



pets in the classroom



How TEACHERS can introduce children to the benefits of pets

Pets in the Classroom is an educational grants program to support school teachers to have aquarium fish or small pets in the classroom. School teachers have very limited resources for the support of classroom animals. That's why The Pet Care Trust is sponsoring this program to help teachers in grades Pre-K through 8 support pets in the classroom through direct, no-hassle grants. You can obtain a grant or coupon for the purchase of new pets, pet environments or pet food and supplies for existing classroom pets.

PETS BUILD SELF ESTEEM

Helping to take care of a pet gives a child a sense of pride and accomplishment, especially if the animal is able to return the affection. Shari Young Kuchenbecker, Ph.D., research psychologist at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, says, "The child who cares for a pet knows that what he does matters, and so he'll want to do more of it. The more successfully he feeds, walks, or emotionally bonds with the pet, the more confident he'll feel about himself and his environment." In fact, studies conducted by the Waltham Centre have shown that children with pets have higher levels of self-esteem than those without pets.

PETS TEACH RESPONSIBILITY

Even a small child can begin to learn to care for the needs of another living being. Whether helping to empty a cup of dry kibble into the rabbit's bowl, or filling the hamster's water bottle, it's never too early to start teaching children proper animal care.

PETS BECOME FRIENDS

Animals such as cats, dogs and guinea pigs love human contact and can become a child's best friend. Children can even develop strong bonds with non-responsive animals such as fish or turtles. These relationships help to strengthen a child's social skills, giving them the potential to do better in a school setting. (sesameworkshop.org)

PETS ENCOURAGE NURTURING

Children soon learn that if they want to be liked and trusted by the family cat, they'll need to treat her carefully and kindly. This sort of training benefits all children.

HEALTH & EDUCATION

It's official. Studies show that children from families with pets are better equipped to fight off infection than those from non-pet households, showing significantly higher levels of immune system performance.

HOW TO APPLY. Visit the website at www.petsintheclassroom.org, fill out the application form and tell us about yourself, your students and your classroom. Email it to us, and we'll get back to you with a decision within 7-10 business days. If you qualify, we'll send a coupon directly to you for the support of your classroom pets. That's all there is to it.