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Special Issue Reprint

Animal-Assisted Interventions for Neurodivergent Individuals

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This Reprint brings together current research and review evidence on animal-assisted interventions and human–animal relationships, with a strong focus on neurodivergent populations and related mental health applications. Across school, family, clinical, community, and therapeutic settings, the contributions examine dog-assisted programs, therapeutic horse riding, equine occupational therapy, companion animal relationships, parent perspectives, and interaction processes that may shape social, emotional, cognitive, and mental health outcomes. The Reprint highlights both promise and complexity, including questions of access, implementation, acceptability, ethics, and evidence-based practice. By combining empirical studies with a systematic review, it offers an interdisciplinary resource for researchers, clinicians, educators, and service providers seeking to strengthen well-being and support across the lifespan.

