

Dear Therapiehund Schweiz,

My name is Eszter Szigedi – I'm a master student in Clinical Psychology at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. In collaboration with a number of master students and professors I am investigating the impact of client suicide on mental health practitioners. In particular, I focus on the experience of those professionals who specialize in Animal Assisted Therapy, as the main theme of my master thesis.

I am very passionate about this topic, since about 40% of all mental health practitioners have experienced client suicide, yet its impact on us professionals has barely been researched. Moreover, it has never been studied before whether client suicide affects those working with AAT any differently, although a multitude of studies suggests that the bond between human and companion animal could be an important factor in coping with the painful experience of losing someone.

As Therapiehund Schweiz you have an extensive network of practitioners who might be interested in taking part in our study. As such, I would like to ask you if you would be willing to share our survey within your network, via LinkedIn, a mailing list or any way you see fit. Our survey is available in English, German and Dutch. Please find our link and an example message to accompany the link here below.

"Researchers at the Erasmus University are investigating the impact of client suicide on mental health professionals, both with respect to emotional and professional consequences. Have you ever lost a client or patient to suicide, share your experiences and help vital research by completing the 15-min survey:

https://erasmusuniversity.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0V6XPGTRmCuPM69"

In case you would be interested in the results of our study, I would be happy to follow up with a research report as soon as the research data have been processed.

I thank you for your consideration.

Eszter Szigedi