

ICofA
International Center of Anthrozoology

Fetching



Fetching

Fetching objects is a great way to introduce diversity into sessions and can be used in every of their types: AAI, AAT, AAE, AAC*. The dog can give toys to people and in this way play with the patients. Fetching can also be an introduction to other activities with specific applications. Written on the object brought over by the dog there could be exercises for the attendees, parts of a puzzle or numbers needed for a mathematical problem.

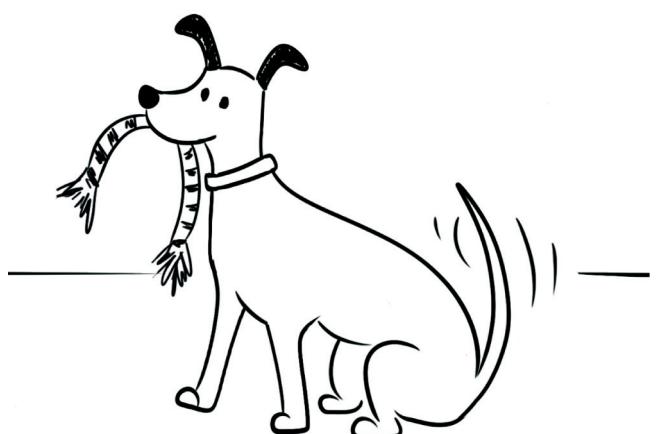
It is very important for the dog to know how to leave objects in patients hands, not just the guides'. Reacting to the attendees' commands, bringing over toys and encouraging further interaction could prove to be vital for the fostering of the right motivation for work. A dog that only cooperates with his guide and ignores the patients could cause a drop in the self-esteem of the latter and cause them to have negative thoughts the like of "even a dog doesn't like me", "nobody wants to play with me" etc.

How can fetching be used during AAI?

1. Placing items into the hands of patients
2. Bringing objects to the attendees' lap (e.g. if the person has a manual disability)
3. Putting items inside of boxes (ones lying on the ground and those in the hands of patients)

Placing items into the hands of patients

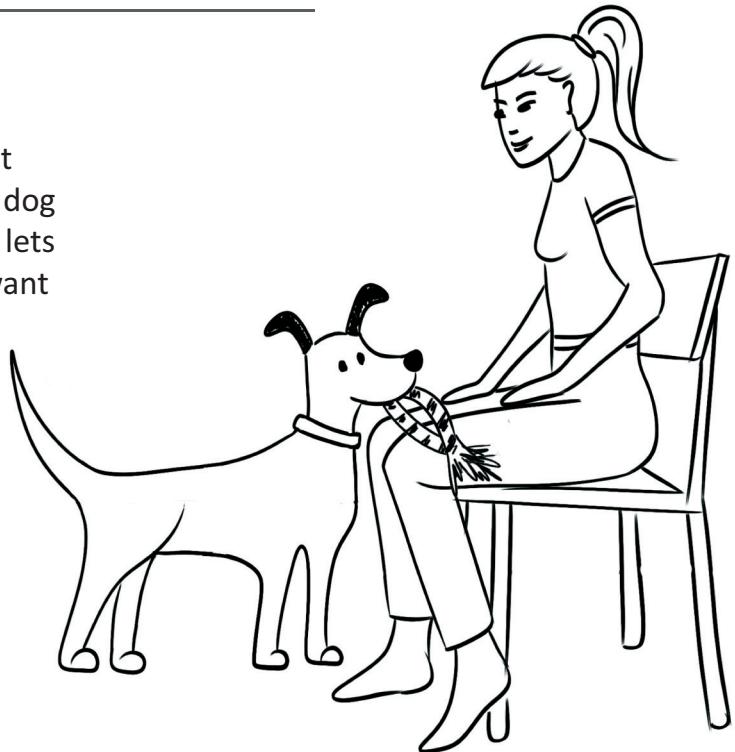
The dog should be able to give objects straight to the patients' hand and hold it in its muzzle until the person receives it. Most patients suffer some kind of functional deficiencies and need time to notice the object, extend their hand for it or think about what they want to do with it next. The guide should teach the dog to wait calmly next to the attendee until the receival is complete.



* Animal Assisted Intervention, Animal Assisted Therapy, Animal Assisted Education, Animal Assisted Counseling

Bringing objects to the patients' lap

Many session attendees (people with dementia or disability) are not capable of extending their hand to receive the brought object. In this case, it is useful to teach the dog to put said object on the patients' lap. This lets the person think that the dog really does want to play with them or that it brought over a present that requires further action.



Putting items inside of boxes

This ability can be used in various ways. The box or bag can be held by the patient, who at the same time can carry out physical exercises. The container can also lay on the floor and then the dog can put toys and objects back into it as a form of cleaning. It is a very interesting way to enrich the sessions and impresses the patients. At the same time, this cleaning is an easy trick for the dog.

