

*Improving the quality of life for people of all ages  
through the therapeutic use of companion animals.*

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#### Goals/Activities

- Provide Animal-Assisted Activity (AAA) and Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) programs in partnership with education, health, and social service organizations in the community
- Educate students and professionals on the human-animal bond, the therapeutic use of companion animals, and AAA/AAT
- Conduct research and evaluation relative to the human-animal bond, the therapeutic use of companion animals and AAA/AAT.

The love of a companion animal is uncomplicated and unconditional, naturally received and returned by people of all ages. It is in this spirit that Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC) was founded. Established in 1993 at Colorado State University's College of Applied Human Sciences - School of Social Work, HABIC is a non-profit program that effectively uses the powerful human-animal bond in therapeutic settings throughout Northern Colorado and the Denver Metro Area.

In addition to enriching the lives of clients in hospitals, schools, long-term care, youth corrections and hospice, HABIC grants human-animal team volunteers an emotionally rewarding experience, and provides an enjoyable purpose for their animal.

A HABIC team consists of a human volunteer and their companion animal—usually the member's own pet (dog or cat). HABIC requires that each potential human-animal team undergo a thorough screening and training process, lasting a minimum of four months, to ensure that those working with vulnerable persons are well prepared, and are able to act confidently and independently. Once placed in a facility HABIC teams provide weekly sessions to clients on a long-term basis (except hospitals). Many HABIC teams have worked on-going clients for periods of 2-6 years. At present, HABIC has over 100 trained human-animal teams touching the lives of over 550 people in our communities each week.



As a University affiliated program at Colorado State University, HABIC participates in research projects, in conjunction with The School of Social Work's Research Center, to evaluate and determine the overall effectiveness of Animal-Assisted Interventions. As part of HABIC's continued quest to advance the field the program also provides educational and internship opportunities to students interested in the human-animal bond field.