

## Is There a Dog On-Call?

### Learning Objective:

1. Attendees will learn when it is safe and ethical to include an animal in therapy sessions.
2. Attendees will learn best practice techniques for including their animals in sessions.
3. Attendees will be able to name three animal assisted interventions to utilize.

**Abstract:** As animal assisted interventions become more popular it is important that practitioners make ethical and humane decisions when deciding to include their animals in session. During the session attendees will be given information and guidance on the best practices when it comes to incorporating animal assisted interventions within a therapy setting. Additionally, attendees will be given the opportunity to interact with a play therapy dog and witness interventions through role play and/or videos.

**Presenter:** Cyndie Kieffer, MSW, Sit.Stay.Heal.

**Bio:** Cyndie Kieffer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Illinois and Indiana. she is also a Certified Professional Practitioner in Animal Assisted Play Therapy-Instructor and an AutPlay provider. Cyndie has worked alongside her dogs since 2002 in a variety of settings including in private practice, nursing homes, hospice and as an advocate. Cyndie authored the childrens book, Jack the Brave and a chapter entitled, "To the Rescue: How Animals can Assist People Diagnosed with Autism" in the book, "A Spectrum of Solutions for Clients with Autism" edited by Rachel Bedard and Lorna Hecker. She has spoken on the topic of Animal Assisted Interventions at the international, national, and state level. She was awarded the Kirrie Award in 2023 by the International Institute for Animal Assisted Play Therapy for her work in this field. She has been a volunteer with Pet Partners and enjoys sharing Norm; her canine partner in crime, with people in their community.