

# National Register for Equine Assisted Activity Practitioners

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Horses in Education and Therapy International (Ireland)  
(HETI Ireland)

Including

Service Provider Ethical Guidelines

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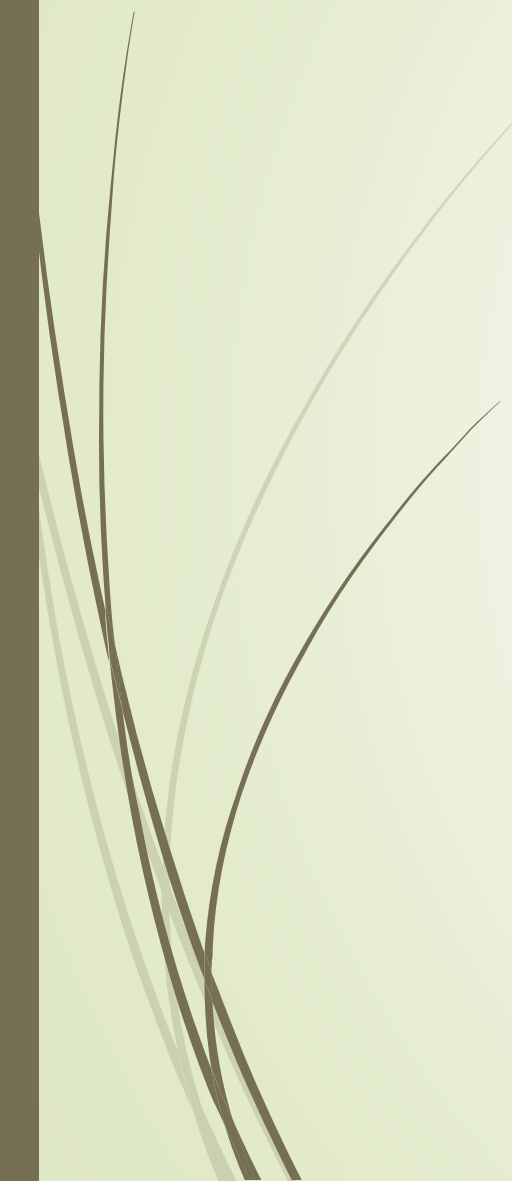
Equine Welfare Ethical Guidelines

October 2020





# Overview of Presentation

- Background to National Register
  - Purpose of the document
  - Overview of Equine Assisted Activities
  - Six Principles and Documentation Required
  - Work done to date
  - Next Steps
- 




# Background

- ▶ Equine Assisted Activities : an Irish Context
- ▶ 2012 : Original Group established
- ▶ 2014 – 2019
  - ▶ Working Groups
  - ▶ Alignment with Horse Sport Ireland
  - ▶ Conferences
    - ▶ European / International Speakers
  - ▶ Promotion
  - ▶ Networking
  - ▶ Instrumental in raising the profile of equine assisted activities
  - ▶ 2019 – 2020 – Pilot Proposal with HETI



# Overview of Pilot Proposal

- ▶ HETI National Register :
  - ▶ Practitioner details
  - ▶ Specified documentation
  - ▶ Names to appear on the HETI National Register
  - ▶ Managed centrally by HETI Executive Director
  - ▶ Register to act as a resource to service users (clients)



# HETI requirements to include (at a minimum)

- ▶ Practitioners competencies
- ▶ Equine Welfare Check list
- ▶ Current policies
  - ▶ Safeguarding
  - ▶ Insurance
  - ▶ Risk management
  - ▶ Safety



# Timeframe

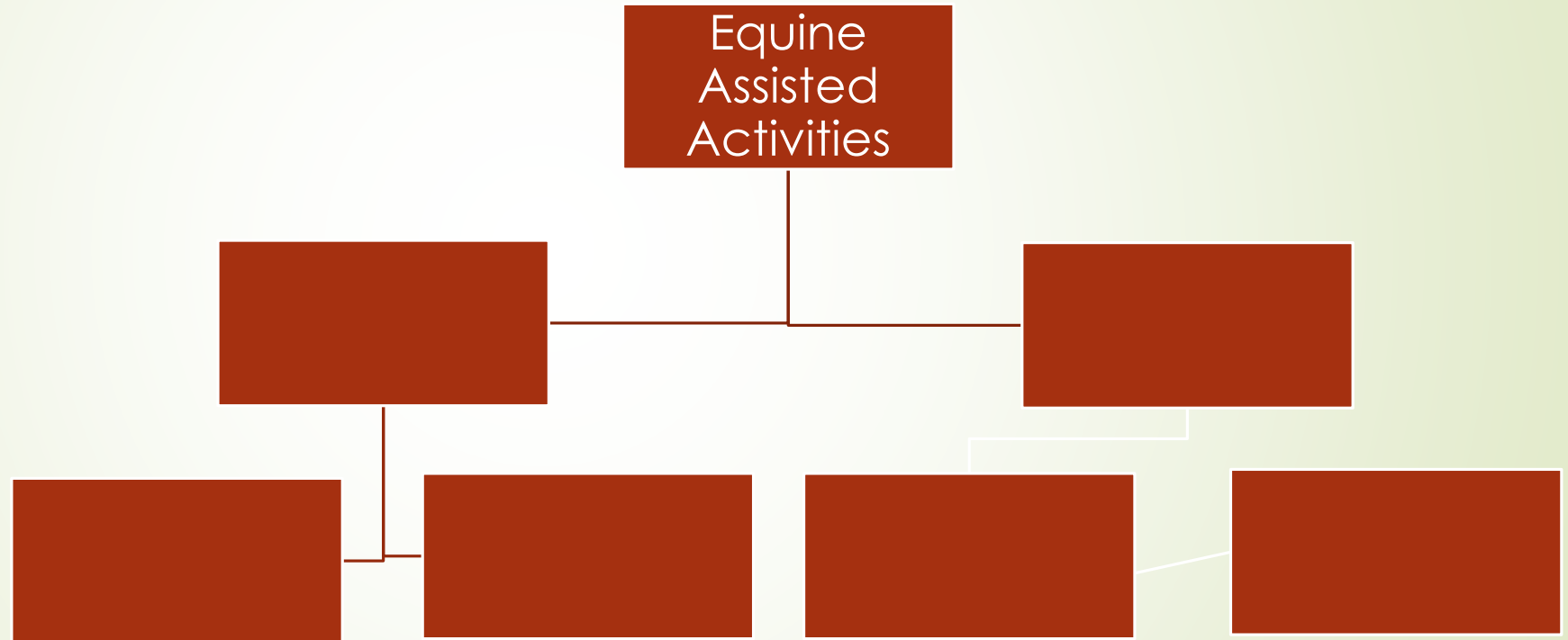
- ▶ June 2020 – establish a committee including HETI members
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> November – documentation submission
- ▶ January 2021 -Review of pilot :



# The Process

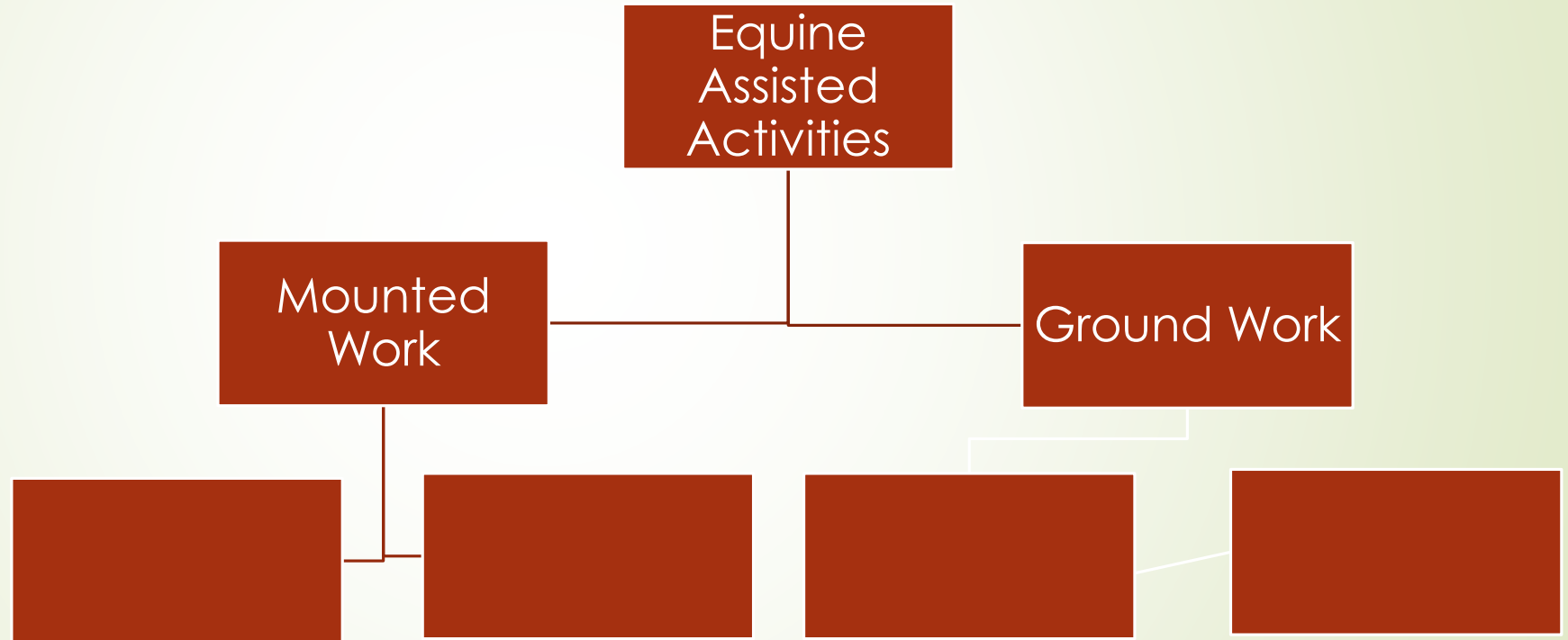
- ▶ Working Group of 10 people
  - ▶ EAA practioners
  - ▶ Three parents
- ▶ Series of meetings over 12 months

# Equine Assisted Activities : Terminology

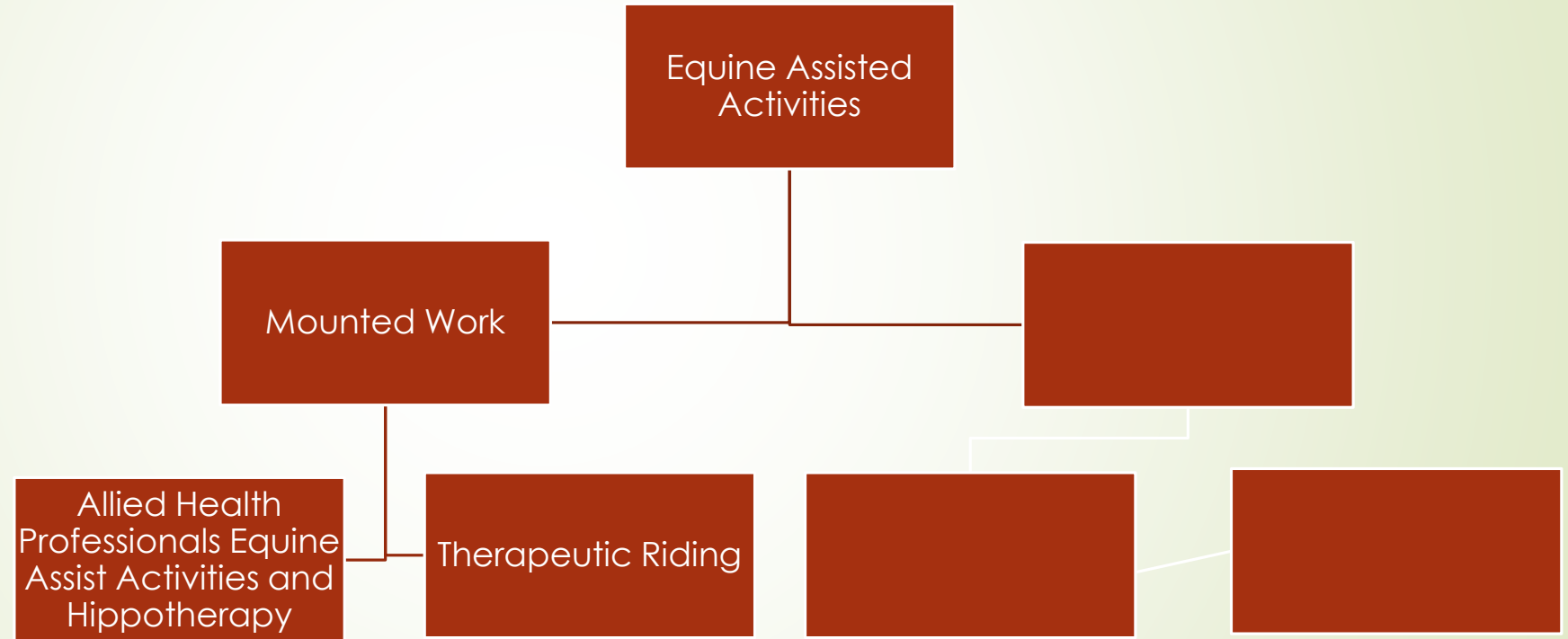




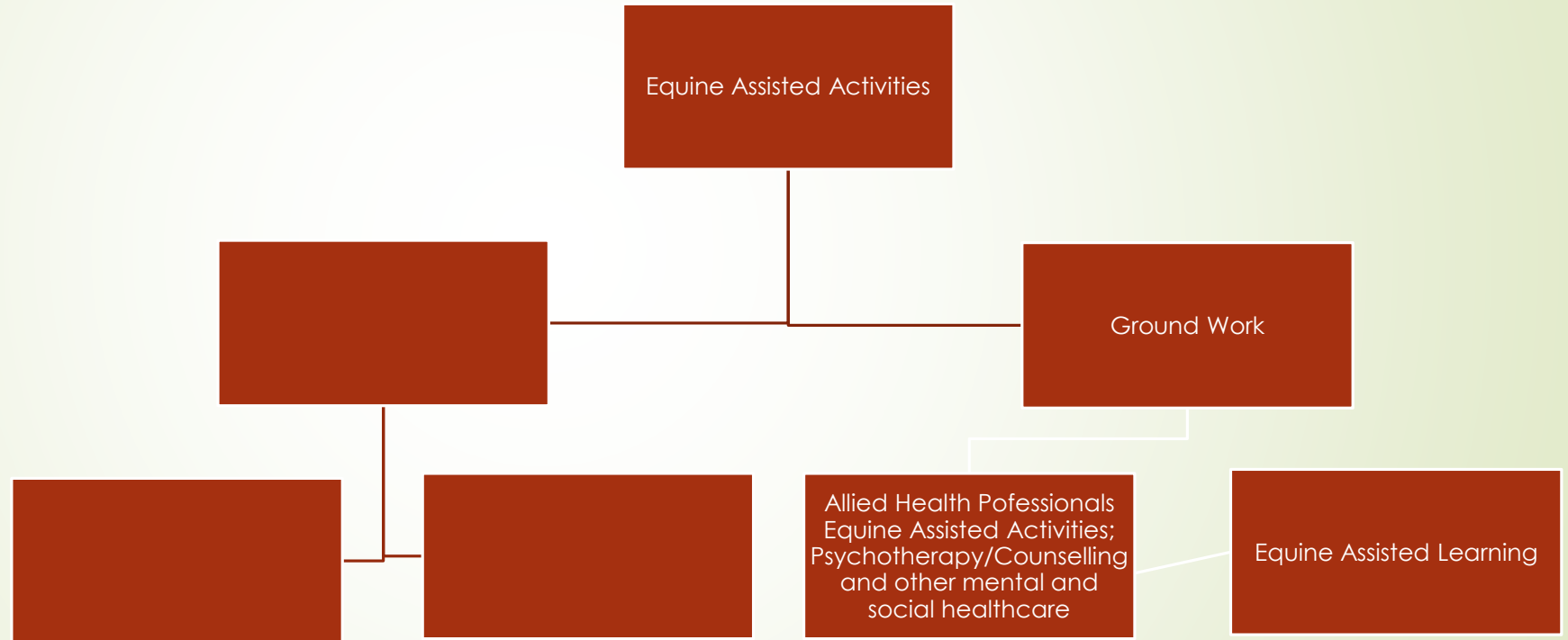
# Equine Assisted Activities : Terminology



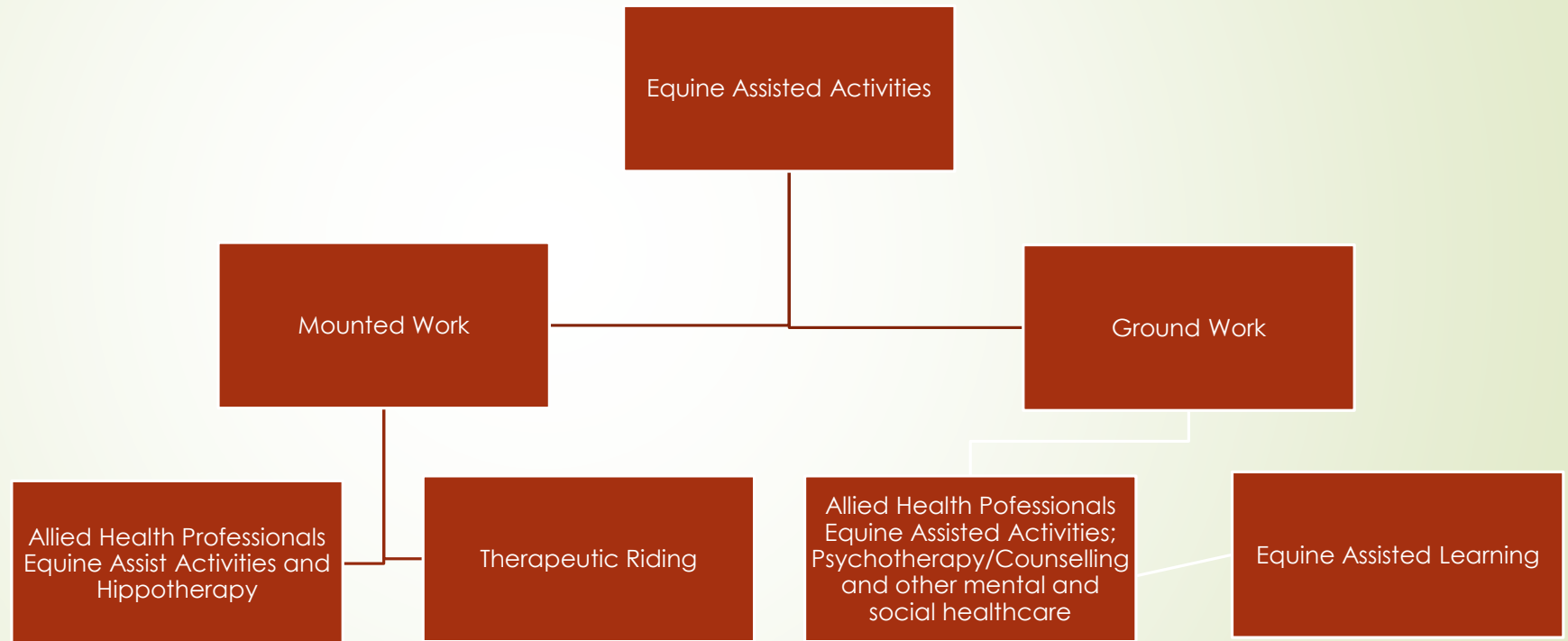
# Equine Assisted Activities : Terminology



# Equine Assisted Activities : Terminology



# Equine Assisted Activities : Terminology





# Definitions Hippotherapy

- ▶ The term hippotherapy refers to how occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology professionals use evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes. Best practice dictates that occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology professionals integrate hippotherapy into the patient's plan of care, along with other therapy tools and/or strategies. **American Association of Hippotherapy**



# Equine Assisted Learning

- ▶ **Equine Assisted Learning** : Equine-assisted learning (EAL) is an experiential learning approach that promotes the development of life skills for educational, professional and personal goals through equine-assisted activities (PATH Intl.) <https://www.pathintl.org/60-resources/efpl/1029-learn-about-eaat-equine-assisted-learning>



# Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy

**Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy** (EAOT) is the use of equine assisted activities graded to suit an individual's occupational performance needs. The horse is used as a therapeutic medium to work towards goals identified during the assessment process. EAOT includes both mounted and non-mounted activities, such as stable management activities, designed by an Occupational Therapist to improve an individual's occupational performance in areas such as motor skills, sensory processing, self-regulation, motor planning and coordination and adaptive skills. EAOT also has a positive effect on an individual's self-confidence and engagement in everyday activities. **Thomson, S.; Anderson, K.; Morrison, S.; British Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2015 Supplement; 78 18-19. (2p) (Article - abstract, proceedings, research) ISSN: 0308-0226 AN: 114116918**



# Therapeutic Riding

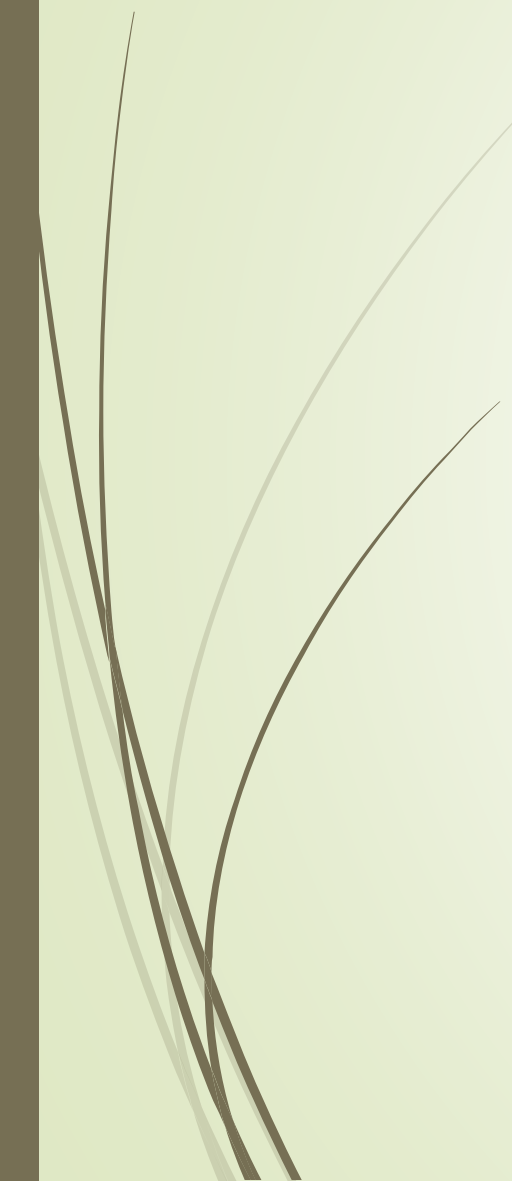
- ▶ **Therapeutic Riding:** Therapeutic Riding is an equine assisted activity for the purpose of contributing positive to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of individuals with special needs

<https://www.pathintl.org/resources-education/resources/eaat/27-resources/general/198-learn-about-therapeutic-riding>





# Equine Assisted Psychotherapy



Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) is defined as an interactive process in which a qualified mental health professional working with or as an appropriately credentialed equine professional, facilitates client(s) and equine(s) in an experiential manner supporting the client to process or discuss feelings, behaviours, and experiences to address psychotherapy goals agreed between the therapist and client.



# Development of Document

Sets out what Service Providers are expected to put in place by way of the *Service Provider Ethical Guidelines* and *Equine Ethical Guidelines* in order that their name and facility can be placed on the National Register of Equine Assisted Activity Practitioners in Ireland.

- ▶ HETI Ireland Service Provider Ethical Guidelines
- ▶ HETI Ireland Equine Welfare Ethical Guidelines
- ▶ National legislation and regulations
- ▶ Regulations that may relate to specific professions e.g. The Association of Occupational Therapists Ireland



## Principle 1 : Do No Harm

Avoid doing harm and act to prevent harm caused by others

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practitioners
Safeguarding Policy	Safeguarding Policy	Safeguarding Policy
Garda Vetting	Garda Vetting	Garda Vetting
Safety Statements	Safety Statements	Safety Statements
Risk Assessments	Risk Assessments	Risk Assessments
General Data Protection Regulations	General Data Protection Regulations	General Data Protection Regulations
	Volunteer Policy	Volunteer Policy
	Protected Disclosure Policy	
	Whistle blower Policy	
	Risk Register	

## Principle 2: Integrity

Integrity is defined as the practice of being honest, trustworthy and showing an uncompromising adherence to strong ethical principles and values.

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practitioners
	Code of Ethics	Code of Ethics
	Facilitation Agreement	Facilitation Agreement
	Statement of Purpose	Statement of Purpose
	Mission Statement	Mission Statement
	Overview of Services Provided	Overview of Services Provided

### Principle 3 : Respect

Respect is defined as the belief that humans and animals have intrinsic and unconditional moral worth and should always be treated with due regard for their feelings, wishes, rights and customs.

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practioners
	Equality Policy	
	Dignity at Work Policy	
	Waiver forms	
	Confidentiality and Privacy Policy	
	Mandatory Reporting Policy	
	Facilitation Agreement	

## Principle 4: Competence

Competency is defined as a cluster of related abilities, commitments, knowledge, and skills that enable a person (or an organisation) to act effectively in a job or situation

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practitioners
Staff qualifications	Staff qualifications	Staff qualifications
Membership of appropriate professional body relating to therapy qualification where relevant	Membership of appropriate professional body relating to therapy qualification where relevant	
Evidence of CPD	Evidence of CPD	Evidence of CPD
	Supervision Policy and Evidence of Supervision	Supervision Policy Evidence of Supervision
	Evidence of the inclusion of equine learning principles and equine cognition in training in which practitioners have qualified	
	Minutes of Staff Meetings	
	Recruitment Policy	
	Induction Policy	

## Principle 5: Accountability

Accountability is defined as taking responsibility for one's actions, decisions and their consequences. It includes and goes beyond being law-abiding.

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practitioners
Lone working Policy	Lone working Policy	Lone working Policy
Insurance Cover	Insurance Cover	Insurance Cover
Accident Records	Accident Records	Accident Records
	Case Notes	
	Evaluation Reports	
	Service Termination Policy	
	Policy Review Policy with input from key stakeholders	



## Principle 6: Equine Welfare

Integration of evidenced based outcomes into the management and welfare of equines

HETI International	Organisational	Sole Practitioners
<b>Rider Weight Limit Policy</b>	Rider Weight Policy Policy on recruitment, assessment and selection of equines for inclusion in EAA programmes	Rider Weight Limit Policy
<b>Documented Equine Hours Worked Policy and Record Sheet</b>	Documented Equine Hours Worked Policy and Record Sheet	Documented Equine Hours Worked Policy and Record Sheet
	End of Life Policy	
<b>Veterinary Records including worming, vaccinations, dental care and farriers</b>	Veterinary Records including worming, vaccinations, dental care and farriers	Veterinary Records including worming, vaccinations, dental care and farriers
<b>Record / Policy on turn out time for horses to include social interaction</b>	Record / Policy on turn out time for horses to include social interaction	Record / Policy on turn out time for horses to include social interaction
	Evidence of individualised training and schooling plans for equines as may be relevant	
	Policy on Bitless Bridles for Therapeutic Riding	



# Recommended Qualifications that meet HETI Ireland Requirements

- **Equine Assisted Learning:**
- EAGALA (<https://www.eagala.org/>)
- Festina Lente – EAL QQI L6 (<https://festinalente.ie/>)
- PATH - Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (<https://www.pathintl.org/>)
- IFEEL Method – EFHD UK NQF L5 (<https://ifeelmethod.com/>)
- EAQ – EFL UK NQF L4 (<http://www.equineassistedqualifications.com/>)
- EPONA [www.eponaquest.com](http://www.eponaquest.com)



➤ **Therapeutic Riding:**

- Festina Lente – Therapeutic Riding Coach QQI L6 (<https://festinalente.ie/>)
- ATHENA (applied techniques for horse based Education and Neuroscientific approaches) / Horse Boy Method Practitioner - Levels 1 & 2 <https://ntls.co>




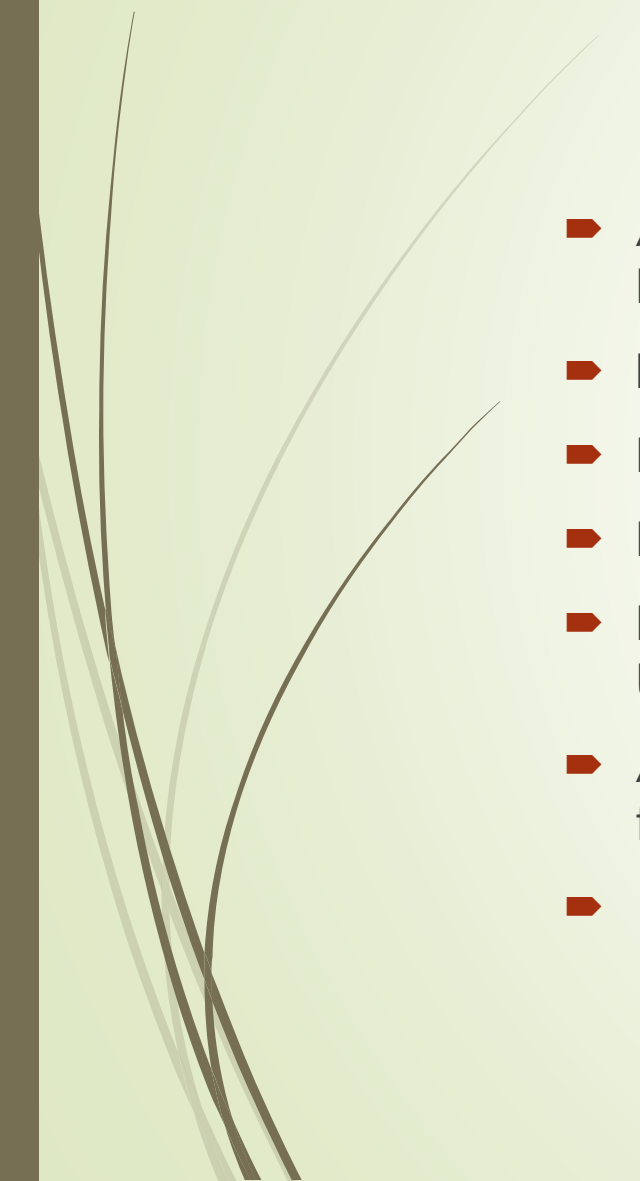
➤ **Equine Assisted Psychotherapy:**

- IFEEL Method – Diploma in EFPT UK NQF Level 6 (<https://ifeelmethod.com/>)
- LEAP - Diploma in EFP UK NQF L5 (<http://www.leapequine.com/>)
- PATH - Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (if appropriately qualified as a therapist) (<https://www.pathintl.org/>)



➤ **Hippotherapy:**

- American Hippotherapy Association Hippotherapy Level 1, Level 2 and other AHA CPD courses.
- American Hippotherapy Certification Board (AHCBS) Exams
- AHCBS Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist Exams
- CPTRH Hippotherapy Masters modules via Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Scotland.
- The Czech Equine Facilitated Therapy Association (CEFTA) Specialist Courses for professionals in Hippotherapy

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- An Introduction to Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy by ChildVision, Dublin
  - Introduction to Equine Facilitated Therapies by Equine Facilitated OT-UK
  - Equine Facilitated OT –UK Online webinars
  - Equi Scotia Courses recognised by Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
  - Equine Facilitated Therapies Post Graduate Course commencing in University of Ulster 2021
  - Applications for membership from those holding equivalent qualifications from outside Ireland or the UK will be considered on an individual basis.
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# Next Steps

- Invited EAA practitioners to review proposal October 9<sup>th</sup>
- 45 attendees and additional interested practitioners unavailable to attend
- Uploading of documentation has commenced
- Logistics with HETI being addressed
- First quarter 2021
- Official announcement to be made