

CLASSROOM PETS HELP CHILDREN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

The importance of the human-animal bond knows no bounds. Whether you own a pet or not, animal companionship can help keep us healthy and improve our quality of life. With the help of a strong human-animal bond, children can develop into their best selves.



Animals can help improve students' academic performance and attitudes toward school.¹ A set of friendly, furry ears can provide the confidence boost children need to feel secure while reading aloud in the classroom. Research shows that for some children, animal-assisted reading programs can even improve reading comprehension.²



In and out of the classroom, the human-animal bond can decrease social anxiety and increase positive social behaviours, leading to better social integration.^{3,4} Pets can help children to develop and flourish socially. Bonding with an animal can help children to realize their full potential.



The human-animal bond has been studied for decades, and the research is clear: a healthy pet in your life can keep you healthy, and the more you take care of your pet's health the more your pet takes care of you.

Keep the human-animal bond strong. Make an appointment to check up on your pet's health today!

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

References:

1. Beetz, A. "Socio-emotional Correlates of a Schooldog-Teacher-Team in the Classroom." *Front. Psychol.* 4.886 (2013). DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00886. 2. Le Roux, M.C., Swartz, L., and Swart, E. "The Effect of an Animal-Assisted Reading Program on the Reading Rate, Accuracy and Comprehension of Grade 3 Students: A Randomized Control Study." *Child & Youth Care Forum* 43.6. Springer US (2014). 3. Anderson, K.L., and Olson, M.R. "The Value of a Dog in a Classroom of Children with Severe Emotional Disorders." *Antrozoos* 19.1 (2006): 35-49. 5. O'Haire, M.E. et al. "Social behaviors increase in children with autism in the presence of animals compared to toys." *PloS ONE* 8.2 (2013): 1-10. <https://habricentral.org/resources/1947>

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