

Rabbiting On - A short film collaboration between Vetwork UK and Walking Pictures.

This is another exploration of the Human/Companion animal bond. “Animal Assisted Therapy” is a type of therapy that involves animals as a form of treatment. This film shows one person’s therapeutic relationship to his pet animals.

[Jamie and rabbits](#) from [Susi Arnott](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Jamie is 20 and has had anorexia since his teens. Cast adrift at 16 from the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services that had been helping him, and unable to meet criteria for Adult Services (partly because he couldn’t tick the box that asked if his periods had stopped!), he got himself some pet rabbits and spends time with them to quieten down his ‘Eating Disorder Voice’ when things get rough.

Animal assisted therapy does lack a controlled-trials evidence-base. Due to the lack of good data, particularly longitudinal studies showing long-term outcomes, it has many critics. The individual portrayed in this film certainly seems to have benefited from his personal Companion Animal bond, however it is unlikely this could be used as an “off the peg” approach to mental health issues.