> 00:24:56.000

social service agency that provides

00:24:56.000 --> 00:25:00.000

therapy or the medical exam.

00:25:00.000 --> 00:25:01.000

I mean, the first thing is you need

00:25:01.000 --> 00:25:03.000

somebody who's going to coordinate

00:25:03.000 --> 00:25:06.000

this.

00:25:06.000 --> 00:25:06.000

What situations will the therapy

00:25:06.000 --> 00:25:12.000

animal be allowed in?

00:25:12.000 --> 00:25:13.000

What are the days and the times of day

00:25:13.000 --> 00:25:13.000

that you need a therapy animal on site?

00:25:13.000 --> 00:25:15.000

00:25:15.000 --> 00:25:15.000

Having a program coordinator on site

00:25:15.000 --> 00:25:19.000

is important.

00:25:19.000 --> 00:25:19.000

You need to locate your volunteer

00:25:19.000 --> 00:25:22.000

handlers.

00:25:22.000 --> 00:25:26.000

The beautiful thing about therapy

00:25:26.000 --> 00:25:31.000

animal teams is when they go through a

00:25:31.000 --> 00:25:33.000

process to get credentialed, part of

00:25:33.000 --> 00:25:34.000

them having their liability insurance

00:25:34.000 --> 00:25:35.000

is that they volunteer their time.

00:25:35.000 --> 00:25:39.000

So this is not a paid program.

00:25:39.000 --> 00:25:39.000

When they volunteer their time, their

00:25:39.000 --> 00:25:41.000

liability insurance goes with them.

00:25:41.000 --> 00:25:42.000

That's a big deal.

00:25:42.000 --> 00:25:43.000

You want to have that.

00:25:43.000 --> 00:25:48.000

Okay.

00:25:48.000 --> 00:25:51.000

So you can go to the websites for pet

00:25:51.000 --> 00:25:51.000

partners, therapy dogs international,

00:25:51.000 --> 00:25:54.000

therapy dogs i TH c.

00:25:54.000 --> 00:25:59.000

-- inc.

00:25:59.000 --> 00:26:01.000

I often get questions about, I'm a

00:26:01.000 --> 00:26:03.000

forensic interviewer or therapist and I

00:26:03.000 --> 00:26:03.000

want to bring my own pet in to provide

00:26:03.000 --> 00:26:05.000

a therapeutic value.

00:26:05.000 --> 00:26:06.000

Here's the question you have to ask

00:26:06.000 --> 00:26:11.000

yourself.

00:26:11.000 --> 00:26:11.000

How will your pet react if a child

00:26:11.000 --> 00:26:16.000

does something your pet doesn't like?

00:26:16.000 --> 00:26:19.000

Because the last thing we want is for

00:26:19.000 --> 00:26:20.000

the child to be rejected by an animal,

00:26:20.000 --> 00:26:20.000

to be bitten or scratched by an animal.

00:26:20.000 --> 00:26:25.000

00:26:25.000 --> 00:26:27.000

And are you simultaneously able to do

00:26:27.000 --> 00:26:28.000

your job, for the best interest of that

00:26:28.000 --> 00:26:29.000

child, while watching your animal?

00:26:29.000 --> 00:26:33.000

That's a lot.

00:26:33.000 --> 00:26:33.000

I mean, I think of my time as a

00:26:33.000 --> 00:26:39.000

prosecutor.

00:26:39.000 --> 00:26:41.000

There is just no way that I could have

00:26:41.000 --> 00:26:45.000

done my job in questioning a child and

00:26:45.000 --> 00:26:47.000

having one of my cats in the courtroom

00:26:47.000 --> 00:26:47.000

as a therapy cat, 'cause my cats would

00:26:47.000 --> 00:26:54.000

have been walking all over the place.

00:26:54.000 --> 00:26:54.000

There's no way I could have worked for

00:26:54.000 --> 00:26:54.000

their best welfare to keep them safe,

00:26:54.000 --> 00:27:01.000

as well as the child.

00:27:01.000 --> 00:27:02.000

So I always ask people to really think

00:27:02.000 --> 00:27:06.000

about, is that appropriate?

00:27:06.000 --> 00:27:09.000

Plus, if you are on the job with your

00:27:09.000 --> 00:27:11.000

pet, even if you are a registered

00:27:11.000 --> 00:27:13.000

credentialed therapy animal team, your

00:27:13.000 --> 00:27:15.000

liability insurance isn't going to come

00:27:15.000 --> 00:27:18.000

with what you're doing because you're

00:27:18.000 --> 00:27:18.000

technically on the job being paid as

00:27:18.000 --> 00:27:19.000

part of your work.

00:27:19.000 --> 00:27:19.000

These are just things to think about.

00:27:19.000 --> 00:27:25.000

00:27:25.000 --> 00:27:27.000

Now when you're starting one of these

00:27:27.000 --> 00:27:29.000

programs, you really need to make sure

00:27:29.000 --> 00:27:29.000

that the handler is credentialed in

00:27:29.000 --> 00:27:33.000

what they're doing.

00:27:33.000 --> 00:27:33.000

So the handler is the owner of the

00:27:33.000 --> 00:27:37.000

therapy animal.

00:27:37.000 --> 00:27:37.000

I'm so excited for Stephanie to

00:27:37.000 --> 00:27:42.000

present because she is a handler.

00:27:42.000 --> 00:27:43.000

She can really share with you her

00:27:43.000 --> 00:27:46.000

perspective in doing this.

00:27:46.000 --> 00:27:49.000

So you need to make sure that the

00:27:49.000 --> 00:27:52.000

handler and the therapy animal have

00:27:52.000 --> 00:27:55.000

been evaluated, they have been tested,

00:27:55.000 --> 00:27:57.000

the animal has been screened, they have

00:27:57.000 --> 00:27:59.000

passed all of that and are registerED

00:27:59.000 --> 00:27:59.000

SO that they come with their liability

00:27:59.000 --> 00:28:03.000

insurance.

00:28:03.000 --> 00:28:05.000

In a situation involving children,

00:28:05.000 --> 00:28:10.000

it's important that the animal, as well

00:28:10.000 --> 00:28:12.000

as the handler, have a proficiency in

00:28:12.000 --> 00:28:14.000

working with children.

00:28:14.000 --> 00:28:14.000

Some animals are fantastic with

00:28:14.000 --> 00:28:18.000

children.

00:28:18.000 --> 00:28:20.000

Others will do better in an assisted

00:28:20.000 --> 00:28:20.000

living facility or maybe a physical

00:28:20.000 --> 00:28:23.000

rehab facility.

00:28:23.000 --> 00:28:27.000

That's really important.

00:28:27.000 --> 00:28:27.000

Even having training on maltreatment

00:28:27.000 --> 00:28:29.000

of children.

00:28:29.000 --> 00:28:29.000

How do you engage with a maltreated

00:28:29.000 --> 00:28:33.000

child?

00:28:33.000 --> 00:28:33.000

Compassion fatigue, court procedures.

00:28:33.000 --> 00:28:37.000

00:28:37.000 --> 00:28:38.000

That's important because some of these

00:28:38.000 --> 00:28:38.000

handlers have not been in this system.

00:28:38.000 --> 00:28:42.000

00:28:42.000 --> 00:28:42.000

And you don't want them to be shocked

00:28:42.000 --> 00:28:48.000

and upset with what they hear.

00:28:48.000 --> 00:28:49.000

You all need to do a background check

00:28:49.000 --> 00:28:49.000

and have them sign a confidentiality

00:28:49.000 --> 00:28:54.000

agreement.

00:28:54.000 --> 00:28:56.000

And then when it comes to policies and

00:28:56.000 --> 00:28:58.000

procedures, you know, if you need to

00:28:58.000 --> 00:28:58.000

make sure that the child does not have

00:28:58.000 --> 00:29:00.000

allergies to animals.

00:29:00.000 --> 00:29:04.000

You need to prescreen for that.

00:29:04.000 --> 00:29:04.000

You need to make sure that they're not

00:29:04.000 --> 00:29:07.000

afraid of these animals.

00:29:07.000 --> 00:29:09.000

And this is why finding a therapy

00:29:09.000 --> 00:29:10.000

animal organization that can provide a

00:29:10.000 --> 00:29:10.000

number of different pets is important.

00:29:10.000 --> 00:29:16.000

00:29:16.000 --> 00:29:18.000

Because if a child is scared of a dog

00:29:18.000 --> 00:29:19.000

but really wants a therapy animal with

00:29:19.000 --> 00:29:21.000

them, can you offer a cat?

00:29:21.000 --> 00:29:24.000

Or a miniature donkey?

00:29:24.000 --> 00:29:29.000

I mean what, can you offer?

00:29:29.000 --> 00:29:30.000

So finding a program that has a

00:29:30.000 --> 00:29:34.000

variety of animals is important.

00:29:34.000 --> 00:29:35.000

It's also important that the child is

00:29:35.000 --> 00:29:35.000

never force DZ to interact with the

00:29:35.000 --> 00:29:38.000

animal.

00:29:38.000 --> 00:29:42.000

That's a big no-no.

00:29:42.000 --> 00:29:42.000

Asking the child, go ahead and pet the

00:29:42.000 --> 00:29:44.000

dog.

00:29:44.000 --> 00:29:47.000

Why don't you pet the dog?

00:29:47.000 --> 00:29:48.000

Many children will do what they are

00:29:48.000 --> 00:29:50.000

told by an adult.

00:29:50.000 --> 00:29:57.000

So there is no forced interaction.

00:29:57.000 --> 00:30:00.000

The therapy animal is never to be left

00:30:00.000 --> 00:30:00.000

alone with the child or an adult client

00:30:00.000 --> 00:30:05.000

or even a visitor.

00:30:05.000 --> 00:30:06.000

Because at the end of the day, no

00:30:06.000 --> 00:30:06.000

matter how well trained they are, an

00:30:06.000 --> 00:30:11.000

animal is an animal.

00:30:11.000 --> 00:30:13.000

And if there is a sudden movement, or

00:30:13.000 --> 00:30:16.000

if the child does something -- if they

00:30:16.000 --> 00:30:18.000

don't know how to properly approach an

00:30:18.000 --> 00:30:18.000

animal or pet an animal, it could be a

00:30:18.000 --> 00:30:23.000

safety issue.

00:30:23.000 --> 00:30:24.000

The animal is always a respected

00:30:24.000 --> 00:30:27.000

member of the team.

00:30:27.000 --> 00:30:28.000

And so having the handler present

00:30:28.000 --> 00:30:28.000

during any session is really important.

00:30:28.000 --> 00:30:33.000

00:30:33.000 --> 00:30:35.000

It's all about safety and the safety

00:30:35.000 --> 00:30:35.000

of this program is in the hands of the

00:30:35.000 --> 00:30:42.000

handler.

00:30:42.000 --> 00:30:44.000

This is really a two-way street.

00:30:44.000 --> 00:30:46.000

We don't use therapy animals.

00:30:46.000 --> 00:30:46.000

They are a part of the team.

00:30:46.000 --> 00:30:51.000

We include them.

00:30:51.000 --> 00:30:54.000

They are a therapeutic team member

00:30:54.000 --> 00:30:55.000

that is doing a lot of the heavy

00:30:55.000 --> 00:30:55.000

lifting in helping a child or an adult.

00:30:55.000 --> 00:31:02.000

00:31:02.000 --> 00:31:04.000

You know, when there are organizations

00:31:04.000 --> 00:31:07.000

that work their animals full-time like

00:31:07.000 --> 00:31:08.000

a human being, that is not the proper

00:31:08.000 --> 00:31:09.000

care and the proper treatment of an

00:31:09.000 --> 00:31:12.000

animal.

00:31:12.000 --> 00:31:15.000

Because working animals, they're not

00:31:15.000 --> 00:31:16.000

just fur covered four-legged humans

00:31:16.000 --> 00:31:16.000

that can work an eight to ten hour day

00:31:16.000 --> 00:31:18.000

like we do.

00:31:18.000 --> 00:31:21.000

They're not furry people.

00:31:21.000 --> 00:31:22.000

They tend to work two hours and then

00:31:22.000 --> 00:31:30.000

they're done.

00:31:30.000 --> 00:31:35.000

So we treat them as a well respected

00:31:35.000 --> 00:31:36.000

member of the team because their

00:31:36.000 --> 00:31:37.000

welfare, as well as all the people,

00:31:37.000 --> 00:31:37.000

it's important because safety is a top

00:31:37.000 --> 00:31:41.000

priority.

00:31:41.000 --> 00:31:44.000

So it's important that the therapy

00:31:44.000 --> 00:31:47.000

animal be in good health, that they

00:31:47.000 --> 00:31:49.000

enjoy what they do, that they enjoy

00:31:49.000 --> 00:31:51.000

working with that clientelle.

00:31:51.000 --> 00:31:54.000

That they get appropriate breaks.

00:31:54.000 --> 00:31:57.000

That the handler be allowed to remove

00:31:57.000 --> 00:31:59.000

them from an escalating situation,

00:31:59.000 --> 00:31:59.000

especially if a child is angrily acting

00:31:59.000 --> 00:32:04.000

out.

00:32:04.000 --> 00:32:04.000

If there's appropriate ways to

00:32:04.000 --> 00:32:09.000

deescalate the situation.

00:32:09.000 --> 00:32:09.000

Again, they should never be left alone

00:32:09.000 --> 00:32:13.000

with anyone.

00:32:13.000 --> 00:32:15.000

The handler is there to ensure safety

00:32:15.000 --> 00:32:16.000

and they should work limited hours so

00:32:16.000 --> 00:32:20.000

that they're always at their best.

00:32:20.000 --> 00:32:28.000

Now, when can therapy animals help?

00:32:28.000 --> 00:32:28.000

So there are six different phases in

00:32:28.000 --> 00:32:32.000

the TASK program manual.

00:32:32.000 --> 00:32:33.000

And the first is allowing animals to

00:32:33.000 --> 00:32:38.000

be a greeter.

00:32:38.000 --> 00:32:40.000

So greeters are amazing because they

00:32:40.000 --> 00:32:40.000

will sit in the lobby and they can

00:32:40.000 --> 00:32:44.000

greet the children.

00:32:44.000 --> 00:32:45.000

Children that have already been

00:32:45.000 --> 00:32:46.000

screened and approved to be with a

00:32:46.000 --> 00:32:51.000

therapy animal.

00:32:51.000 --> 00:32:56.000

One of the benefits is that it creates

00:32:56.000 --> 00:32:56.000

ease and lessens the AEUPBty for the

00:32:56.000 --> 00:32:59.000

child.

00:32:59.000 --> 00:33:01.000

If a child is having to maybe have

00:33:01.000 --> 00:33:04.000

their forensic interview or talk to a

00:33:04.000 --> 00:33:04.000

therapist, they're there to talk about

00:33:04.000 --> 00:33:10.000

something that was not good.

00:33:10.000 --> 00:33:12.000

The therapy animal can really ease

00:33:12.000 --> 00:33:12.000

that anxiety and help them feel

00:33:12.000 --> 00:33:16.000

comfortable, help them feel safe.

00:33:16.000 --> 00:33:17.000

Like, oh my gosh, this is the cool

00:33:17.000 --> 00:33:18.000

place that has a therapy cat, that has

00:33:18.000 --> 00:33:19.000

a therapy dog.

00:33:19.000 --> 00:33:21.000

This is amazing.

00:33:21.000 --> 00:33:24.000

It's gonna lower their anxiety.

00:33:24.000 --> 00:33:27.000

But again, you need to make sure that

00:33:27.000 --> 00:33:29.000

the child is not allergic to animals,

00:33:29.000 --> 00:33:32.000

that they don't have fear of that

00:33:32.000 --> 00:33:34.000

particular animal, that this is an

00:33:34.000 --> 00:33:37.000

appropriate match for the child, and

00:33:37.000 --> 00:33:39.000

make sure that the parent or guardian

00:33:39.000 --> 00:33:42.000

approves of this, and that you all find

00:33:42.000 --> 00:33:43.000

out the child's prior relationship with

00:33:43.000 --> 00:33:43.000

animals to make sure there's no past

00:33:43.000 --> 00:33:52.000

history of animal abuse.

00:33:52.000 --> 00:33:55.000

And so at the Johnson County CAC in

00:33:55.000 --> 00:33:58.000

Texas, Jake is the rock star because he

00:33:58.000 --> 00:34:01.000

is a greeter in the lobby and when the

00:34:01.000 --> 00:34:01.000

kids ring the doorbell to get in,

00:34:01.000 --> 00:34:04.000

reruns to greet them.

00:34:04.000 --> 00:34:04.000

He goes into the forensic interviews

00:34:04.000 --> 00:34:05.000

with them.

00:34:05.000 --> 00:34:10.000

He goes into therapy with them.

00:34:10.000 --> 00:34:10.000

Greatly reduces the stress level of

00:34:10.000 --> 00:34:14.000

the children.

00:34:14.000 --> 00:34:14.000

So they just love Jake and the staff

00:34:14.000 --> 00:34:21.000

really loves Jake.

00:34:21.000 --> 00:34:23.000

Now the second phase of animal

00:34:23.000 --> 00:34:23.000

assisted interactions in the forensic

00:34:23.000 --> 00:34:28.000

interview.

00:34:28.000 --> 00:34:32.000

I will tell you, as a former

00:34:32.000 --> 00:34:34.000

prosecutor, this is a crucial stage for

00:34:34.000 --> 00:34:34.000

everyone who is working with a child

00:34:34.000 --> 00:34:40.000

that has been maltreated.

00:34:40.000 --> 00:34:42.000

Because you don't get repeated

00:34:42.000 --> 00:34:43.000

attempts to interview a child because

00:34:43.000 --> 00:34:43.000

it may not be in the child's best

00:34:43.000 --> 00:34:46.000

interest.

00:34:46.000 --> 00:34:46.000

So it's all about the comfort and the

00:34:46.000 --> 00:34:50.000

safety of the child.

00:34:50.000 --> 00:34:51.000

This can be very frightening for a

00:34:51.000 --> 00:34:53.000

child to talk about something difficult

00:34:53.000 --> 00:34:53.000

and to talk about it with a stranger

00:34:53.000 --> 00:35:00.000

that they don't know.

00:35:00.000 --> 00:35:00.000

Many years ago I taught forensic

00:35:00.000 --> 00:35:05.000

interviewing protocol.

00:35:05.000 --> 00:35:09.000

It's amazing how a therapy animal can

00:35:09.000 --> 00:35:12.000

build rapport and allow that child to

00:35:12.000 --> 00:35:14.000

feel safe and to communicate with a

00:35:14.000 --> 00:35:14.000

forensic interviewer that they likely

00:35:14.000 --> 00:35:19.000

just met.

00:35:19.000 --> 00:35:19.000

This can be incorporated into any

00:35:19.000 --> 00:35:24.000

existing protocol.

00:35:24.000 --> 00:35:26.000

What I love about having therapy

00:35:26.000 --> 00:35:26.000

animals in the forensic interview room,

00:35:26.000 --> 00:35:26.000

they often just lay there.

00:35:26.000 --> 00:35:27.000

They sleep.

00:35:27.000 --> 00:35:29.000

Sometimes they snore.

00:35:29.000 --> 00:35:34.000

But they're just there.

00:35:34.000 --> 00:35:34.000

For the child to pet and to just sit

00:35:34.000 --> 00:35:39.000

near.

00:35:39.000 --> 00:35:42.000

I have seen so many videotaped

00:35:42.000 --> 00:35:45.000

forensic interviews where, when it got

00:35:45.000 --> 00:35:46.000

to really the abuse scenario where the

00:35:46.000 --> 00:35:50.000

child was talking about thatted

00:35:50.000 --> 00:35:52.000

critical time, that critical moment of

00:35:52.000 --> 00:35:53.000

the abuse and they would, that's when

00:35:53.000 --> 00:35:53.000

they really connected with the therapy

00:35:53.000 --> 00:35:55.000

animal.

00:35:55.000 --> 00:35:59.000

They would start petting them more.

00:35:59.000 --> 00:35:59.000

They would sometimes even disclose to

00:35:59.000 --> 00:36:03.000

the therapy animal.

00:36:03.000 --> 00:36:07.000

But it's also a good opportunity for

00:36:07.000 --> 00:36:07.000

the forensic interviewer to talk to

00:36:07.000 --> 00:36:11.000

kids about animals in the home.

00:36:11.000 --> 00:36:11.000

Who's an important family member for

00:36:11.000 --> 00:36:13.000

the child?

00:36:13.000 --> 00:36:16.000

Because it may be the family cat.

00:36:16.000 --> 00:36:16.000

And so asking a child, do you have a

00:36:16.000 --> 00:36:17.000

pet?

00:36:17.000 --> 00:36:19.000

Tell me about your pet.

00:36:19.000 --> 00:36:20.000

Is your pet happy?

00:36:20.000 --> 00:36:24.000

Is your pet safe?

00:36:24.000 --> 00:36:26.000

It's really gonna open up the child

00:36:26.000 --> 00:36:30.000

and allow them to feel comfortable

00:36:30.000 --> 00:36:31.000

where they can talk about something

00:36:31.000 --> 00:36:31.000

else before they have to talk about

00:36:31.000 --> 00:36:34.000

themselves.

00:36:34.000 --> 00:36:35.000

There's just so many benefits if the

00:36:35.000 --> 00:36:38.000

forensic interview.

00:36:38.000 --> 00:36:41.000

It's important to allow the child to

00:36:41.000 --> 00:36:41.000

decide whether the animal goes back

00:36:41.000 --> 00:36:43.000

into the forensic interview room.

00:36:43.000 --> 00:36:48.000

The handler will need to be present.

00:36:48.000 --> 00:36:50.000

Now, in my time teaching forensic

00:36:50.000 --> 00:36:52.000

interviewing protocol, it is kind of a

00:36:52.000 --> 00:36:52.000

no-no having a third person in that

00:36:52.000 --> 00:36:55.000

forensic interview room.

00:36:55.000 --> 00:36:57.000

However, there are times that a

00:36:57.000 --> 00:36:57.000

translator needs to go into the

00:36:57.000 --> 00:36:58.000

forensic interview room.

00:36:58.000 --> 00:37:02.000

That's okay, legally.

00:37:02.000 --> 00:37:02.000

The handler, literally, says nothing.

00:37:02.000 --> 00:37:06.000

00:37:06.000 --> 00:37:07.000

They are there to watch the therapy

00:37:07.000 --> 00:37:07.000

animal and to make sure the therapy

00:37:07.000 --> 00:37:10.000

animal does their job.

00:37:10.000 --> 00:37:13.000

So you just need to inform the child

00:37:13.000 --> 00:37:17.000

that the handler, the mom or the dad,

00:37:17.000 --> 00:37:19.000

is going to come with Jake into the

00:37:19.000 --> 00:37:19.000

room to make sure that Jake does the

00:37:19.000 --> 00:37:21.000

best job.

00:37:21.000 --> 00:37:24.000

And that's how you can handle it.

00:37:24.000 --> 00:37:28.000

If the child says no, no is no.

00:37:28.000 --> 00:37:30.000

And if the child says yes, usually

00:37:30.000 --> 00:37:30.000

they are taking the dog or the cat to

00:37:30.000 --> 00:37:31.000

the therapy room.

00:37:31.000 --> 00:37:37.000

They want them in there.

00:37:37.000 --> 00:37:41.000

So if you're not comfortable having

00:37:41.000 --> 00:37:42.000

the therapy animal in the room, allow

00:37:42.000 --> 00:37:42.000

the child to walk the animal to the

00:37:42.000 --> 00:37:46.000

room.

00:37:46.000 --> 00:37:46.000

Then the animal can sit outside, can

00:37:46.000 --> 00:37:52.000

sit outside the room.

00:37:52.000 --> 00:37:54.000

And it's important to allow the child

00:37:54.000 --> 00:37:54.000

to connect with the pet, to talk to the

00:37:54.000 --> 00:37:57.000

therapy animal.

00:37:57.000 --> 00:37:58.000

It is totally okay for them to

00:37:58.000 --> 00:38:02.000

disclose to the therapy animal.

00:38:02.000 --> 00:38:03.000

From a legal perspective, I'm always

00:38:03.000 --> 00:38:04.000

considering, is this going to hold up

00:38:04.000 --> 00:38:09.000

in court?

00:38:09.000 --> 00:38:11.000

I don't want anything to impact the

00:38:11.000 --> 00:38:11.000

case legally, and this is totally,

00:38:11.000 --> 00:38:15.000

totally fine.

00:38:15.000 --> 00:38:15.000

Because there is no law that says a

00:38:15.000 --> 00:38:17.000

child has to disclose to an adult.

00:38:17.000 --> 00:38:21.000

I mean, there is no law.

00:38:21.000 --> 00:38:24.000

So this is totally fine.

00:38:24.000 --> 00:38:26.000

But it's important that you don't

00:38:26.000 --> 00:38:27.000

barter with the child and say, hey, if

00:38:27.000 --> 00:38:30.000

you come back into the room and tell me

00:38:30.000 --> 00:38:30.000

what uncle Bobby did to you, I'll let

00:38:30.000 --> 00:38:33.000

you have a therapy animal.

00:38:33.000 --> 00:38:36.000

That will come up in court.

00:38:36.000 --> 00:38:37.000

The defense attorney will absolutely

00:38:37.000 --> 00:38:38.000

bring it up, and it could impact the

00:38:38.000 --> 00:38:41.000

case.

00:38:41.000 --> 00:38:43.000

It is important to not assume that the

00:38:43.000 --> 00:38:43.000

child is comfortable with the therapy

00:38:43.000 --> 00:38:47.000

animal or the handler.

00:38:47.000 --> 00:38:47.000

This is where you need to ask and

00:38:47.000 --> 00:38:47.000

observe the body language of the child.

00:38:47.000 --> 00:38:53.000

00:38:53.000 --> 00:38:56.000

Because the child may say yes to an

00:38:56.000 --> 00:38:56.000

adult but show body language that, I'm

00:38:56.000 --> 00:39:02.000

really not comfortable with that.

00:39:02.000 --> 00:39:02.000

It's also important to not ask

00:39:02.000 --> 00:39:05.000

questions through the animal.

00:39:05.000 --> 00:39:06.000

Because you don't want to introduce

00:39:06.000 --> 00:39:06.000

fantasy into that forensic interview

00:39:06.000 --> 00:39:14.000

room.

00:39:14.000 --> 00:39:14.000

It's important to not say, Jake wants

00:39:14.000 --> 00:39:14.000

to know what your favorite class in

00:39:14.000 --> 00:39:15.000

school is.

00:39:15.000 --> 00:39:19.000

Can'ted do that.

00:39:19.000 --> 00:39:19.000

That's starting to introduce fantasy.

00:39:19.000 --> 00:39:24.000

00:39:24.000 --> 00:39:25.000

I have seen defense attorneys make

00:39:25.000 --> 00:39:26.000

successful arguments that that was

00:39:26.000 --> 00:39:26.000

introduced and it could toss out the

00:39:26.000 --> 00:39:30.000

entire interview.

00:39:30.000 --> 00:39:31.000

It is also important not to allow the

00:39:31.000 --> 00:39:34.000

child not to harm the therapy animal.

00:39:34.000 --> 00:39:35.000

If they are digging their hands into

00:39:35.000 --> 00:39:35.000

the fur because they are in that moment

00:39:35.000 --> 00:39:39.000

of disclosure.

00:39:39.000 --> 00:39:40.000

There are ways to get the therapy

00:39:40.000 --> 00:39:43.000

animal out.

00:39:43.000 --> 00:39:44.000

But it's important to not allow the

00:39:44.000 --> 00:39:44.000

child to lose focus and never force an

00:39:44.000 --> 00:39:53.000

interaction.

00:39:53.000 --> 00:39:56.000

Now, this was a research study of

00:39:56.000 --> 00:39:57.000

children who went through a forensic

00:39:57.000 --> 00:39:57.000

interview at a Texas child advocacy

00:39:57.000 --> 00:40:03.000

center.

00:40:03.000 --> 00:40:05.000

Half the children interviewed with a

00:40:05.000 --> 00:40:13.000

therapy dog and the purpose was really

00:40:13.000 --> 00:40:15.000

to find out if the children, if their

00:40:15.000 --> 00:40:20.000

autonomic system responded to stress.

00:40:20.000 --> 00:40:20.000

They tested the saliva and the heart

00:40:20.000 --> 00:40:21.000

rate of the children before and after.

00:40:21.000 --> 00:40:27.000

00:40:27.000 --> 00:40:30.000

And they randomly assigned the kids to

00:40:30.000 --> 00:40:32.000

a room where they were able to pet the

00:40:32.000 --> 00:40:33.000

therapy animal or have the therapy

00:40:33.000 --> 00:40:33.000

animal in the forensic interview room.

00:40:33.000 --> 00:40:40.000

00:40:40.000 --> 00:40:41.000

And over 90% of the children in the

00:40:41.000 --> 00:40:44.000

study had a dog at one point.

00:40:44.000 --> 00:40:44.000

So it was very helpful in their

00:40:44.000 --> 00:40:49.000

interaction.

00:40:49.000 --> 00:40:51.000

But what they found was that when the

00:40:51.000 --> 00:40:54.000

dog was not present, the child's heart

00:40:54.000 --> 00:40:55.000

rate was significantly higher than if

00:40:55.000 --> 00:40:56.000

the dog was present.

00:40:56.000 --> 00:41:01.000

The dogs wept them calm.

00:41:01.000 --> 00:41:01.000

And this was significant for younger

00:41:01.000 --> 00:41:09.000

children.

00:41:09.000 --> 00:41:10.000

So this was really important that

00:41:10.000 --> 00:41:10.000

showed how therapy animals can calm a

00:41:10.000 --> 00:41:13.000

child.

00:41:13.000 --> 00:41:16.000

Because if you ever think of moments

00:41:16.000 --> 00:41:19.000

when you are anxious, you can't make

00:41:19.000 --> 00:41:19.000

good decisions and we actually have

00:41:19.000 --> 00:41:22.000

difficulty speaking.

00:41:22.000 --> 00:41:25.000

A child will have difficulty talking

00:41:25.000 --> 00:41:26.000

and sharing and remembering and being

00:41:26.000 --> 00:41:28.000

factual if they're scared.

00:41:28.000 --> 00:41:28.000

And so that's what the therapy animals

00:41:28.000 --> 00:41:31.000

do.

00:41:31.000 --> 00:41:31.000

They just allow them to tell the

00:41:31.000 --> 00:41:38.000

truth, whatever it is.

00:41:38.000 --> 00:41:41.000

So in the manual, I go through legal

00:41:41.000 --> 00:41:43.000

issues and I'm not really gonna spend

00:41:43.000 --> 00:41:44.000

much time on these because I want to

00:41:44.000 --> 00:41:48.000

turn this over to Stephanie soon.

00:41:48.000 --> 00:41:48.000

There's all sorts of legal issues that

00:41:48.000 --> 00:41:54.000

can come up in the courtroom.

00:41:54.000 --> 00:41:57.000

These are all in the TASK manual, so

00:41:57.000 --> 00:41:59.000

it's important to get these to an

00:41:59.000 --> 00:41:59.000

attorney that you're working with, to a

00:41:59.000 --> 00:42:04.000

prosecutor that you're working with.

00:42:04.000 --> 00:42:04.000

I have yet to hear a legal objection

00:42:04.000 --> 00:42:12.000

that we cannot work our way around.

00:42:12.000 --> 00:42:13.000

The big thing is making sure that the

00:42:13.000 --> 00:42:13.000

handler doesn't behave inappropriately

00:42:13.000 --> 00:42:19.000

in the room.

00:42:19.000 --> 00:42:20.000

They are there to focus on the animal

00:42:20.000 --> 00:42:20.000

and not react to what the child is

00:42:20.000 --> 00:42:25.000

saying.

00:42:25.000 --> 00:42:27.000

So this can result in the handler

00:42:27.000 --> 00:42:27.000

becoming a witness since they are going

00:42:27.000 --> 00:42:32.000

into the forensic interview room.

00:42:32.000 --> 00:42:35.000

So it's really important to provide an

00:42:35.000 --> 00:42:35.000

orientation on expectations, consult

00:42:35.000 --> 00:42:39.000

with your prosecutor.

00:42:39.000 --> 00:42:43.000

Do your best to not have them actually

00:42:43.000 --> 00:42:44.000

have to go to court and testify because

00:42:44.000 --> 00:42:44.000

they're not necessarily testifying to

00:42:44.000 --> 00:42:49.000

anything unique.

00:42:49.000 --> 00:42:49.000

So if a forensic interview is

00:42:49.000 --> 00:42:49.000

videotaped, that is the best evidence.

00:42:49.000 --> 00:42:56.000

00:42:56.000 --> 00:42:57.000

Having the handler come in is not

00:42:57.000 --> 00:42:57.000

necessarily needed if the interview is

00:42:57.000 --> 00:43:02.000

videotaped.

00:43:02.000 --> 00:43:08.000

This story is amazing.

00:43:08.000 --> 00:43:09.000

There was a 3-year-old boy who

00:43:09.000 --> 00:43:09.000

witnessed his mother being killed by

00:43:09.000 --> 00:43:18.000

her partner.

00:43:18.000 --> 00:43:23.000

And when the police arrived and they

00:43:23.000 --> 00:43:24.000

were able to safely secure this little

00:43:24.000 --> 00:43:24.000

boy, they had not found the perpetrator

00:43:24.000 --> 00:43:29.000

of this.

00:43:29.000 --> 00:43:31.000

They rushed the little boy to med

00:43:31.000 --> 00:43:31.000

center 1 Dakota CAC because they needed

00:43:31.000 --> 00:43:33.000

to talk to him.

00:43:33.000 --> 00:43:35.000

He was 3 years old.

00:43:35.000 --> 00:43:35.000

They needed to find out who did this.

00:43:35.000 --> 00:43:39.000

00:43:39.000 --> 00:43:42.000

The time was of the essence.

00:43:42.000 --> 00:43:45.000

While they were trying to figure out

00:43:45.000 --> 00:43:47.000

how they were going to forensically

00:43:47.000 --> 00:43:47.000

interview a 3-year-old, because that's

00:43:47.000 --> 00:43:51.000

challenging, Maggie was in the lobby.

00:43:51.000 --> 00:43:51.000

Maggie was the dog of the director of

00:43:51.000 --> 00:43:55.000

the CAC.

00:43:55.000 --> 00:43:58.000

And Maggie was in the lobby laying on

00:43:58.000 --> 00:43:58.000

her back four paws up in the air, belly

00:43:58.000 --> 00:44:03.000

showing, sleeping.

00:44:03.000 --> 00:44:07.000

The little boy crawled over to her,

00:44:07.000 --> 00:44:07.000

laid on top of her and disclosed to

00:44:07.000 --> 00:44:10.000

Maggie.

00:44:10.000 --> 00:44:10.000

They were able to figure out who did

00:44:10.000 --> 00:44:12.000

this.

00:44:12.000 --> 00:44:12.000

So they were able to find him and

00:44:12.000 --> 00:44:14.000

arrest him.

00:44:14.000 --> 00:44:14.000

This is the power of therapy animals.

00:44:14.000 --> 00:44:17.000

00:44:17.000 --> 00:44:17.000

They didn't even really have to

00:44:17.000 --> 00:44:20.000

interview this child.

00:44:20.000 --> 00:44:25.000

Maggie did the work for them.

00:44:25.000 --> 00:44:29.000

Now, in the medical exam, this can

00:44:29.000 --> 00:44:31.000

also be very beneficial because it can

00:44:31.000 --> 00:44:33.000

be traumatic for the child to have a

00:44:33.000 --> 00:44:33.000

medical exam if they have been

00:44:33.000 --> 00:44:37.000

physically or sexually abused.

00:44:37.000 --> 00:44:39.000

So it's important to ask the child if

00:44:39.000 --> 00:44:39.000

the animal and the handler can be

00:44:39.000 --> 00:44:43.000

present.

00:44:43.000 --> 00:44:43.000

I think it's important to have a sight

00:44:43.000 --> 00:44:44.000

barrier between the handler and the

00:44:44.000 --> 00:44:47.000

child.

00:44:47.000 --> 00:44:47.000

So the therapy animal could be next to

00:44:47.000 --> 00:44:48.000

the child.

00:44:48.000 --> 00:44:51.000

Then there's the curtain.

00:44:51.000 --> 00:44:51.000

So that the handler is on the other

00:44:51.000 --> 00:44:55.000

side.

00:44:55.000 --> 00:44:56.000

At all times the handler has control

00:44:56.000 --> 00:44:59.000

of the animal so they're on a leash.

00:44:59.000 --> 00:45:01.000

It's really important to consult with

00:45:01.000 --> 00:45:02.000

the prosecutor as well as the medical

00:45:02.000 --> 00:45:05.000

staff on how to safely do this.

00:45:05.000 --> 00:45:05.000

Because the benefit to the child is

00:45:05.000 --> 00:45:06.000

that they feel safe.

00:45:06.000 --> 00:45:11.000

They feel comforted.

00:45:11.000 --> 00:45:12.000

Sometimes the therapy animal can

00:45:12.000 --> 00:45:12.000

distract them so that they are relaxed.

00:45:12.000 --> 00:45:17.000

00:45:17.000 --> 00:45:21.000

The sexual assault nurse examiners who

00:45:21.000 --> 00:45:23.000

have worked with therapy animals in the

00:45:23.000 --> 00:45:25.000

room say that the collection of

00:45:25.000 --> 00:45:25.000

evidence goes so fast because the child

00:45:25.000 --> 00:45:30.000

is distracted and relaxed.

00:45:30.000 --> 00:45:33.000

Now, the concerns are working with

00:45:33.000 --> 00:45:34.000

medical policies and really trying to

00:45:34.000 --> 00:45:34.000

level that with the best interest of

00:45:34.000 --> 00:45:38.000

the child.

00:45:38.000 --> 00:45:39.000

One question I get is about evidence

00:45:39.000 --> 00:45:44.000

contamination.

00:45:44.000 --> 00:45:47.000

The short answer is that the hair off

00:45:47.000 --> 00:45:49.000

of a therapy animal is not

00:45:49.000 --> 00:45:52.000

spontaneously going to hop off of an

00:45:52.000 --> 00:45:52.000

animal, float into the collection area

00:45:52.000 --> 00:45:52.000

and end up in the evidence collection

00:45:52.000 --> 00:45:55.000

tube.

00:45:55.000 --> 00:45:57.000

It just defies physics.

00:45:57.000 --> 00:45:59.000

It's not going to happen.

00:45:59.000 --> 00:46:00.000

I have made those arguments before

00:46:00.000 --> 00:46:05.000

successfully.

00:46:05.000 --> 00:46:08.000

In the manual, I go through more

00:46:08.000 --> 00:46:09.000

information on how to do this,and it's

00:46:09.000 --> 00:46:09.000

amazing what it can do to help the

00:46:09.000 --> 00:46:16.000

children.

00:46:16.000 --> 00:46:19.000

And Woodstock helped a child many

00:46:19.000 --> 00:46:19.000

years ago, an 8-year-old girl who had

00:46:19.000 --> 00:46:23.000

disclosed sexual abuse.

00:46:23.000 --> 00:46:25.000

Woodstock was allowed to go in the

00:46:25.000 --> 00:46:27.000

room with her when they were taking the

00:46:27.000 --> 00:46:29.000

history portion, but then he sat

00:46:29.000 --> 00:46:31.000

outside the room when the exam was

00:46:31.000 --> 00:46:31.000

completed --

00:46:31.000 --> 00:46:34.000

or until it was completed.

00:46:34.000 --> 00:46:34.000

She would talk to him through the

00:46:34.000 --> 00:46:36.000

door.

00:46:36.000 --> 00:46:42.000

He would bark and an her.

00:46:42.000 --> 00:46:45.000

So she was distracted and that's how

00:46:45.000 --> 00:46:47.000

he was able to help her so that they

00:46:47.000 --> 00:46:47.000

could then collect the evidence and it

00:46:47.000 --> 00:46:54.000

was just like he was in the room.

00:46:54.000 --> 00:46:54.000

Now, therapy, obviously, is a great

00:46:54.000 --> 00:46:58.000

place for therapy animals.

00:46:58.000 --> 00:46:58.000

They can go into group therapy, into

00:46:58.000 --> 00:47:01.000

individual therapy.

00:47:01.000 --> 00:47:02.000

The therapy animals help a child to

00:47:02.000 --> 00:47:02.000

express and really project their

00:47:02.000 --> 00:47:06.000

feelings.

00:47:06.000 --> 00:47:06.000

Again, the handler is going to be

00:47:06.000 --> 00:47:14.000

present for this.

00:47:14.000 --> 00:47:14.000

There was a study done at the fort

00:47:14.000 --> 00:47:19.000

worth child advocacy center.

00:47:19.000 --> 00:47:21.000

They've been evaluating their therapy

00:47:21.000 --> 00:47:21.000

animal program for years and have been

00:47:21.000 --> 00:47:21.000

publishing studies of what has

00:47:21.000 --> 00:47:25.000

happened.

00:47:25.000 --> 00:47:25.000

In this situation, they have three

00:47:25.000 --> 00:47:30.000

groups of children.

00:47:30.000 --> 00:47:30.000

One group had their group therapy

00:47:30.000 --> 00:47:36.000

without dogs.

00:47:36.000 --> 00:47:37.000

The second group of children, the dogs

00:47:37.000 --> 00:47:40.000

interacted with the children for about

00:47:40.000 --> 00:47:41.000

30 minutes in the lobby, came into

00:47:41.000 --> 00:47:41.000

group therapy for about 10, 15 minutes

00:47:41.000 --> 00:47:45.000

and then left.

00:47:45.000 --> 00:47:45.000

The third group, the dogs interacted

00:47:45.000 --> 00:47:49.000

in the lobby.

00:47:49.000 --> 00:47:49.000

They came into group therapy and then

00:47:49.000 --> 00:47:53.000

they added dog stories.

00:47:53.000 --> 00:47:53.000

The dogs at the CAC have written books

00:47:53.000 --> 00:48:01.000

to really help the kids.

00:48:01.000 --> 00:48:04.000

What they found is that the children

00:48:04.000 --> 00:48:08.000

who had the dogs in their group,

00:48:08.000 --> 00:48:10.000

especially with the stories, had --

00:48:10.000 --> 00:48:12.000

they were able to document decreased

00:48:12.000 --> 00:48:16.000

trauma, decreased anxiety and

00:48:16.000 --> 00:48:17.000

depression, anger, PTSD, decreased

00:48:17.000 --> 00:48:21.000

disassociation and sexual concerns.

00:48:21.000 --> 00:48:23.000

So, again, more studies are coming out

00:48:23.000 --> 00:48:23.000

that really validate the benefit of

00:48:23.000 --> 00:48:30.000

what these animals can do.

00:48:30.000 --> 00:48:36.000

Dogs are more frequently therapy

00:48:36.000 --> 00:48:37.000

animals, but Pookie, who has since

00:48:37.000 --> 00:48:37.000

retired, did an amazing thing for a

00:48:37.000 --> 00:48:40.000

child.

00:48:40.000 --> 00:48:41.000

I need to go through this quickly

00:48:41.000 --> 00:48:41.000

because I want to turn this over to

00:48:41.000 --> 00:48:45.000

Stephanie.

00:48:45.000 --> 00:48:45.000

This was a child who had been sexually

00:48:45.000 --> 00:48:49.000

assaulted by his neighbor.

00:48:49.000 --> 00:48:50.000

And was terrified to disclose because

00:48:50.000 --> 00:48:54.000

the neighbor still lived next to him.

00:48:54.000 --> 00:48:57.000

After a year of therapy with Pookie

00:48:57.000 --> 00:49:00.000

being by his side, he trusted Pookie.

00:49:00.000 --> 00:49:05.000

Pookie was his safety.

00:49:05.000 --> 00:49:06.000

He drew this and is allowing me to use

00:49:06.000 --> 00:49:06.000

this to share this because it's

00:49:06.000 --> 00:49:09.000

powerful.

00:49:09.000 --> 00:49:09.000

He wants everyone to understand the

00:49:09.000 --> 00:49:12.000

power of therapy animals.

00:49:12.000 --> 00:49:15.000

This child drew a boxing thing.

00:49:15.000 --> 00:49:15.000

He drew himself sitting in the corner.

00:49:15.000 --> 00:49:21.000

00:49:21.000 --> 00:49:23.000

He's yelling no because the neighbor

00:49:23.000 --> 00:49:23.000

-- this is when he disclosed and said

00:49:23.000 --> 00:49:28.000

who did this to him.

00:49:28.000 --> 00:49:32.000

The perpetrator comes into the boxing

00:49:32.000 --> 00:49:32.000

ring to get him, but Pookie comes in

00:49:32.000 --> 00:49:37.000

and bites his head off.

00:49:37.000 --> 00:49:37.000

So this little 9 pound very judgmental

00:49:37.000 --> 00:49:38.000

Siamese mix cat was his savior.

00:49:38.000 --> 00:49:40.000

He drew this.

00:49:40.000 --> 00:49:42.000

He disclosed.

00:49:42.000 --> 00:49:44.000

They arrested the neighbor.

00:49:44.000 --> 00:49:48.000

They went to trial.

00:49:48.000 --> 00:49:50.000

Pookie was not interested in going

00:49:50.000 --> 00:49:51.000

into the courtroom, but this little boy

00:49:51.000 --> 00:49:51.000

took a stuffed animal that looked like

00:49:51.000 --> 00:49:52.000

Pookie.

00:49:52.000 --> 00:49:53.000

He was able to testify.

00:49:53.000 --> 00:49:55.000

They convicted him.

00:49:55.000 --> 00:49:59.000

He got a 30 year sentence.

00:49:59.000 --> 00:49:59.000

He still sits in prison today for what

00:49:59.000 --> 00:50:02.000

he did to that child.

00:50:02.000 --> 00:50:02.000

That 9-pound cat saved that little

00:50:02.000 --> 00:50:05.000

child.

00:50:05.000 --> 00:50:07.000

Isn't that amazing?

00:50:07.000 --> 00:50:13.000

I just think it's amazing.

00:50:13.000 --> 00:50:13.000

So there's other areas where therapy

00:50:13.000 --> 00:50:17.000

animals can help.

00:50:17.000 --> 00:50:17.000

They can help in court preparation and

00:50:17.000 --> 00:50:21.000

really ease the tension in that.

00:50:21.000 --> 00:50:21.000

The benefits are that they relax the

00:50:21.000 --> 00:50:25.000

child.

00:50:25.000 --> 00:50:27.000

But we cannot barter with the child

00:50:27.000 --> 00:50:28.000

that if they give a good performance on

00:50:28.000 --> 00:50:28.000

the witness stand, they can have a

00:50:28.000 --> 00:50:33.000

therapy animal.

00:50:33.000 --> 00:50:35.000

And then I just, because I'm running

00:50:35.000 --> 00:50:37.000

out of time, I just want to get to the

00:50:37.000 --> 00:50:38.000

last couple of slides where therapy

00:50:38.000 --> 00:50:38.000

animals are now being allowed into the

00:50:38.000 --> 00:50:42.000

courtroom.

00:50:42.000 --> 00:50:43.000

I personally believe there is no legal

00:50:43.000 --> 00:50:44.000

reason for a child to be alone on the

00:50:44.000 --> 00:50:45.000

witness stand.

00:50:45.000 --> 00:50:49.000

No legal reason.

00:50:49.000 --> 00:50:51.000

That can actually harm the integrity

00:50:51.000 --> 00:50:51.000

and the fairness of a trial, if a child

00:50:51.000 --> 00:50:58.000

is afraid.

00:50:58.000 --> 00:51:01.000

So the big pink elephant that we often

00:51:01.000 --> 00:51:03.000

deal with, the word therapy conveys an

00:51:03.000 --> 00:51:04.000

image on to the victim, that they've

00:51:04.000 --> 00:51:04.000

been Vick timized and they need

00:51:04.000 --> 00:51:07.000

therapy.

00:51:07.000 --> 00:51:09.000

As a former prosecutor, I believe we

00:51:09.000 --> 00:51:09.000

have to utilize the proper registered

00:51:09.000 --> 00:51:20.000

name of that animal.

00:51:20.000 --> 00:51:22.000

I always say states that allow a crime

00:51:22.000 --> 00:51:22.000

victim to be called a crime victim in00

00:51:22.000 --> 00:51:27.000

trial.

00:51:27.000 --> 00:51:27.000

Just like when I would put a homicide

00:51:27.000 --> 00:51:31.000

detective on the stand.

00:51:31.000 --> 00:51:31.000

He would say, I'm John brown and I'm a

00:51:31.000 --> 00:51:34.000

homicide detective.

00:51:34.000 --> 00:51:34.000

That doesn't convey anything on to the

00:51:34.000 --> 00:51:34.000

accused.

00:51:34.000 --> 00:51:36.000

It is what it is.

00:51:36.000 --> 00:51:40.000

It's the title.

00:51:40.000 --> 00:51:40.000

So being consistent and having proper

00:51:40.000 --> 00:51:40.000

terminology for case law is very

00:51:40.000 --> 00:51:46.000

important.

00:51:46.000 --> 00:51:48.000

And so right now these are laws that

00:51:48.000 --> 00:51:48.000

have been passed where courtroom

00:51:48.000 --> 00:51:51.000

animals can help.

00:51:51.000 --> 00:51:56.000

And so they're all different.

00:51:56.000 --> 00:51:57.000

If you are in one of these states, I

00:51:57.000 --> 00:51:59.000

would encourage you to check out the

00:51:59.000 --> 00:51:59.000

law and make sure -- because all these

00:51:59.000 --> 00:52:02.000

definitions are different.

00:52:02.000 --> 00:52:02.000

Make sure that you know what your

00:52:02.000 --> 00:52:07.000

state allows.

00:52:07.000 --> 00:52:08.000

And when you're bringing animals into

00:52:08.000 --> 00:52:11.000

the courtroom, you want to make sure

00:52:11.000 --> 00:52:13.000

that it's approved by the prosecutor

00:52:13.000 --> 00:52:14.000

first of all and then they take it to

00:52:14.000 --> 00:52:19.000

the judge with a motion.

00:52:19.000 --> 00:52:19.000

Therapy animals can assist with the

00:52:19.000 --> 00:52:20.000

effective efficient and thorough

00:52:20.000 --> 00:52:25.000

testimony.

00:52:25.000 --> 00:52:25.000

This is really important and something

00:52:25.000 --> 00:52:30.000

to think about.

00:52:30.000 --> 00:52:30.000

I'm going to go through these last

00:52:30.000 --> 00:52:34.000

slides.

00:52:34.000 --> 00:52:34.000

You're all going to get PDF's of this.

00:52:34.000 --> 00:52:38.000

00:52:38.000 --> 00:52:39.000

I equate therapy animals in the

00:52:39.000 --> 00:52:41.000

courtroom to support person laws of

00:52:41.000 --> 00:52:42.000

which there are many laws across the

00:52:42.000 --> 00:52:45.000

country allowing a support person.

00:52:45.000 --> 00:52:46.000

And I also equate them to the comfort

00:52:46.000 --> 00:52:49.000

item laws.

00:52:49.000 --> 00:52:50.000

So there are many different ways to

00:52:50.000 --> 00:52:50.000

get the therapy animals into the

00:52:50.000 --> 00:52:54.000

courtroom.

00:52:54.000 --> 00:52:54.000

So I'm at the end of my presentation.

00:52:54.000 --> 00:52:58.000

00:52:58.000 --> 00:53:01.000

And I am going to turn it over to

00:53:01.000 --> 00:53:01.000

Stephanie so that she can talk about

00:53:01.000 --> 00:53:06.000

their amazing program in Tallahassee.

00:53:06.000 --> 00:53:06.000

So, Stephanie, I have ended the

00:53:06.000 --> 00:53:08.000

sharing of my power point.

00:53:08.000 --> 00:53:10.000

You can go ahead with yours.

00:53:10.000 --> 00:53:10.000

00:53:10.000 --> 00:53:12.000

>> Thanks, Allie.

00:53:12.000 --> 00:53:19.000

I'm going to share my screen.

00:53:19.000 --> 00:53:19.000

Thank you, everyone, for having me

00:53:19.000 --> 00:53:24.000

today.

00:53:24.000 --> 00:53:24.000

Thanks, Allie for overviewing what we

00:53:24.000 --> 00:53:28.000

do as practitioners.

00:53:28.000 --> 00:53:34.000

What I do is, it's superimportant.

00:53:34.000 --> 00:53:34.000

It also is very meaningful to our

00:53:34.000 --> 00:53:39.000

community as a whole.

00:53:39.000 --> 00:53:39.000

So we're going to talk about Florida

00:53:39.000 --> 00:53:41.000

courthouse therapy dogs today.

00:53:41.000 --> 00:53:41.000

And that's just our local program

00:53:41.000 --> 00:53:45.000

here.

00:53:45.000 --> 00:53:45.000

But most municipalities have some sort

00:53:45.000 --> 00:53:45.000

of program that they're operating from.

00:53:45.000 --> 00:53:54.000

00:53:54.000 --> 00:53:56.000

And so the way we started ours is, let

00:53:56.000 --> 00:53:59.000

me see if I can go over this.

00:53:59.000 --> 00:53:59.000

I am the director of animal therapy

00:53:59.000 --> 00:54:02.000

here in Tallahassee, Florida.

00:54:02.000 --> 00:54:05.000

I have 20 years of experience in

00:54:05.000 --> 00:54:05.000

animal assisted interventions and

00:54:05.000 --> 00:54:06.000

animal assisted activities.

00:54:06.000 --> 00:54:11.000

I'm a certified dog trainer.

00:54:11.000 --> 00:54:11.000

I'm one of the co-founders of the

00:54:11.000 --> 00:54:11.000

Florida courthouse therapy dogs

00:54:11.000 --> 00:54:15.000

program.

00:54:15.000 --> 00:54:16.000

I have been here at the hospital since

00:54:16.000 --> 00:54:18.000

2011 running this program for them.

00:54:18.000 --> 00:54:21.000

So lots of experience.

00:54:21.000 --> 00:54:21.000

Lots of learning, I should say,

00:54:21.000 --> 00:54:23.000

really.

00:54:23.000 --> 00:54:29.000

I am not a legal person.

00:54:29.000 --> 00:54:30.000

I'm not even really well versed on

00:54:30.000 --> 00:54:30.000

anything to do with children or abuse,

00:54:30.000 --> 00:54:31.000

anything like that.

00:54:31.000 --> 00:54:33.000

I'm really a dog person.

00:54:33.000 --> 00:54:36.000

I have a degree in geology.

00:54:36.000 --> 00:54:36.000

So this was a steep learning curve for

00:54:36.000 --> 00:54:39.000

me.

00:54:39.000 --> 00:54:41.000

Through the hope of those in our

00:54:41.000 --> 00:54:44.000

community and those across the United

00:54:44.000 --> 00:54:46.000

States, we have learned and we continue

00:54:46.000 --> 00:54:46.000

to learn every day and make our program

00:54:46.000 --> 00:54:51.000

better and better.

00:54:51.000 --> 00:54:52.000

So our program is a collaborative

00:54:52.000 --> 00:54:52.000

effort, second judicial circuit here in

00:54:52.000 --> 00:54:56.000

Tallahassee.

00:54:56.000 --> 00:54:57.000

That encompasses six counties around

00:54:57.000 --> 00:54:57.000

us here in the big pend area of

00:54:57.000 --> 00:55:01.000

Florida.

00:55:01.000 --> 00:55:02.000

If you don't know where that is, it's

00:55:02.000 --> 00:55:02.000

sort of in the arm pit of the state

00:55:02.000 --> 00:55:04.000

where it bends.

00:55:04.000 --> 00:55:07.000

2nd judicial circuit.

00:55:07.000 --> 00:55:07.000

Our program here, Tallahassee memorial

00:55:07.000 --> 00:55:12.000

animal therapy.

00:55:12.000 --> 00:55:14.000

The office of the state attorney and

00:55:14.000 --> 00:55:14.000

various boards of county commissioners

00:55:14.000 --> 00:55:17.000

or clerks of court.

00:55:17.000 --> 00:55:17.000

Who ever the facility manager happens

00:55:17.000 --> 00:55:21.000

to be for that specific county.

00:55:21.000 --> 00:55:27.000

Also the guardian ad litem.

00:55:27.000 --> 00:55:27.000

So our program as a whole, we operate

00:55:27.000 --> 00:55:28.000

from the hospital.

00:55:28.000 --> 00:55:31.000

That's our base.

00:55:31.000 --> 00:55:35.000

We have 200 plus volunteer teams.

00:55:35.000 --> 00:55:36.000

We do have mostly dogs, but we all

00:55:36.000 --> 00:55:36.000

have other species that we offer as

00:55:36.000 --> 00:55:40.000

well.

00:55:40.000 --> 00:55:42.000

It's important to have a wide variety

00:55:42.000 --> 00:55:43.000

of offerings for those who may not

00:55:43.000 --> 00:55:47.000

prefer dogs or who may be fearful.

00:55:47.000 --> 00:55:47.000

We do have, in addition to dogs, we

00:55:47.000 --> 00:55:48.000

have parrots.

00:55:48.000 --> 00:55:51.000

We have bunnies.

00:55:51.000 --> 00:55:52.000

We have an alpaca.

00:55:52.000 --> 00:55:57.000

We have horses.

00:55:57.000 --> 00:55:58.000

We have a standard size horse and two

00:55:58.000 --> 00:55:59.000

dwarf horses.

00:55:59.000 --> 00:56:03.000

A cat or two.

00:56:03.000 --> 00:56:03.000

The cats are not as easy to come by as

00:56:03.000 --> 00:56:07.000

some of the other animals.

00:56:07.000 --> 00:56:09.000

You'll see up in the top left corner

00:56:09.000 --> 00:56:09.000

of this colage there's a little white

00:56:09.000 --> 00:56:12.000

minihorse.

00:56:12.000 --> 00:56:12.000

She is the world's second smallest

00:56:12.000 --> 00:56:13.000

horse.

00:56:13.000 --> 00:56:16.000

So we think that's pretty cool.

00:56:16.000 --> 00:56:16.000

We have three different program areas

00:56:16.000 --> 00:56:20.000

that we serve.

00:56:20.000 --> 00:56:23.000

So we do some animal assisted therapy

00:56:23.000 --> 00:56:24.000

work where we work hand in hand with

00:56:24.000 --> 00:56:25.000

therapists, with specialized teams

00:56:25.000 --> 00:56:25.000

working with them in medical rehab

00:56:25.000 --> 00:56:29.000

settings.

00:56:29.000 --> 00:56:29.000

We have our read program, reading

00:56:29.000 --> 00:56:33.000

education assistance dogs.

00:56:33.000 --> 00:56:34.000

Which is a misnomer because we have

00:56:34.000 --> 00:56:37.000

had cats participate in that as well.

00:56:37.000 --> 00:56:39.000

That's where we work with children who

00:56:39.000 --> 00:56:39.000

are struggling or who are reluctant

00:56:39.000 --> 00:56:45.000

readers.

00:56:45.000 --> 00:56:45.000

We have 60 teams visiting schools and

00:56:45.000 --> 00:56:47.000

libraries in the area.

00:56:47.000 --> 00:56:47.000

Then we have courthouse therapy dogs.

00:56:47.000 --> 00:56:50.000

00:56:50.000 --> 00:56:51.000

We have 30 teams serving dependency

00:56:51.000 --> 00:56:52.000

and criminal court proceedings here in

00:56:52.000 --> 00:56:54.000

the big bend area.

00:56:54.000 --> 00:56:54.000

We mainly serve three local counties.

00:56:54.000 --> 00:57:00.000

00:57:00.000 --> 00:57:03.000

The other three occasionally, but most

00:57:03.000 --> 00:57:08.000

of the work is done in leon, ocala.

00:57:08.000 --> 00:57:09.000

Overall we have worked over 158

00:57:09.000 --> 00:57:14.000

criminal cases and 330 events.

00:57:14.000 --> 00:57:15.000

Each case gets its case number and

00:57:15.000 --> 00:57:15.000

defendant's name and multiple events

00:57:15.000 --> 00:57:20.000

with each case.

00:57:20.000 --> 00:57:23.000

So with a lot of them, we'll be called

00:57:23.000 --> 00:57:25.000

in for the initial meeting or pretrial

00:57:25.000 --> 00:57:25.000

meeting, depositions, hearings, as well

00:57:25.000 --> 00:57:29.000

as the trial.

00:57:29.000 --> 00:57:33.000

Lots of good stuff going on there.

00:57:33.000 --> 00:57:34.000

We stress with our handlers the

00:57:34.000 --> 00:57:34.000

importance of the training that goes

00:57:34.000 --> 00:57:36.000

into this.

00:57:36.000 --> 00:57:41.000

Success comes from preparation.

00:57:41.000 --> 00:57:42.000

Our teams, when they want to get

00:57:42.000 --> 00:57:45.000

started with our program, they have to

00:57:45.000 --> 00:57:47.000

go through an initial screening process

00:57:47.000 --> 00:57:49.000

where we assess both parts of the team,

00:57:49.000 --> 00:57:49.000

the handler and the animal, for the

00:57:49.000 --> 00:57:53.000

proper temperment.

00:57:53.000 --> 00:57:55.000

We want to make sure that the animal

00:57:55.000 --> 00:57:56.000

is enjoying the work and that the

00:57:56.000 --> 00:57:56.000

handler is able to facilitate that work

00:57:56.000 --> 00:58:01.000

as well.

00:58:01.000 --> 00:58:03.000

Once we determine that they're

00:58:03.000 --> 00:58:03.000

appropriate, which our success rate for

00:58:03.000 --> 00:58:06.000

screenings is usually around 30%.

00:58:06.000 --> 00:58:06.000

Lot of people have to come back mull.

00:58:06.000 --> 00:58:08.000

00:58:08.000 --> 00:58:08.000

Times or to be successful through the

00:58:08.000 --> 00:58:11.000

screening process.

00:58:11.000 --> 00:58:11.000

Those who do pass through screening

00:58:11.000 --> 00:58:14.000

attend eight weeks of classes.

00:58:14.000 --> 00:58:14.000

Three of our class are for humans

00:58:14.000 --> 00:58:17.000

only.

00:58:17.000 --> 00:58:17.000

In those classes we focus on history.

00:58:17.000 --> 00:58:21.000

00:58:21.000 --> 00:58:24.000

We introduce them to our specialty

00:58:24.000 --> 00:58:24.000

areas like courthouse therapy dogs, our

00:58:24.000 --> 00:58:27.000

READ program.

00:58:27.000 --> 00:58:27.000

Other things like hospice visits and

00:58:27.000 --> 00:58:31.000

things like that.

00:58:31.000 --> 00:58:33.000

Just areas for them to start thinking

00:58:33.000 --> 00:58:34.000

about what they might be interested or

00:58:34.000 --> 00:58:34.000

what might be a good focus for them and

00:58:34.000 --> 00:58:39.000

their dog.

00:58:39.000 --> 00:58:39.000

The second class that's humans only is

00:58:39.000 --> 00:58:42.000

focused on dog body language.

00:58:42.000 --> 00:58:46.000

That is super, super important.

00:58:46.000 --> 00:58:48.000

Because it teaches the handlers to

00:58:48.000 --> 00:58:48.000

watch for hands of stress in their

00:58:48.000 --> 00:58:48.000

animal and learn how to mitigate that

00:58:48.000 --> 00:58:52.000

stress.

00:58:52.000 --> 00:58:55.000

If you're not recognizing those sorts

00:58:55.000 --> 00:58:57.000

of things, then you're going to miss

00:58:57.000 --> 00:59:00.000

out on the stress signals that your dog

00:59:00.000 --> 00:59:02.000

is showing, and you're forcing your dog

00:59:02.000 --> 00:59:04.000

to act on their own behalf, which all

00:59:04.000 --> 00:59:04.000

creates an unsafe environment for those

00:59:04.000 --> 00:59:07.000

they are visiting with.

00:59:07.000 --> 00:59:08.000

We all want the animals to have a

00:59:08.000 --> 00:59:08.000

great time and feel safe visiting with

00:59:08.000 --> 00:59:09.000

you.

00:59:09.000 --> 00:59:11.000

You're their handler.

00:59:11.000 --> 00:59:13.000

You're their advocate.

00:59:13.000 --> 00:59:13.000

The children in these situations have

00:59:13.000 --> 00:59:17.000

an advocate for them.

00:59:17.000 --> 00:59:18.000

So we feel everyone needs to have an

00:59:18.000 --> 00:59:21.000

advocate, including the animal.

00:59:21.000 --> 00:59:24.000

So after the body language class, then

00:59:24.000 --> 00:59:26.000

we have five weeks of training with the

00:59:26.000 --> 00:59:26.000

animals where they get to practice

00:59:26.000 --> 00:59:31.000

hands-on practice with their animals.

00:59:31.000 --> 00:59:33.000

We focus heavily on handling, body

00:59:33.000 --> 00:59:33.000

language and how to deal with animals

00:59:33.000 --> 00:59:36.000

in stressful situations.

00:59:36.000 --> 00:59:36.000

How to get your animals out of

00:59:36.000 --> 00:59:40.000

situations like that.

00:59:40.000 --> 00:59:42.000

How to mitigate the stress by creating

00:59:42.000 --> 00:59:43.000

distance, and just making it the best

00:59:43.000 --> 00:59:43.000

possible situation that it can be for

00:59:43.000 --> 00:59:50.000

everyone involved.

00:59:50.000 --> 00:59:52.000

After that, then we have a formal

00:59:52.000 --> 00:59:52.000

evaluation and we do our own

00:59:52.000 --> 00:59:56.000

certification process.

00:59:56.000 --> 01:00:00.000

And that is because we felt like we

01:00:00.000 --> 01:00:02.000

needed a little more than the national

01:00:02.000 --> 01:00:05.000

registration that were provided.

01:00:05.000 --> 01:00:06.000

We work closely with children who have

01:00:06.000 --> 01:00:09.000

experienced trauma.

01:00:09.000 --> 01:00:11.000

A lot of the training and testing that

01:00:11.000 --> 01:00:13.000

the national organizations provided

01:00:13.000 --> 01:00:13.000

wasn't really focused on hands-on with

01:00:13.000 --> 01:00:17.000

children.

01:00:17.000 --> 01:00:18.000

We needed to make sure that our dogs

01:00:18.000 --> 01:00:18.000

would be safe going into these

01:00:18.000 --> 01:00:20.000

situations.

01:00:20.000 --> 01:00:24.000

So we provide a little extra there.

01:00:24.000 --> 01:00:27.000

So during our evaluations and

01:00:27.000 --> 01:00:28.000

certifications process, we also make

01:00:28.000 --> 01:00:29.000

sure that there's a child present so

01:00:29.000 --> 01:00:30.000

that we can see how this animal is

01:00:30.000 --> 01:00:33.000

reacting.

01:00:33.000 --> 01:00:34.000

And how that handler is reacting as

01:00:34.000 --> 01:00:38.000

well during that situation.

01:00:38.000 --> 01:00:39.000

The team does get tested every two

01:00:39.000 --> 01:00:40.000

years to make sure that they're

01:00:40.000 --> 01:00:42.000

maintaining their skill set.

01:00:42.000 --> 01:00:42.000

We look at how's the handler handling

01:00:42.000 --> 01:00:45.000

this?

01:00:45.000 --> 01:00:45.000

Is the animal still enjoying the work

01:00:45.000 --> 01:00:48.000

as well?

01:00:48.000 --> 01:00:49.000

As animals and people age, they have

01:00:49.000 --> 01:00:51.000

different preferences.

01:00:51.000 --> 01:00:52.000

Maybe they no longer choose the same

01:00:52.000 --> 01:00:53.000

area of focus.

01:00:53.000 --> 01:00:57.000

Or maybe they're ready to retire.

01:00:57.000 --> 01:00:58.000

That's something that's very hard for

01:00:58.000 --> 01:01:02.000

us, as handlers, to deal with.

01:01:02.000 --> 01:01:04.000

But once you pass your certification,

01:01:04.000 --> 01:01:09.000

you have two years of insurance.

01:01:09.000 --> 01:01:13.000

Insurance is of the utmost POFRPBS.

01:01:13.000 --> 01:01:13.000

We are insured by $3 million when

01:01:13.000 --> 01:01:15.000

they're volunteering.

01:01:15.000 --> 01:01:20.000

That is part of our job.

01:01:20.000 --> 01:01:21.000

Those of White House are on staff have

01:01:21.000 --> 01:01:21.000

different insurance coverage because we

01:01:21.000 --> 01:01:25.000

are not volunteering.

01:01:25.000 --> 01:01:30.000

So during the course of these training

01:01:30.000 --> 01:01:30.000

classes, I'm also, as director,

01:01:30.000 --> 01:01:35.000

assessing our teams.

01:01:35.000 --> 01:01:35.000

I want to have them placed in the same

01:01:35.000 --> 01:01:39.000

area.

01:01:39.000 --> 01:01:41.000

If we have a handler and animal who

01:01:41.000 --> 01:01:47.000

are interested in court work but the

01:01:47.000 --> 01:01:48.000

dog is a little wiggley, unable to

01:01:48.000 --> 01:01:48.000

settle, I might direct them to

01:01:48.000 --> 01:01:51.000

dependency court.

01:01:51.000 --> 01:01:52.000

There we visit in a group room where

01:01:52.000 --> 01:01:53.000

it's more relaxed.

01:01:53.000 --> 01:01:54.000

The children are playing.

01:01:54.000 --> 01:01:56.000

There are more people involved.

01:01:56.000 --> 01:01:58.000

Usually there's a stress care giver.

01:01:58.000 --> 01:02:00.000

There's a nervous child.

01:02:00.000 --> 01:02:03.000

There's guardian ad litem.

01:02:03.000 --> 01:02:06.000

Lot of other players in that mix.

01:02:06.000 --> 01:02:09.000

The children are darting around

01:02:09.000 --> 01:02:09.000

looking at books, playing with toys and

01:02:09.000 --> 01:02:09.000

the dog can be more active in those

01:02:09.000 --> 01:02:13.000

situations.

01:02:13.000 --> 01:02:16.000

When we're working criminal court

01:02:16.000 --> 01:02:17.000

cases, the dog has to be superquiet,

01:02:17.000 --> 01:02:21.000

supercalm and bomb proof, basically.

01:02:21.000 --> 01:02:24.000

So we want to make sure that those

01:02:24.000 --> 01:02:24.000

dogs are not going to cause any issues

01:02:24.000 --> 01:02:28.000

for anyone.

01:02:28.000 --> 01:02:30.000

So what we have done is prior to going

01:02:30.000 --> 01:02:30.000

into the courtroom, we worked with all

01:02:30.000 --> 01:02:34.000

of the court personnel.

01:02:34.000 --> 01:02:38.000

We included everyone in the courtroom,

01:02:38.000 --> 01:02:39.000

down to baliffs, prosecutors, public

01:02:39.000 --> 01:02:39.000

defenders.

01:02:39.000 --> 01:02:40.000

Judge.

01:02:40.000 --> 01:02:45.000

We did mock trials.

01:02:45.000 --> 01:02:46.000

We wanted to make sure everything went

01:02:46.000 --> 01:02:46.000

smoothly for this when we set our

01:02:46.000 --> 01:02:50.000

protocols.

01:02:50.000 --> 01:02:53.000

In order to become a court team, they

01:02:53.000 --> 01:02:53.000

have to be an animal therapy team for a

01:02:53.000 --> 01:02:56.000

year or longer practicing.

01:02:56.000 --> 01:02:56.000

So they get some experience under

01:02:56.000 --> 01:03:00.000

their belt.

01:03:00.000 --> 01:03:00.000

I need to know what this team is like

01:03:00.000 --> 01:03:04.000

in different areas.

01:03:04.000 --> 01:03:04.000

How they'll handle themselves in

01:03:04.000 --> 01:03:05.000

stressful environment or if something

01:03:05.000 --> 01:03:08.000

goes awry.

01:03:08.000 --> 01:03:08.000

Once I feel they're appropriate, they

01:03:08.000 --> 01:03:11.000

get their background check.

01:03:11.000 --> 01:03:11.000

We have is a home study, an exam

01:03:11.000 --> 01:03:19.000

PubMed.

01:03:19.000 --> 01:03:20.000

They can do shadowing but for

01:03:20.000 --> 01:03:20.000

criminal court we can't do that because

01:03:20.000 --> 01:03:24.000

of the delicacy of the situation.

01:03:24.000 --> 01:03:26.000

They get to talk to a mentor about

01:03:26.000 --> 01:03:26.000

that at length before they can go in

01:03:26.000 --> 01:03:31.000

that environment.

01:03:31.000 --> 01:03:34.000

Once we're in that environment, what

01:03:34.000 --> 01:03:36.000

it looks like for me as a handler going

01:03:36.000 --> 01:03:37.000

in is, I usually get called by the

01:03:37.000 --> 01:03:38.000

victim advocate.

01:03:38.000 --> 01:03:39.000

They say we have this case.

01:03:39.000 --> 01:03:45.000

This is the age of the child.

01:03:45.000 --> 01:03:45.000

This is maybe their preference for

01:03:45.000 --> 01:03:47.000

size of dog, type of dog.

01:03:47.000 --> 01:03:47.000

Do you have anything that matches

01:03:47.000 --> 01:03:49.000

that?

01:03:49.000 --> 01:03:53.000

I look through my database.

01:03:53.000 --> 01:03:54.000

I have a very small subset of teams

01:03:54.000 --> 01:03:56.000

that I will allow to go into the

01:03:56.000 --> 01:03:56.000

courtroom because they have to be

01:03:56.000 --> 01:03:59.000

pretty much perfect.

01:03:59.000 --> 01:03:59.000

We don't want any issues to arise

01:03:59.000 --> 01:04:03.000

during trial.

01:04:03.000 --> 01:04:03.000

Once I choose a team, then I connect

01:04:03.000 --> 01:04:06.000

them with the victim advocate.

01:04:06.000 --> 01:04:06.000

They'll go in and meet the child

01:04:06.000 --> 01:04:08.000

before anything happens.

01:04:08.000 --> 01:04:10.000

Just like an initial meeting.

01:04:10.000 --> 01:04:11.000

Hey, is this gonna work out?

01:04:11.000 --> 01:04:13.000

Do they bond?

01:04:13.000 --> 01:04:20.000

Sometimes it works out well.

01:04:20.000 --> 01:04:20.000

Sometimes the child will completely

01:04:20.000 --> 01:04:26.000

ignore the animal.

01:04:26.000 --> 01:04:28.000

Sometimes the parent is extremely

01:04:28.000 --> 01:04:28.000

stressed and benefits more from having

01:04:28.000 --> 01:04:30.000

the dog there.

01:04:30.000 --> 01:04:32.000

Which in turn calms the child.

01:04:32.000 --> 01:04:36.000

Lot of different scenarios happen.

01:04:36.000 --> 01:04:40.000

We don't know how it will turn out.

01:04:40.000 --> 01:04:40.000

We'll sit in a deposition and pretrial

01:04:40.000 --> 01:04:43.000

meetings.

01:04:43.000 --> 01:04:43.000

Anywhere the child is okay with us

01:04:43.000 --> 01:04:50.000

going.

01:04:50.000 --> 01:04:50.000

I haven't worked many trials with

01:04:50.000 --> 01:04:50.000

smaller children but I have done work

01:04:50.000 --> 01:04:54.000

with teens.

01:04:54.000 --> 01:04:57.000

When we go in to LISTEN TO the

01:04:57.000 --> 01:04:59.000

interview or listen to a 911 call, they

01:04:59.000 --> 01:05:00.000

generally won't want me in there with

01:05:00.000 --> 01:05:04.000

my dog as an extraneous handler.

01:05:04.000 --> 01:05:05.000

Even though they've built rapport with

01:05:05.000 --> 01:05:05.000

me, it's just uncomfortable with them.

01:05:05.000 --> 01:05:07.000

01:05:07.000 --> 01:05:07.000

They'll go listen to the tape and come

01:05:07.000 --> 01:05:09.000

back out.

01:05:09.000 --> 01:05:11.000

They'll decompress with my dog.

01:05:11.000 --> 01:05:14.000

That's been really rewarding for me.

01:05:14.000 --> 01:05:16.000

It's been eye opening, I think.

01:05:16.000 --> 01:05:16.000

I didn't realize how much it helps

01:05:16.000 --> 01:05:21.000

people.

01:05:21.000 --> 01:05:22.000

Sometimes you're sitting there and the

01:05:22.000 --> 01:05:22.000

victim won't even interact with your

01:05:22.000 --> 01:05:25.000

animal.

01:05:25.000 --> 01:05:28.000

So you feel like, okay, I'm just

01:05:28.000 --> 01:05:29.000

hanging out here and this is kind of a

01:05:29.000 --> 01:05:30.000

waste of time for everyone and you're

01:05:30.000 --> 01:05:33.000

making the victim uncomfortable.

01:05:33.000 --> 01:05:36.000

But I have received calls later from

01:05:36.000 --> 01:05:37.000

the victim who got my work number and

01:05:37.000 --> 01:05:37.000

said thank you very much for taking the

01:05:37.000 --> 01:05:40.000

time to be there.

01:05:40.000 --> 01:05:40.000

That meant so much to me and helped me

01:05:40.000 --> 01:05:43.000

so much.

01:05:43.000 --> 01:05:43.000

It gave me the strength to go in and

01:05:43.000 --> 01:05:48.000

tell my story again.

01:05:48.000 --> 01:05:50.000

That's why we do what we do.

01:05:50.000 --> 01:05:54.000

I'll end with just two stories.

01:05:54.000 --> 01:05:56.000

I'm going to tell you one story about

01:05:56.000 --> 01:05:58.000

a court case that I personally didn't

01:05:58.000 --> 01:05:58.000

work, but the person shared the

01:05:58.000 --> 01:06:01.000

information with me at length.

01:06:01.000 --> 01:06:03.000

I have heard the story multiple times

01:06:03.000 --> 01:06:03.000

so I feel like I can tell it in a

01:06:03.000 --> 01:06:08.000

meaningful way.

01:06:08.000 --> 01:06:08.000

All of one where I worked at a child

01:06:08.000 --> 01:06:10.000

advocacy center with a child.

01:06:10.000 --> 01:06:14.000

I'll start with the advocacy center.

01:06:14.000 --> 01:06:14.000

We had just gotten started at the

01:06:14.000 --> 01:06:16.000

child advocacy center.

01:06:16.000 --> 01:06:18.000

I was working with this young boy.

01:06:18.000 --> 01:06:18.000

He was the first one to receive the

01:06:18.000 --> 01:06:21.000

service there.

01:06:21.000 --> 01:06:21.000

He came in weekly for therapy

01:06:21.000 --> 01:06:23.000

sessions.

01:06:23.000 --> 01:06:23.000

They had gotten nowhere with this

01:06:23.000 --> 01:06:24.000

child.

01:06:24.000 --> 01:06:28.000

He was 6 years old.

01:06:28.000 --> 01:06:30.000

He was found wandering the streets

01:06:30.000 --> 01:06:30.000

because his caregiver was unable to

01:06:30.000 --> 01:06:31.000

care for him.

01:06:31.000 --> 01:06:35.000

He was finding his own food.

01:06:35.000 --> 01:06:35.000

They relocated him to Tallahassee to a

01:06:35.000 --> 01:06:36.000

group home.

01:06:36.000 --> 01:06:41.000

So he was going to school now.

01:06:41.000 --> 01:06:42.000

Well, at school he had stabbed a

01:06:42.000 --> 01:06:42.000

couple children in the neck with

01:06:42.000 --> 01:06:46.000

pencils.

01:06:46.000 --> 01:06:49.000

When they would make fun of him or he

01:06:49.000 --> 01:06:50.000

would get frustrated, he would use the

01:06:50.000 --> 01:06:50.000

rest room and then smear it on the

01:06:50.000 --> 01:06:54.000

wall.

01:06:54.000 --> 01:06:54.000

He didn't have very good coping

01:06:54.000 --> 01:06:56.000

skills.

01:06:56.000 --> 01:07:00.000

He wasn't very much of a talker.

01:07:00.000 --> 01:07:00.000

But we started bringing my dog in and

01:07:00.000 --> 01:07:03.000

we would engage in art projects.

01:07:03.000 --> 01:07:03.000

The counselor would attempt to get him

01:07:03.000 --> 01:07:06.000

to talk.

01:07:06.000 --> 01:07:06.000

He just wanted to know about my dog's

01:07:06.000 --> 01:07:09.000

story.

01:07:09.000 --> 01:07:09.000

My dog had a similar story of

01:07:09.000 --> 01:07:10.000

abandonment.

01:07:10.000 --> 01:07:12.000

So we shared that story.

01:07:12.000 --> 01:07:14.000

He would ask me questions about her.

01:07:14.000 --> 01:07:18.000

How she felt.

01:07:18.000 --> 01:07:18.000

I couldn't answer those questions, but

01:07:18.000 --> 01:07:19.000

I told him how I imagined she might

01:07:19.000 --> 01:07:21.000

feel.

01:07:21.000 --> 01:07:22.000

We asked him, how do you think she

01:07:22.000 --> 01:07:24.000

would feel?

01:07:24.000 --> 01:07:25.000

He got to talk a little bit about his

01:07:25.000 --> 01:07:27.000

feelings there.

01:07:27.000 --> 01:07:27.000

We were with him for eight months

01:07:27.000 --> 01:07:30.000

weekly.

01:07:30.000 --> 01:07:30.000

We weren't really making much

01:07:30.000 --> 01:07:32.000

progress.

01:07:32.000 --> 01:07:32.000

Until one day we went into the art

01:07:32.000 --> 01:07:38.000

room.

01:07:38.000 --> 01:07:39.000

He wanted me to do a painting of my

01:07:39.000 --> 01:07:39.000

dog and he was going to paint on the

01:07:39.000 --> 01:07:40.000

other side of the paper.

01:07:40.000 --> 01:07:44.000

He was painting on the paper.

01:07:44.000 --> 01:07:44.000

Then he decided he was ready to talk a

01:07:44.000 --> 01:07:48.000

little bit about what happened.

01:07:48.000 --> 01:07:49.000

But he didn't want my dog to have to

01:07:49.000 --> 01:07:50.000

listen to his story because he thought

01:07:50.000 --> 01:07:54.000

it would upset her.

01:07:54.000 --> 01:07:54.000

So he asked me to close her ear flaps

01:07:54.000 --> 01:07:59.000

so he could tell the story.

01:07:59.000 --> 01:08:01.000

Then he disclosed how his mother

01:08:01.000 --> 01:08:02.000

wanted him back and she was coming to

01:08:02.000 --> 01:08:03.000

get him, but she never would come.

01:08:03.000 --> 01:08:06.000

How upset he was.

01:08:06.000 --> 01:08:07.000

How he was afraid to misbehave because

01:08:07.000 --> 01:08:09.000

he didn't want to go to kid jail.

01:08:09.000 --> 01:08:13.000

That was one disclosure.

01:08:13.000 --> 01:08:13.000

The very next week we were in the same

01:08:13.000 --> 01:08:16.000

art room again.

01:08:16.000 --> 01:08:16.000

This time he wanted to go under the

01:08:16.000 --> 01:08:20.000

table with my dog.

01:08:20.000 --> 01:08:21.000

We had the paper across the table so

01:08:21.000 --> 01:08:26.000

it was kind of like a fort for him.

01:08:26.000 --> 01:08:26.000

He was talking to her about how he

01:08:26.000 --> 01:08:29.000

felt and what had happened.

01:08:29.000 --> 01:08:29.000

So the counselor was superthrilled

01:08:29.000 --> 01:08:35.000

with it.

01:08:35.000 --> 01:08:35.000

I was supertouched that my dog could

01:08:35.000 --> 01:08:38.000

make such a difference.

01:08:38.000 --> 01:08:41.000

Our very last time together before he

01:08:41.000 --> 01:08:43.000

went to live with other family members,

01:08:43.000 --> 01:08:45.000

this child, who was in a group home

01:08:45.000 --> 01:08:48.000

with no money, spent a few quarters

01:08:48.000 --> 01:08:49.000

that he had to buy a little bible at

01:08:49.000 --> 01:08:49.000

the book fair at school to give to my

01:08:49.000 --> 01:08:54.000

dog.

01:08:54.000 --> 01:08:54.000

I get choked up every time I tell that

01:08:54.000 --> 01:08:57.000

story.

01:08:57.000 --> 01:09:01.000

But that's why I do what I do.

01:09:01.000 --> 01:09:03.000

The other story I won't get choked up

01:09:03.000 --> 01:09:03.000

about because it wasn't actually me

01:09:03.000 --> 01:09:06.000

participating.

01:09:06.000 --> 01:09:06.000

But the other story was a court story.

01:09:06.000 --> 01:09:10.000

01:09:10.000 --> 01:09:11.000

So this was a child sexually abused by

01:09:11.000 --> 01:09:14.000

her father while her mother was away.

01:09:14.000 --> 01:09:15.000

Her mother was in the Army and

01:09:15.000 --> 01:09:18.000

multiple times she had to leave.

01:09:18.000 --> 01:09:18.000

Every time she would leave, the child

01:09:18.000 --> 01:09:20.000

was abused.

01:09:20.000 --> 01:09:20.000

Once this was disclosed, they went to

01:09:20.000 --> 01:09:23.000

court.

01:09:23.000 --> 01:09:23.000

So this child had to come to the

01:09:23.000 --> 01:09:27.000

courthouse.

01:09:27.000 --> 01:09:27.000

She was terrified that the mother was

01:09:27.000 --> 01:09:31.000

terribly upset.

01:09:31.000 --> 01:09:31.000

Our handler went in to meet them for

01:09:31.000 --> 01:09:36.000

the very first time.

01:09:36.000 --> 01:09:39.000

The child just fell in love with the

01:09:39.000 --> 01:09:42.000

dog.

01:09:42.000 --> 01:09:42.000

The mother looked disstressed,

01:09:42.000 --> 01:09:45.000

stressed and anxious.

01:09:45.000 --> 01:09:47.000

So our handler made note of that.

01:09:47.000 --> 01:09:51.000

Kept the dog engaged with the child.

01:09:51.000 --> 01:09:52.000

Just hoping that maybe having the

01:09:52.000 --> 01:09:52.000

child calm would calm the mother as

01:09:52.000 --> 01:09:59.000

well.

01:09:59.000 --> 01:09:59.000

We found out later the mother was

01:09:59.000 --> 01:10:01.000

terrified of dogs.

01:10:01.000 --> 01:10:01.000

That's why she was anxious and

01:10:01.000 --> 01:10:02.000

stressed.

01:10:02.000 --> 01:10:06.000

The meetings continued.

01:10:06.000 --> 01:10:06.000

We went into the courtroom with this

01:10:06.000 --> 01:10:11.000

child.

01:10:11.000 --> 01:10:12.000

The way our process works, when we

01:10:12.000 --> 01:10:13.000

walk into the court room, the jury is

01:10:13.000 --> 01:10:20.000

already recessed.

01:10:20.000 --> 01:10:20.000

So we give one leash to the child one

01:10:20.000 --> 01:10:24.000

leash to the handler.

01:10:24.000 --> 01:10:24.000

The dog is empowered as they're

01:10:24.000 --> 01:10:27.000

walking this dog into the courtroom.

01:10:27.000 --> 01:10:28.000

The child sits in the witness box.

01:10:28.000 --> 01:10:31.000

They walk back.

01:10:31.000 --> 01:10:39.000

The team walks back.

01:10:39.000 --> 01:10:39.000

We're not wearing any identifiable

01:10:39.000 --> 01:10:42.000

clothing.

01:10:42.000 --> 01:10:42.000

The dogs have to stay out of sight

01:10:42.000 --> 01:10:50.000

under the seat from the jury.

01:10:50.000 --> 01:10:50.000

This is after the mother testified and

01:10:50.000 --> 01:10:51.000

come out crying.

01:10:51.000 --> 01:10:53.000

The child is extra stressed.

01:10:53.000 --> 01:10:54.000

She knows the team is there.

01:10:54.000 --> 01:10:59.000

She sees them.

01:10:59.000 --> 01:10:59.000

After she testifies, then they recess

01:10:59.000 --> 01:11:00.000

the jury again.

01:11:00.000 --> 01:11:03.000

The child WAOUBGS out.

01:11:03.000 --> 01:11:07.000

The team walks out.

01:11:07.000 --> 01:11:08.000

The child immediately falls on this

01:11:08.000 --> 01:11:13.000

child and starts weeping.

01:11:13.000 --> 01:11:14.000

She is there with that dog for 30 or

01:11:14.000 --> 01:11:15.000

40 minutes decompressing from this

01:11:15.000 --> 01:11:17.000

situation.

01:11:17.000 --> 01:11:19.000

Finally they have to break that up.

01:11:19.000 --> 01:11:23.000

They're ready to go.

01:11:23.000 --> 01:11:24.000

The mother says to our handler, she

01:11:24.000 --> 01:11:24.000

says, now we're definitely getting dog.

01:11:24.000 --> 01:11:29.000

01:11:29.000 --> 01:11:31.000

So she's scared of dogs, but she's

01:11:31.000 --> 01:11:32.000

getting dog because she sees the

01:11:32.000 --> 01:11:32.000

benefit that the dog did for her child.

01:11:32.000 --> 01:11:37.000

01:11:37.000 --> 01:11:38.000

Speaking of the leashes, oftentimes

01:11:38.000 --> 01:11:38.000

we'll do things to empower these

01:11:38.000 --> 01:11:42.000

children.

01:11:42.000 --> 01:11:45.000

With that particular child coming into

01:11:45.000 --> 01:11:47.000

the courthouse, instead of seeing the

01:11:47.000 --> 01:11:49.000

courthouse as a scary place, she saw it

01:11:49.000 --> 01:11:52.000

as a very fun place because she got to

01:11:52.000 --> 01:11:54.000

bring little treats to the dog every

01:11:54.000 --> 01:11:54.000

time she would come for the meeting or

01:11:54.000 --> 01:11:56.000

pretrial hearing or deposition.

01:11:56.000 --> 01:11:57.000

It was just a wonderful place for her.

01:11:57.000 --> 01:12:00.000

01:12:00.000 --> 01:12:01.000

She said I goat see this dog again,

01:12:01.000 --> 01:12:01.000

this is fantastic, bring some cookies.

01:12:01.000 --> 01:12:05.000

01:12:05.000 --> 01:12:05.000

This dog liked baby carrots, so she

01:12:05.000 --> 01:12:08.000

would have a bag of those.

01:12:08.000 --> 01:12:08.000

She would share those with the dog the

01:12:08.000 --> 01:12:12.000

entire time she was there.

01:12:12.000 --> 01:12:14.000

In my counseling session, the very end

01:12:14.000 --> 01:12:17.000

of every session with that child ended

01:12:17.000 --> 01:12:19.000

with a walk around the building where

01:12:19.000 --> 01:12:21.000

she had one leash and I had the other

01:12:21.000 --> 01:12:21.000

leash and he and my dog would take a

01:12:21.000 --> 01:12:27.000

dog around the building.

01:12:27.000 --> 01:12:29.000

Then he would tell them, let's go,

01:12:29.000 --> 01:12:29.000

girls, in his little country voice,

01:12:29.000 --> 01:12:31.000

which was supersweet.

01:12:31.000 --> 01:12:37.000

He would say, see ya next week.

01:12:37.000 --> 01:12:40.000

Such a wonderful feeling that such a

01:12:40.000 --> 01:12:42.000

simple thing, really, can make such a

01:12:42.000 --> 01:12:44.000

huge difference in these child's lives

01:12:44.000 --> 01:12:47.000

and lead them down a path of healing

01:12:47.000 --> 01:12:47.000

and provide a lot of closure for that

01:12:47.000 --> 01:12:50.000

interaction.

01:12:50.000 --> 01:12:56.000

The whole court situation.

01:12:56.000 --> 01:12:56.000

It ends with closure and happinessness

01:12:56.000 --> 01:12:58.000

rather than stress and anxiety.

01:12:58.000 --> 01:12:58.000

So I think that's about all of my

01:12:58.000 --> 01:13:00.000

time.

01:13:00.000 --> 01:13:02.000

I want to thank you all.

01:13:02.000 --> 01:13:06.000

I will go back and share with Wendy.

01:13:06.000 --> 01:13:07.000

01:13:07.000 --> 01:13:09.000

>> Thank you so much, Stephanie.

01:13:09.000 --> 01:13:15.000

Thank you so much, Allie.

01:13:15.000 --> 01:13:18.000

On behalf of my team and our federal

01:13:18.000 --> 01:13:24.000

partners, I want to just thank you both

01:13:24.000 --> 01:13:25.000

for such an extraordinary presentation,

01:13:25.000 --> 01:13:25.000

such thoughtful content, and such

01:13:25.000 --> 01:13:29.000

wonderful stories.

01:13:29.000 --> 01:13:31.000

When you were getting emotional,

01:13:31.000 --> 01:13:32.000

Stephanie, saying that story, I was

01:13:32.000 --> 01:13:36.000

getting emotional as well, too.

01:13:36.000 --> 01:13:40.000

I think it's just so important for us

01:13:40.000 --> 01:13:44.000

in the audience to hear the connection

01:13:44.000 --> 01:13:46.000

and the impact that these animals have

01:13:46.000 --> 01:13:47.000

in the lives of children and people

01:13:47.000 --> 01:13:50.000

that have experienced trauma.

01:13:50.000 --> 01:13:50.000

So thank you for today's presentation,

01:13:50.000 --> 01:13:54.000

Allie.

01:13:54.000 --> 01:13:54.000

Thank you for all your hard work and

01:13:54.000 --> 01:13:59.000

dedication throughout the series.

01:13:59.000 --> 01:13:59.000

We don't have actually any questions.

01:13:59.000 --> 01:14:04.000

01:14:04.000 --> 01:14:06.000

There was a question that came in --

01:14:06.000 --> 01:14:06.000

it looks like, actually, one just came

01:14:06.000 --> 01:14:10.000

in.

01:14:10.000 --> 01:14:12.000

Allie, you already answered one

01:14:12.000 --> 01:14:15.000

question, but I thought I would read it

01:14:15.000 --> 01:14:15.000

out loud and then you can just respond

01:14:15.000 --> 01:14:21.000

for the audience.

01:14:21.000 --> 01:14:22.000

The question is is there a

01:14:22.000 --> 01:14:22.000

certification for emotional support

01:14:22.000 --> 01:14:26.000

animals?

01:14:26.000 --> 01:14:32.000

I understand the difference between

01:14:32.000 --> 01:14:34.000

service animals and emotionalal support

01:14:34.000 --> 01:14:36.000

animals but I'm unseer what the

01:14:36.000 --> 01:14:36.000

declaration is for an animal to be

01:14:36.000 --> 01:14:37.000

considered an emotional support animal.

01:14:37.000 --> 01:14:41.000

01:14:41.000 --> 01:14:43.000

I have a small dog that I'm training

01:14:43.000 --> 01:14:46.000

to be our canine advocate.

01:14:46.000 --> 01:14:46.000

Allie, would you like to go over your

01:14:46.000 --> 01:14:47.000

response, please?

01:14:47.000 --> 01:14:50.000

>> Yes.

01:14:50.000 --> 01:14:50.000

Stephanie, feel free to CHIME in with

01:14:50.000 --> 01:14:53.000

this as well.

01:14:53.000 --> 01:14:53.000

An emotional support animal is not a

01:14:53.000 --> 01:14:56.000

therapy animal.

01:14:56.000 --> 01:14:58.000

Therapy animals go through the

01:14:58.000 --> 01:14:58.000

evaluation process with their handler

01:14:58.000 --> 01:15:05.000

to work with other people.

01:15:05.000 --> 01:15:05.000

An emotional support animal is kind of

01:15:05.000 --> 01:15:07.000

like a service animal.

01:15:07.000 --> 01:15:11.000

They are working with their owner.

01:15:11.000 --> 01:15:11.000

There the animals are working with

01:15:11.000 --> 01:15:16.000

other people.

01:15:16.000 --> 01:15:18.000

An emotional support animal can

01:15:18.000 --> 01:15:20.000

absolutely go through the evaluation

01:15:20.000 --> 01:15:20.000

process to become a therapy animal, to

01:15:20.000 --> 01:15:24.000

work with other people.

01:15:24.000 --> 01:15:26.000

Even service animals, when they are

01:15:26.000 --> 01:15:26.000

done with their service, they can go

01:15:26.000 --> 01:15:31.000

through the process.

01:15:31.000 --> 01:15:34.000

They got to learn all new skills and

01:15:34.000 --> 01:15:36.000

really be evaluated, but a service

01:15:36.000 --> 01:15:38.000

animal could then switch with the

01:15:38.000 --> 01:15:38.000

proper evaluation and credentialing and

01:15:38.000 --> 01:15:44.000

become a therapy animal.

01:15:44.000 --> 01:15:47.000

An emotional support animal, on its

01:15:47.000 --> 01:15:47.000

own, does not have the right

01:15:47.000 --> 01:15:47.000

credentials to work with other people.

01:15:47.000 --> 01:15:50.000

01:15:50.000 --> 01:15:58.000

They are for their owner.

01:15:58.000 --> 01:15:59.000

That's a great question and I'm so

01:15:59.000 --> 01:16:01.000

glad you asked that.

01:16:01.000 --> 01:16:04.000

01:16:04.000 --> 01:16:06.000

>> Two of my dogs are career change

01:16:06.000 --> 01:16:06.000

service dogs from service dogs for the

01:16:06.000 --> 01:16:09.000

blind.

01:16:09.000 --> 01:16:11.000

They did have to learn now skills and

01:16:11.000 --> 01:16:11.000

go through our certification process in

01:16:11.000 --> 01:16:14.000

order to do this work, absolutedly.

01:16:14.000 --> 01:16:15.000

>> Thank you.

01:16:15.000 --> 01:16:16.000

So interesting.

01:16:16.000 --> 01:16:19.000

Thank you for your responses.

01:16:19.000 --> 01:16:21.000

There's another question that just

01:16:21.000 --> 01:16:24.000

came in and it says, have you conducted

01:16:24.000 --> 01:16:27.000

any follow-up evaluation with victims

01:16:27.000 --> 01:16:28.000

six months or longer after the court

01:16:28.000 --> 01:16:34.000

proceeding or therapy session?

01:16:34.000 --> 01:16:34.000

01:16:34.000 --> 01:16:37.000

>> We actually have.

01:16:37.000 --> 01:16:40.000

Our policy is that the end of the

01:16:40.000 --> 01:16:40.000

court proceedings end the relationship

01:16:40.000 --> 01:16:44.000

so they can have a clean start.

01:16:44.000 --> 01:16:46.000

However, there have been multiple

01:16:46.000 --> 01:16:47.000

cases where the victim wants to

01:16:47.000 --> 01:16:48.000

continue that relationship with the dog

01:16:48.000 --> 01:16:52.000

or the handler.

01:16:52.000 --> 01:16:53.000

So we have one that's written about in

01:16:53.000 --> 01:16:57.000

the encounters with Ricky.

01:16:57.000 --> 01:17:01.000

It's just a fantastic book.

01:17:01.000 --> 01:17:02.000

I didn't even made it through on my

01:17:02.000 --> 01:17:02.000

slide but it's at the very end of the

01:17:02.000 --> 01:17:04.000

slides.

01:17:04.000 --> 01:17:08.000

I'll share that with you as well.

01:17:08.000 --> 01:17:08.000

The person who is depicted in that

01:17:08.000 --> 01:17:11.000

book, her name is zoey.

01:17:11.000 --> 01:17:11.000

She's given permission to use her name

01:17:11.000 --> 01:17:14.000

and story.

01:17:14.000 --> 01:17:14.000

We've followed her through high school

01:17:14.000 --> 01:17:15.000

graduation.

01:17:15.000 --> 01:17:17.000

She was 5 at the time of the crime.

01:17:17.000 --> 01:17:22.000

She is doing fantastically well.

01:17:22.000 --> 01:17:24.000

She maintains a relationship with that

01:17:24.000 --> 01:17:24.000

handler even though the dog she worked

01:17:24.000 --> 01:17:26.000

with has passed.

01:17:26.000 --> 01:17:26.000

01:17:26.000 --> 01:17:29.000

>> Thank you, Stephanie.

01:17:29.000 --> 01:17:31.000

Allie, did you want to add anything?

01:17:31.000 --> 01:17:34.000

01:17:34.000 --> 01:17:35.000

>> I mean, because I don't work at a

01:17:35.000 --> 01:17:39.000

facility, I don't do evaluations.

01:17:39.000 --> 01:17:44.000

I know other facilities do that.

01:17:44.000 --> 01:17:45.000

But everything that I have heard, it's

01:17:45.000 --> 01:17:45.000

amazing what the outcomes are for these

01:17:45.000 --> 01:17:49.000

children.

01:17:49.000 --> 01:17:50.000

They are so much more positive because

01:17:50.000 --> 01:17:50.000

of what these therapy animals have

01:17:50.000 --> 01:17:50.000

offered them.

01:17:50.000 --> 01:17:51.000

>> Sure.

01:17:51.000 --> 01:17:55.000

Thank you.

01:17:55.000 --> 01:17:58.000

There's one other question that says,

01:17:58.000 --> 01:17:59.000

why do some jurisdictions require

01:17:59.000 --> 01:18:02.000

certified facility dogs for court?

01:18:02.000 --> 01:18:06.000

01:18:06.000 --> 01:18:06.000

>> Facility dogs are not therapy

01:18:06.000 --> 01:18:08.000

animals.

01:18:08.000 --> 01:18:08.000

They go through a different process, a

01:18:08.000 --> 01:18:09.000

different credentialing.

01:18:09.000 --> 01:18:12.000

They work differently.

01:18:12.000 --> 01:18:14.000

They often work without a handler.

01:18:14.000 --> 01:18:16.000

Sometimes they are off leash.

01:18:16.000 --> 01:18:19.000

They are by themselves.

01:18:19.000 --> 01:18:23.000

So that's a whole separate program.

01:18:23.000 --> 01:18:25.000

What Stephanie and I work in is

01:18:25.000 --> 01:18:26.000

therapy animals, where the handler is

01:18:26.000 --> 01:18:26.000

there for the safety of the program.

01:18:26.000 --> 01:18:30.000

Yeah.

01:18:30.000 --> 01:18:30.000

You'd have to look at those programs.

01:18:30.000 --> 01:18:34.000

01:18:34.000 --> 01:18:34.000

They have their own set of rules that

01:18:34.000 --> 01:18:37.000

are different from what we work with.

01:18:37.000 --> 01:18:37.000

01:18:37.000 --> 01:18:41.000

>> Thank you, Allie.

01:18:41.000 --> 01:18:43.000

I think we have time for one more

01:18:43.000 --> 01:18:45.000

question and then I want to give

01:18:45.000 --> 01:18:48.000

Stephanie the opportunity, you said you

01:18:48.000 --> 01:18:48.000

had a couple more slides you wanted to

01:18:48.000 --> 01:18:49.000

show.

01:18:49.000 --> 01:18:52.000

I'm sorry.

01:18:52.000 --> 01:18:52.000

I thought when you were winding down

01:18:52.000 --> 01:18:54.000

that you were wrapping up.

01:18:54.000 --> 01:19:01.000

I'm sorry if that wasn't the case.

01:19:01.000 --> 01:19:03.000

The question is if you wanted to look

01:19:03.000 --> 01:19:05.000

into getting your animal to be a

01:19:05.000 --> 01:19:05.000

therapy animal, what do you recommend

01:19:05.000 --> 01:19:07.000

as the first step?

01:19:07.000 --> 01:19:07.000

I guess that would be to either one of

01:19:07.000 --> 01:19:10.000

you.

01:19:10.000 --> 01:19:10.000

01:19:10.000 --> 01:19:13.000

>> I'll let Stephanie take that one.

01:19:13.000 --> 01:19:15.000

01:19:15.000 --> 01:19:15.000

>> I would look for a group in your

01:19:15.000 --> 01:19:19.000

area first.

01:19:19.000 --> 01:19:23.000

I don't think people are really good

01:19:23.000 --> 01:19:23.000

judges at assessing their own animals

01:19:23.000 --> 01:19:26.000

generally, not even me.

01:19:26.000 --> 01:19:27.000

You have to have someone with fresh

01:19:27.000 --> 01:19:31.000

eyes to assess your animal.

01:19:31.000 --> 01:19:31.000

Look for a local group of service

01:19:31.000 --> 01:19:35.000

animal EVALUATORs.

01:19:35.000 --> 01:19:37.000

You want an animal that's calm in most

01:19:37.000 --> 01:19:39.000

situations, okay being touched all

01:19:39.000 --> 01:19:41.000

over, okay being hugged and generally

01:19:41.000 --> 01:19:41.000

is enjoying new environments and new

01:19:41.000 --> 01:19:43.000

people all the time.

01:19:43.000 --> 01:19:45.000

>> That's great.

01:19:45.000 --> 01:19:46.000

Great perspective.

01:19:46.000 --> 01:19:47.000

Great response.

01:19:47.000 --> 01:19:53.000

Thank you, Stephanie.

01:19:53.000 --> 01:19:53.000

I think I'm going to just give you the

01:19:53.000 --> 01:19:53.000

opportunity to share your screen again.

01:19:53.000 --> 01:19:59.000

01:19:59.000 --> 01:20:00.000

I think folks, and I did see a

01:20:00.000 --> 01:20:01.000

question on encounters with Ricky.

01:20:01.000 --> 01:20:03.000

>> Perfect.

01:20:03.000 --> 01:20:03.000

>> You can go out.

01:20:03.000 --> 01:20:07.000

Yeah.

01:20:07.000 --> 01:20:16.000

Just take a couple minutes and just

01:20:16.000 --> 01:20:18.000

wrap it up, that would be great.

01:20:18.000 --> 01:20:18.000

>> The law here in Florida we were the

01:20:18.000 --> 01:20:21.000

first to pass this legislation.

01:20:21.000 --> 01:20:21.000

That was one of our volunteers who

01:20:21.000 --> 01:20:24.000

wrote this legislation.

01:20:24.000 --> 01:20:24.000

It really got us started here on the

01:20:24.000 --> 01:20:29.000

legislative path.

01:20:29.000 --> 01:20:30.000

So there 2011 we were the first state

01:20:30.000 --> 01:20:33.000

to pass the legislation allowing the

01:20:33.000 --> 01:20:35.000

use of therapy animals in the

01:20:35.000 --> 01:20:35.000

courtrooms under certain circumstances

01:20:35.000 --> 01:20:41.000

for sexual offense cases.

01:20:41.000 --> 01:20:42.000

2014 we amended that a little bit and

01:20:42.000 --> 01:20:42.000

that was really to fix the age problem

01:20:42.000 --> 01:20:45.000

that we had.

01:20:45.000 --> 01:20:46.000

So the original law said that the

01:20:46.000 --> 01:20:49.000

victim had to be 16.

01:20:49.000 --> 01:20:50.000

Under 16 in order for the animal to

01:20:50.000 --> 01:20:55.000

help them.

01:20:55.000 --> 01:20:57.000

Well, if they were victimized at 11

01:20:57.000 --> 01:20:59.000

and didn't make to it court for six

01:20:59.000 --> 01:20:59.000

years, now they're 17 and they can no

01:20:59.000 --> 01:21:00.000

longer have an animal in the courtroom

01:21:00.000 --> 01:21:01.000

with them.

01:21:01.000 --> 01:21:03.000

So we wanted to fix that.

01:21:03.000 --> 01:21:03.000

So we added at the time of the crime.

01:21:03.000 --> 01:21:09.000

01:21:09.000 --> 01:21:10.000

So then 2017, we expanded the law even

01:21:10.000 --> 01:21:15.000

more to allow facility dogs as well.

01:21:15.000 --> 01:21:18.000

We also included verbiage on family

01:21:18.000 --> 01:21:20.000

court and dependency court issues and

01:21:20.000 --> 01:21:20.000

some definitions for therapy dogs and

01:21:20.000 --> 01:21:22.000

service dogs.

01:21:22.000 --> 01:21:22.000

Those were the main differences there.

01:21:22.000 --> 01:21:29.000

01:21:29.000 --> 01:21:29.000

So here's where you can find some more

01:21:29.000 --> 01:21:33.000

info.

01:21:33.000 --> 01:21:33.000

We have a nice website Florida

01:21:33.000 --> 01:21:36.000

courthouse dogs.com.

01:21:36.000 --> 01:21:38.000

That has information on encounters

01:21:38.000 --> 01:21:38.000

with rikki, which you can purchase on

01:21:38.000 --> 01:21:42.000

Amazon, I believe.

01:21:42.000 --> 01:21:47.000

Also there's a great video and some

01:21:47.000 --> 01:21:47.000

other resources that Allie helped us

01:21:47.000 --> 01:21:51.000

put together.

01:21:51.000 --> 01:21:52.000

We have facebook and instagram for

01:21:52.000 --> 01:21:54.000

animal therapy here in Tallahassee if

01:21:54.000 --> 01:21:56.000

you are interested in starting a group

01:21:56.000 --> 01:21:57.000

of your own or know someone who has a

01:21:57.000 --> 01:21:57.000

group who would like more information

01:21:57.000 --> 01:21:59.000

on starting a court program.

01:21:59.000 --> 01:22:01.000

And that is it.

01:22:01.000 --> 01:22:03.000

Thank you.

01:22:03.000 --> 01:22:03.000

01:22:03.000 --> 01:22:05.000

>> Thank you, Stephanie.

01:22:05.000 --> 01:22:06.000

Thank you, Allie, again.

01:22:06.000 --> 01:22:08.000

Thank you.

01:22:08.000 --> 01:22:13.000

This was wonderful.

01:22:13.000 --> 01:22:17.000

For our audience, we'd like you to

01:22:17.000 --> 01:22:17.000

take a moment or two to fill out the

01:22:17.000 --> 01:22:18.000

survey monkey.

01:22:18.000 --> 01:22:23.000

We have put it in the chat.

01:22:23.000 --> 01:22:23.000

Just to make sure you get an

01:22:23.000 --> 01:22:26.000

opportunity to complete it.

01:22:26.000 --> 01:22:30.000

We want to remind folks that you will

01:22:30.000 --> 01:22:32.000

be getting the power points and PDF, as

01:22:32.000 --> 01:22:32.000

well as the manual that Allie

01:22:32.000 --> 01:22:38.000

referenced in the beginning.

01:22:38.000 --> 01:22:44.000

Once again, we want to thank everyone

01:22:44.000 --> 01:22:47.000

for your time, for attending, to our

01:22:47.000 --> 01:22:50.000

partners and most or especially

01:22:50.000 --> 01:22:53.000

Stephanie and Allie, for taking the

01:22:53.000 --> 01:22:53.000

time and the thoughtfulness to put this

01:22:53.000 --> 01:23:00.000

wonderful presentation together.

01:23:00.000 --> 01:23:00.000

I keep seeing chats thanking you for

01:23:00.000 --> 01:23:03.000

the stories that you both shared.

01:23:03.000 --> 01:23:04.000

They made such a huge difference.

01:23:04.000 --> 01:23:10.000

So thank you very much.

01:23:10.000 --> 01:23:10.000

Again, folks, if you could just take a

01:23:10.000 --> 01:23:16.000

moment or two to fill out the survey.

01:23:16.000 --> 01:23:16.000

We will be following up with post

01:23:16.000 --> 01:23:18.000

webinar materials in the power point.

01:23:18.000 --> 01:23:20.000

Thank you, everyone.

01:23:20.000 --> 01:23:24.000

Thank you for coming out.

01:23:24.000 --> 01:23:26.000

I want to also say thank you to my

01:23:26.000 --> 01:23:29.000

team and colleagues for helping,

01:23:29.000 --> 01:23:31.000

although they're behind the scenes, but

01:23:31.000 --> 01:23:31.000

so needed and imperative to be able to

01:23:31.000 --> 01:23:40.000

do this webinar.

01:23:40.000 --> 01:23:41.000

So thank you, Lily, Mie.

01:23:41.000 --> 01:23:45.000

Thank you to Lisa as well.

01:23:45.000 --> 01:23:45.000

We hope everyone has a good afternoon

01:23:45.000 --> 01:23:46.000

and we will see you next time.

01:23:46.000 --> 01:23:46.000

Good-bye.

01:23:46.000 --> 01:24:01.000