Virtual EAT Centre Project Guidelines for EATCS course

INTRODUCTION
This project allows you to design a realistic, well-structured virtual Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAT) centre. Follow the structure step by step and ensure all sections are complete. All information must be feasible and supported by clear reasoning. The project is assessed and may be submitted to OCN for external moderation.

You may complete this project individually or in cooperation with your course course peers. Joint work is highly encouraged, as teamwork reflects real-life multidisciplinary practice in EAT centre.

Include on the first page: full name, course title, date of completion, and an authenticity declaration.

Goals of the Project
- Increase your knowledge of Equine-Assisted Therapy.
- Develop awareness of equine needs and coordination within an EAT programme.

General Requirements
- Follow the guideline structure exactly.
- Be realistic and justify all your choices.
- Use visuals where helpful.
- All work must be your own.

THE EAT PROGRAMME
1. Target Clients

Define the age range and clinical indications of your clients. Be specific.

2. Number of Treatment Sessions

Plan weekly, monthly, and annual session capacity. Include cancellations, weather, staff leave, and holidays.

3. Duration of Operations

Specify how many months per year you operate.

4. Personnel Requirements

List all team members and their qualifications. Each EAT session requires at least one therapist and one equine handler.

5. Equine Requirements

Specify number, temperament, size, movement, suitability, and justification.

6. Equipment

List therapeutic and equestrian equipment with quantities and safe-purpose explanations.

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7. Weekly Schedule

Provide a realistic weekly timetable.

8. Acceptance and Discharge Criteria

Include safety, contraindications, and professional scope.

THE CENTRE

Describe location and required areas: stables, paddocks, arenas, waiting rooms, accessible toilets, storage, and staff space. Provide minimum dimensions.

EQUINES

1. Feeding Requirements

List type and quantity per day and per year, including approximate cost.

2. Training Plan

Describe training for therapy suitability: desensitisation, leading manners, mounting block work, long-lining, and habituation to equipment.

3. Workload and Rest

State number of sessions per equine per day (max 2–3) and per week. Include rest days.

4. Hoof Care

Specify trimming vs shoeing, frequency, and justification.

5. Welfare Care

Include veterinary care, physiotherapy, dental care, vaccination, deworming, and annual costs.

DOCUMENTATION

List all required documentation:

- Client intake and discharge forms
- Session notes
- Equine welfare logs
- Workload logs
- Incident/accident forms
- Staff schedules
- Equipment maintenance logs
- Risk assessments
- Financial records
- Safety and emergency protocols

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ADDITIONAL MANDATORY COMPONENTS
- Sustainability plan
- Community engagement activities
- Marketing strategy
- Budget with estimated costs and funding sources
- Risk management (minimum 5–7 risks)
- Feedback mechanism
- Future development plan

SUMMARY & REFLECTION
Describe what you learned during the project and any insights gained.

PROJECT CHECKLIST
☐ Target group
☐ Number of sessions
☐ Duration of operations
☐ Equine requirements
☐ Staff requirements
☐ Equipment
☐ Weekly schedule
☐ Acceptance/discharge criteria
☐ Centre description
☐ Feeding plan
☐ Training plan
☐ Workload/rest
☐ Hoof care
☐ Veterinary/dental/physio
☐ Documentation
☐ Sustainability
☐ Community engagement
☐ Marketing
☐ Budget
☐ Funding
☐ Risks
☐ Feedback mechanism
☐ Future development
☐ Personal reflection