

SUMMARY: OPTIMAL TERMINOLOGY FOR SERVICES THAT INCORPORATE HORSES TO BENEFIT PEOPLE

The purpose of this one sheet is to offer a quick review of the expanded-upon contents of the published optimal terminology consensus document. This highly-anticipated document and the terminology contained within have been endorsed by the following organizations, bringing with it a renewed commitment to unifying language and terminology definitions for the benefit of the industry as a whole and the public it serves:

American Horse Council

Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)

Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF)

The Equine Experiential Education Association (E³A)

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.)

Response is pending from the Certification Board for Equine Interaction Professionals (CBEIP).

The American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) is pleased with much of the progress that has been made in developing consistent terms. However, AHA does not endorse the full document, recommending that centers and individuals indicate which services they offer (horsemanship, learning and/or therapy) rather than use the recommended unifying term, Equine-assisted Services.

PATH Intl. suggests reading the full document to enjoy and employ its recommendations. However, it is important to note the association does not expect immediate compliance! PATH Intl. will be updating materials alongside members. We have developed a two-year plan to educate and assist members and centers in utilizing the uniform terminology.

What Is Optimal Terminology That Incorporates Horses to Benefit People?

This consensus document recommends optimal uniform terminology for naming and describing diverse services in the United States that incorporate horses to benefit people. The need for this document is underscored by pervasive adverse impacts of imprecise and ambiguous language on stakeholders, including recipients of services and their advocates, providers, funders, policy makers, researchers and regulators. To address the needs for optimal uniform terminology, a two-year consensus-building process was followed. Visit www.pathintl.org to learn more about the industry-wide summit participants, purpose, need and process.

[Click here](#) to see the published paper online.

[Click here](#) to see and download a PDF of the published document.

Key Takeaways from the Consensus Document

1. New unifying term: Equine-assisted Services (EAS), Page 4
2. Three Areas of Services, Page 4
 - a. **Therapy—Important to understand and use therapy-first language, recommended terminology and definitions, Page 4**
 - b. **Equine-assisted Learning in Education, Organizations and Personal Development—Learn what qualifies an individual to provide services for them to be recognized as EAL, recommended terminology and definitions, Page 4**
 - c. **Horsemanship, recommended terminology and definitions, Page 5**
3. Adaptive and Therapeutic Riding Can Be Used Interchangeably, rationale for this recommendation, Page 5
4. Terms NOT RECOMMENDED for Continued Use, Page 5

KEY POINTS