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Project Description for Students: EAT Application in PT, OT, and SP

A Project of a Virtual EAT Centre

Create your own virtual Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAT) centre. This project is a valuable opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge in this field. Take your time to think about the best way to structure and run your centre. Developing this proposal can help you organise your ideas and identify opportunities. Be creative—your project can take the form of a PowerPoint presentation or a Word document or even include drawings, photos, or models of your centre. You will receive feedback on your project, which will further enhance your learning.

Embrace the opportunity to collaborate with your peers from this course. You can create a joint project that combines your unique perspectives and skills!

Goals of the Project:

- Increase your knowledge about Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAT).
- Raise awareness about equines and coordination within an EAT program.

The EAT Program:

1. **Target Patients/Clients**
 - Define the age group and diagnoses of your target population.
2. **Number of Treatment Sessions**
 - Plan the number of treatment sessions you want to offer per week, month, or year.
3. **Duration of Operations**
 - Specify how many months per year your centre will operate.
4. **Equine Requirements**
 - Identify the number and type of equines needed (e.g., conformation, character).
5. **Personnel Requirements**
 - Detail the number and skills of personnel needed (e.g., therapists, equine handlers).
6. **Equipment**

- List the equipment required, specifying types and quantities (e.g., therapy aids, saddles).
 - 7. **Weekly Schedule**
 - Create an example of a weekly activity schedule for your centre.
 - 8. **Acceptance and Discharge Criteria**
 - Develop criteria and protocols for accepting and discharging clients.
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The Centre:

- **Location and Space Requirements**
 - Describe the ideal location and surface area needed.
 - Include details about stabling for equines, paddocks, indoor and outdoor arenas, staff and client rooms, and storage areas.
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Equines:

1. **Feeding Requirements**
 - Specify the type and quantity of food needed per equine daily and annually.
 2. **Training Plan**
 - Outline the skills your equines need and a training plan to achieve them.
 3. **Workload and Rest Periods**
 - Define the number of treatment sessions per equine daily and weekly.
 - Plan rest periods for equines on a weekly and annual basis.
 4. **Hoof Care**
 - Decide whether trimming only or shoeing is needed, and explain why.
 - Specify the frequency of hoof care.
 5. **Horse Welfare**
 - Include a plan for veterinary care, physiotherapy, and dental care.
 - Explain the frequency and importance of each type of care.
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Documentation:

- List the forms and paperwork needed to run the centre successfully. This may include:
 - Client intake and discharge forms.
 - Session records.
 - Equine health and welfare logs.
 - Staff schedules.
 - Financial records.
 - Safety and emergency protocols.
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Additional Suggestions for Students:

1. Sustainability Plan

- Consider how your centre can operate sustainably, including eco-friendly practices for waste management, energy use, and equine care.

2. Community Engagement

- Plan activities to involve the local community, such as open days, equine-assisted workshops, or educational programs for schools.

3. Marketing Strategy

- Develop ideas for promoting your centre, such as creating a website, using social media, or collaborating with healthcare providers.

4. Budgeting and Funding

- Outline a basic budget, including estimated costs for equines, staff, equipment, and facilities.
- Propose potential funding sources, such as grants, donations, or partnerships.

5. Risk Management

- Identify potential risks (e.g., equine health issues, client safety) and outline strategies to mitigate them.

6. Feedback Mechanism

- Include a system for collecting feedback from clients, staff, and stakeholders to improve your services continuously.

7. Future Development

- Describe how you plan to expand or evolve your centre over time, including new programs or services you might offer.

Tips for Success:

- Be as detailed and realistic as possible.
- Use visuals like charts, drawings, and photos to enhance your project.
- Show creativity and originality in your design and ideas.

Good luck with your project. We look forward to seeing your unique vision for a virtual EAT centre!