

Brief AAT-C guidelines and minimum requirements for CCPA certified members who wish to have their BMS CCPA group insurance cover AAT and or EFW activities

Note: The AAT-C committee of the CCPA is currently developing a Competency Framework which will, once developed and approved by the CCPA, expand upon and further define the points outlined below. The following points are intended to provide a guideline for the expectations in the meantime.

All CCPA certified members who would like their BMS – CCPA group insurance policies to include Animal Assisted Therapy and/ or Equine Facilitated Wellness will need to meet the following requirements:

1. Certified as a CCC in good standing with the CCPA.
2. Practice within their scope of practice as a CCC as defined by the CCPA.
3. Follow all standards of professional practice as defined by the CCPA.
4. Define and document their scope of practice with people, with animals and in AAT/ EFW and have this available upon request.
5. Show specific training, experience and familiarity with the species (and familiarity with the individual animal/s) they incorporate into their counselling practice. This could be met through a credential or on a portfolio of experience basis. *Specific details of what is required is currently under development.*
6. Show specific training and credentials in AAT and/or EFW as each is included in the counsellor's scope of practice. This needs to be a specific training in AAT/ EFW from a recognised educational body or organisation (cannot be self study). *Details of what needs to be covered by these courses and which courses/ certifications are accepted is currently under development.*
7. Any therapy animal who will be working in a public environment (e.g. school, office building, nursing home) must be certified as a therapy animal. This does not apply to equines or farm animals who do not leave the farm setting. *Details of what certifications will be accepted is currently under development.*
8. Define and document the animal's scope of practice including the populations of people worked with and setting in which the work occurs.
9. If the counsellor is including mounted work (riding) in their scope of practice they need to show they have specific training, credential/ certification or a portfolio of experience to support this.
10. Any CCC who is completing practicum hours in AAT/ EFW while completing training needs to be working under the supervision of a certified practitioner.