

Meeting Notes – HETI Life / HHRF Conference Planning

Purpose: Informational meeting about the upcoming HETI Life conference

Main topic: Introduction and discussion of the **2026 conference in Prague**

1. Conference Overview

- The conference is organized by:
 - **HHRF (Human–Horse Research Foundation)**
 - **HETI**
 - **Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague**
- The session was recorded so that people interested in the conference can access the information later.

Conference details

- **Location:** Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
 - **Dates:** **19–20 September 2026**
 - Hosted in a university auditorium capable of seating several hundred participants.
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2. Purpose and Theme of the Conference

The event aims to:

- Bring together **researchers and practitioners**
- Encourage **dialogue and collaboration**
- Share **current research and practical experiences**
- Discuss **challenges and solutions** in equine/animal-assisted services

Theme highlighted by organizers:

- **Connect**
- **Learn**
- **Inspire**

The conference format is designed to be interactive and discussion-based rather than lecture-heavy.

3. Program Format

Planned elements include:

- **Invited speakers**
- **Research presentations**
- **Practitioner discussions**
- **Poster presentations**
- Networking opportunities

Additional points:

- A **call for poster presentations** will be issued.
- Posters are encouraged particularly for:

- New research
 - Recently completed studies
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4. Host Institution

Czech University of Life Sciences (Prague)

Highlights:

- Located on the **edge of Prague in a green campus area**
 - Strong focus on:
 - Animal welfare
 - Ethology
 - Canine studies
 - Equine studies
 - Animal-assisted services
 - Offers a **3-year bachelor program in animal-assisted services**
 - Students from the program will **volunteer during the conference**
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5. About Prague

Key points shared to encourage attendance:

- Historic city with **medieval architecture and churches**
- **Walkable and not overly large**

- **Relatively affordable** compared to many European cities
 - Recommended attraction: **Prague Zoo**
 - Opportunity to explore the city before or after the conference
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6. Networking and Social Activities

To support networking:

- A **guided city tour** will likely be organized on **Friday** for early arrivals
- Informal gatherings and shared meals will be included
- The atmosphere aims to be **friendly and collaborative**

Participants noted that previous HHRF conferences had:

- Round-table seating
 - Easy communication between attendees
 - A welcoming and informal environment
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7. Logistics and Questions Raised

Participants asked about:

- **Conference costs** (not finalized in the meeting)
- **Accommodation options**
 - Possibility of connecting attendees traveling solo

- Potential to share accommodation (e.g., Airbnb)
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8. Key Message from Organizers

The main goal of the conference is to:

Bridge the gap between research and practice in animal-assisted and equine-assisted services.

Organizers emphasized creating a **collaborative community atmosphere** rather than a traditional academic-only conference.

 **Outcome:**

Participants were invited to attend, submit posters, and share the event with others interested in equine/animal-assisted services.
