



Nemours Children's Specialty Care

In partnership with the University of North Florida

## Our Vision

A first-of-its-kind model for clinically integrated, pediatric multi-specialty, animal-assisted therapy (AAT) services that improve quality of care, outcomes and the work environment.

**Animals On-Site • Program Development • Research • Education**



## What Does Our Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) Program Include?

- **AAT Credentialed Mental Health Specialists** incorporate animal therapy into their treatment plans with patients
- **Registered Animal & Handler Volunteer Teams** to assist with program implementation (dogs and miniature horses)
- **Appropriate Facilities** to conduct therapeutic sessions and for animals to rest
- **AAT Research & Content Expert From The University of North Florida** to assist with program implementation and research
- **Implementation & Validation The Nationally Recognized Standards of Practice** for animal-assisted therapy
- **Design of Studies & Research Models** for evidence-based care
- **Promotion of Ethical Treatment of Animals** and consideration for their welfare (working conditions, breaks per hours worked, health/age)



"There are so many young adults and children who struggle with mental or emotional health — some of them are on the brink of not existing anymore. I've had those thoughts and feelings. Nemours' programs integrated with animal therapy have not just gotten me past those feelings, they've helped me really blossom and progress in better overall health."

— Katherine, Nemours patient



**Four-Legged Clinicians** Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is directed by a licensed psychologist or mental health provider with specialized experience. AAT is incorporated into the treatment plan with specific goals for each individual that are documented and evaluated. Animals most utilized in AAT include dogs and horses. Unlike free or voluntary "visiting" programs, the cost of AAT is part of the clinical service.

Nemours Fund for Children's Health

Your gift can provide unprecedented hope and healing to families. To learn how you can help, call 904.697.4126 or visit [Nemours.org/AnimalTherapy](http://Nemours.org/AnimalTherapy).