



HÁSKÓLINN
Á HÓLUM

**Animal Assisted Services Conference
Day One 15 May 2026**

13:00-13:20	Registration and Coffee
13:20-13:30	Welcome <i>Hólmfríður Sveinsdóttir, Rektor, Hólar University</i> <i>Sveinn Ragnarsson, Professor, Equine Science, Hólar University</i>
13:30-14:10	Animal-Assisted Services (AAS) Defined: Scope of Practice and Key Considerations <i>Erika Berg, Associate Professor, Program Director for Bison Strides Equine Assisted Services, North Dakota State University, USA</i>
14:10-15:10	Psychosocial Effects of AAS <i>Nina Ekholm Fry, Director of Equine Programs at The Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver, USA</i>
15:10-15:30	Coffee
15:30-16:20	Underlying Mechanisms of AAS <i>Henri Julius, Professor Emeritus, University of Rostock, Psychology, Adjunct Professor Hólar University and Mozarteum University Salzburg</i>
16:20-17:00	Physiotherapy with the Icelandic Horse: past, present and future <i>Guðbjörg Eggertsdóttir, Pediatric Physiotherapist, Gló</i>
17:00-17:40	Practitioner Perspectives I <i>Susanne Lintermann, Holistic Specialist, Hugarró Goats and Nature</i> <i>Sonja Gústafsdóttir, Occupational Therapist, University of Akureyri</i> <i>Nina Anna Dau, Special Education Teacher, Grunnskóli Vestmannaeyja</i>
18:30-20:00	Dinner at Hólar University

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8:30-8:40	Welcome Back <i>Sveinn Ragnarsson, Professor, Equine Science, Hólar University</i>
8:40-9:20	Practitioner Perspectives II <i>Guðbjörg Eggertsdóttir, Pediatric Physiotherapist, Gló</i> <i>Þorkatla Sigurðardóttir, Psychologist, Hlöðuloftið</i>
9:20-10:10	From Trauma to Triumph: how horses inspired me and the path towards the paralympic dream <i>Felicia Grimmenhag, Swedish Icelandic Horse Association</i>
10:10-10:30	Coffee
10:30-11:15	What Makes a Good Animal Partner? <i>Gunnhildur Jakobsdóttir, Head of Occupational Therapy, Gló</i>
11:15-12:15	Effects of AAS on Animal Partners <i>Clare Thomas-Pino, Programme Manager in Human-Animal Interactions, Hartpury University, UK</i>
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:15	Nordic Panel: AAS in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden <i>Nina Ekholm Fry, moderator</i>
14:15-14:45	Proposed Hólar University Curriculum <i>Erika Berg, Sveinn Ragnarsson, Henri Julius</i>
14:45-15:05	Coffee
15:05-16:05	Roundtable Interest Groups
16:05-17:15	Exploring a Framework for an Icelandic Animal-Assisted Services Organization
17:15	Adjourn. Takk fyrir og góða ferð heim!

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