

History of Animal Assisted Therapy



Israel - First evidence of human-canine bond can be traced back

France - Saint Roch, later the patron saint of dogs, is saved by a dog.

USA - Boris Levinson uses his dog as a co-therapist and publishes his findings. The term "pet facilitated therapy" coined

USA - The University of Pennsylvania published the first bibliography on Animal Assisted therapy
UK/USA - First summits on Benefits of Human/ Companion Animal Bond held

Worldwide: AAT becomes "mainstream", with various organisations being established globally e.g. Irish Therapy Dogs in Ireland, utilising AAT. Medical research around mental & physical health continues.

11500 years ago

13th century

1962

1980s

2000s

9th century

18th century

1977

1990s

Belgium - Various animals are incorporated in the treatment of the handicapped

England - Quakers establish a mental facility utilising animals to treat patients

USA - Delta Society is founded to focus on research of AAT

Worldwide - Numerous studies and papers published on health benefits of AAT