



# AAAIP

Association of Animal-Assisted  
Intervention Professionals

# DIFFERENCE IN CREDENTIALS

A credential is a term for a qualification or achievement that indicates suitability for a specific task or role but may also convey evidence of authority or entitlement to privileges.

## CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE/ PARTICIPATION

When an individual completes an event designed to teach skills and/or knowledge.

- Pet Partners Handler Workshop
- American Red Cross Cat & Dog First Aid Online Training

- The focus is providing educational content. It may include assessment, but it doesn't have to be passed to earn the certificate.
- Can't be revoked.

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

When an individual completes an educational program and demonstrates attainment of the knowledge and/or skills through assessment.

- Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate
- Certificate in Commercial Real Estate

- Provided education is integral to the program; you cannot just take the test.
- Scope of content is often a distinct knowledge/skill set.
- No ongoing requirements to maintain the certificate.

## CERTIFICATION

When an individual completes an assessment designed to verify education, training, or experience gained elsewhere.

- Certified Professional Dog Trainer
- Board-Certified Physician

- Certifying body may offer education, but applicants are free to get education through other third-party providers.
- There are ongoing requirements to maintain certification, which can be revoked.

## REGISTRATION

When you meet the specific criteria to enroll as a member of a group to obtain privileges, benefits, or services.

- Therapy animal team registration
- Registered yoga instructor

- Criteria to register may include eligibility requirements, receiving training, passing assessments, and/or making payment.
- Can be revoked.



## HOW IT IS EARNED



## EXAMPLES



## ATTRIBUTES

\*Concepts adapted from the article "Making Sense of Credentials" by Mickie Rops, MEd, FASAE, CAE, originally printed in *Forum*, published by the Association Forum of Chicagoland, November/December 2009.