Mission
The Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) is a center for the study of the interrelationship and health of people, animals and the environment.

Vision
The Institute for Human-Animal Connection believes it is important to intentionally elevate the value of the living world around us and promotes the exploration of this connection through the lens of contemporary education, science, research, advocacy and ethics with respect for all species.

The Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) is a one-of-a-kind, non-profit program that needs your support. Your tax-deductible gift, in any amount, is critical in changing the way the world views the connection between people and other animals. Visit www.du.edu/ihac/give to donate today.
**EDUCATION**

**Animals and Human Health Certificate Program**
First of its kind and leader in the realm of Human-Animal Interaction education, the interdisciplinary Animals and Human Health (AHH) Certificate offers an advanced educational opportunity to develop a program integrating the human-animal bond. From animal-assisted therapy to humane education to the benefits of pet-keeping, students from around the world enhance their professional repertoire through the partnership of animals and nature. Cohorts of students work through online courses that include community-based assignments, readings, discussion boards and other projects. The program culminates with a two-day Capstone session at the University of Denver.

**Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate Program**
This innovative academic certificate prepares Master of Social Work (MSW) students for a unique specialization in Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW), which examines the myriad facets of human-animal-environmental connection. University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work students in the AASW certificate program engage in specialized courses and integrate field work across the spectrum of social work practice. IHAC provides in-depth curriculum support and experiential learning experiences to enhance the AASW certificate program.

**Events**
Beyond the classroom, IHAC hosts a series of speaker events, conferences and workshops focusing on current trends, issues and advancements in the field of human-animal interactions. Events create a dynamic opportunity to learn and network in an academic environment with leading experts in the field. E-mail us at: ihac@du.edu to be added to the event contact list.

**PRACTICE**

**Equine-Assisted Mental Health (EAMH) Practitioner Certificate**
Advancing the field of equine-assisted mental health, this post-masters program is designed specifically for counseling and therapy professionals who are ready to add horses as a treatment strategy to their practice. The EAMH program meets the need for education, training and supervision necessary for ethical practice. Through a blend of online and experiential learning methodology, EAMH is also open to graduate students in mental health-related programs and is accessible to international students.

**Canine-Assisted Intervention Specialist (CAIS) Certificate**
Designed for mental health and education professionals, this unique certificate provides in-depth learning to help practitioners effectively partner with dogs as a practice specialty. Through standards-based learning and field work, students gain expertise in observing canine behavior, evaluating training methods using the humane hierarchy, training work-specific skills, and fostering an effective relationship with dogs with the goal of ethically, safely, and successfully incorporating dogs into their evidence-informed practice. Additionally, post-certificate learning modules are available for ongoing professional development integrating a wide range of canine- and practice-specific focus areas.

**ADVOCACY**

**Colorado LINK Project**
Decades of research support the existence of a link between animal abuse and violence towards humans. This represents a serious risk to public health and safety. The Colorado LINK Project addresses these issues through education, community outreach, training and multidisciplinary coordination. The overall goal is to develop LINK-informed services which recognize, respond to and repair the effects of co-occurring family violence, child maltreatment and animal abuse. Learn more at: www.du.edu/coloradolinkproject

**Conservation & Humane Education**
Promoting an awareness of the interplay between humans, animals and the environment, IHAC facilitates worldwide learning opportunities which integrate the One Health model. Integrative lectures, events and experiences support a vision of compassionate welfare and treatment of all living beings. Global opportunities are coordinated with the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work to study issues such as illegal wildlife trade and sustainable development in Kenya, as well as conservation and humane education in China.

**RESEARCH**
IHAC’s innovative research agenda is aimed at understanding how people and animals impact each other, societies and their environment. The Institute partners with leading organizations and other researchers to maximize the progress and breadth of its research. The findings have practical goals – informing clinical practice and policy making in areas where the interests of humans and other animals overlap.

**HISTORY**

The Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) is leading the way in animal-assisted social work, human-animal interaction education and professional development. University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work remains one of the only programs in the world to offer this specialization alongside a graduate level social science degree.