About the Authors:

Henri Julius, Andrés Beetz, Kurt Kotrschal, Dennis Turner, Kerstin Uvnäs-Moberg

“A comprehensive scientific foundation for human-animal therapy” (Judith Solomon)

Attachment to Pets

An Integrative View of Human-Animal Relationships with Implications for Therapeutic Practice

Prof. Dr. Henri Julius is Professor of Special Education at the University of Rostock, Germany. He is well known for attachment-based interventions for behaviorally and emotionally disordered children, which he developed over the course of the last decade.

Dr. Andrea Beetz is a psychologist and with over 15 years of experience in the field of human-animal interactions and animal-assisted interventions. She is a board member of the International Association for Animal Assisted Interventions (IAAAI) and the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ).

Prof. Dr. Kurt Kotrschal, Mag. rer. nat., is a Professor in the Department of Behavioral Biology at the University of Vienna as well as Director of the Konrad Lorenz Research Station in Gruenau and co-founder of the Wolf Science Center in Embrun (Canada). His research interests are comparative neurobiology, particularly of chemosensory systems, social complexity and cognition, and human-animal relationships, especially with domestic cats.

Dennis Turner was president of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) for 15 years and is now Delegate of the Board for European Issues. He is co-founder and Secretary of the International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy (ISAT). He is also a co-founder of the International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy (ISAAT) and has published widely in the field of human-animal interactions.

Kerstin Uvnäs-Moberg, M.D., Ph.D., is recognized as a world authority on oxytocin. She has published extensively in the field and is currently Professor of Physiology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Linköping.

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Attachment to Pets

An Integrative View of Human-Animal Relationships with Implications for Therapeutic Practice

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With Forewords by Judith Solomon and Sir Patrick Bateson

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About the Book:

The biological and psychological basis of pet therapy / animal-assisted therapy and what this means for practice

In recent years, the ancient symbiosis between humans and their pets has entered a new phase, marked by the burgeoning clinical specialty of human-animal therapy. This approach uses the relationship between humans and their (mainly) mammalian pets to support the growth of emotional regulation, social skills, and mental health in children, adolescents, and adults.

But how are humans and animals able to develop close bonds at all? What makes it possible for animals to have a therapeutic effect on humans? And how can we best use this understanding in animal-assisted therapy?

In this unique book, a team of expert biologists and psychologists integrate and combine sophisticated biological and psychological knowledge to answer these questions. Together they have created a comprehensive, scientific foundation for human-animal therapy, a foundation that will facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of effective new interventions.

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Recent praise:

“The authors accomplish a long-awaited merging of evolutionary, biophysical, and psychological processes likely to occur in human–animal interaction in an intellectually stimulating and practically applicable narrative. This book is useful for students, scientists, and practitioners, and will be essential to guide advancement of the field of human–animal interaction.”

Rebecca Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, International Association of Human–Animal Interaction Organizations
Professor & Director, Research Center for Human–Animal Interaction, MU College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO

“The book is an excellent resource for the scientific community and policy makers studying human–animal interactions and, above all, for all those interested in using animals in a therapeutic context.”

Aubrey H. Fine EdD
Professor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA
Editor of The Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy, Author of Afternoons with Puppy and Give a Dog Your Heart