Quality Management and Certification Requirements for Animal Assisted Education/Therapy on Austrian Farms
Definition

Farm animals are appointed to the treatment and advancement of different client groups in an educational or therapeutic setting.

holistic approach – clients experience the entire farm surroundings
**Definition**

double qualified farmers or team (farmer – professional from the social, educational or a therapeutic field)

Basic qualification
Qualified and trained farm animals

Extensive program
- Body contact, feeding, grooming, games, ground work, trekking and other activities with farm animals
- educational or therapeutical aim
- method
- clear profile

Additional income for the farmers
Why do we need standards or a certification system?

- Expert knowledge concerning dealing with clients – protection for clients
- Specialised knowledge about animal welfare, animal training – protection of animals
- „Common sense“ is insufficient
- Concrete criterias necessary – to guarantee the implementation of professional knowledge in praxis
- Open and flexible system – to cover the diversity of provider´s professions, client groups, animal species and farming systems
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. pillar</th>
<th>Criteria, content</th>
<th>Operating/inspecting authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualification</td>
<td>Farmers with additional qualification in the therapeutic, paedagogic or social field Professionals from the therapeutic, paedagogic or social field working together with farmers as a team 272 UE Basic information on animal assisted interventions, appropriate farm animal care, practical animal training, planning and practical application of animal assisted work with different client groups, specific requirements the farm has to meet, marketing, etc</td>
<td>Educational body for farmers (LFI) Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course</td>
<td>„animal assisted education/therapy on farms“</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Quality management and Certification requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. pillar</th>
<th>Criterias, content</th>
<th>Operating/inspecting authority</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Animal welfare** | Austrian animal welfare act, regulations in accordance with the bio act  
contact to fellow species (keeping of herds or groups), ample stable space, regular grazing opportunities, displays of comfort behaviour, etc.  
Declaration as an organic farm is not necessary                                                                                                                                                                                      | agricultural chamber (LK)                          |


# Quality management and Certification requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3. pillar</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Operating/inspecting authority</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal health</td>
<td>Free of zoonosis and other diseases</td>
<td>vets</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Quality management and Certification requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. pillar</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Operating/inspecting authority</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmyard safety</strong></td>
<td>Marking of possible danger zones, no access to machinery, non-slip flooring and safeguard against tripping, appropriate covering of pits and potholes, adequate insulation of electric cables, etc.</td>
<td><em>social insurance institute</em> (SVB)</td>
</tr>
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### Quality management and Certification requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>5. pillar</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Operating/inspecting authority</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Selection and training of farm animals** | Suitable character traits and specific capabilities  
Training methods with positive reinforcement  
Professional sozialisation and habituation  
Knowledge about body language and stress signals  
Patient, respectful and affectionate handling  
Compliance with resting times of the animals  
Examination of training lectures with the opportunity of optional subjects | Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development(ÖKL) |
Client dependent animal contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 1</th>
<th>Category 2</th>
<th>Category 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Contact</td>
<td>Extensive Contact</td>
<td>Observation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Category 1 image](image1)
![Category 2 image](image2)
![Category 3 image](image3)
Quality management and Certification requirements

- Label for certified farms

- website [www.bauernhof-therapietiere.at](http://www.bauernhof-therapietiere.at) – search for farms – start: autumn 2010

- Subsidies only for certified farm
Thank you for your attention

www.oekl.at
www.bauernhof-therapietiere.at

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