Date and Time: 11th December 201919:00- 20:00

**Subject:**  Animal Assisted Intervention within Critical Care

**This chat will be moderated by**: Trish McCready (@TrishMcCready) on behalf of the BACCN using @BACCNUK with the following hashtag: #BACCNAAI

BACCN Twitter Chat was launched during the #BACCNConf2016 in Glasgow and it’s been great exploring all your views and opinions on subjects that matters to us all.

Animal Assisted Intervention (Pet Therapy) has a growing interest for use in Critical Care with the perception that it lifts patient mood and is beneficial in rehabilitation, most of the research to date is related to the use of dogs. An Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) group is now in place to explore the practicalities of using this therapeutic approach within Critical Care and BACCN is involved in this. However, there are several concerns for patients, staff and pets particularly around infection control, fear of animals and the pets being stressed by Critical Care setting. Currently there is little published research around this topic within the critical care setting.

This Twitter chat will explore people’s experiences of using assisted animal intervention (pets as therapy), the barriers and benefits.

What’s been your experience, ideas or views? Let’s talk #BACCNAAI within critical care.

**Reading list:**

Hediger K, Petignat M, Marti R, HundGeorgiadis M (2019) *Animal-assisted therapy for patients in a minimally conscious state: A randomized two treatment multi-period crossover trial*. (online)PLoS ONE 14(10): e0222846

Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust (2018) ‘*Maggie: a valued member of critical care team’* Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcI3BQZQob0> (this is a YouTube video)

Pets as Therapy Website <https://petsastherapy.org/> (has a number of useful policy guidance)

Royal College of Nursing (2019) *‘Animal assisted interventions’* Available at:

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/animal-assisted-interventions> (this has a number of links to other resources)