



Are classroom pets the answer to better learning?

Having animals in the classroom is not by any means a new concept.

What are the benefits of introducing an animal into the education setting?

Research has shown that pet ownership;

- Improves physical health.
- Improves psychological health too.
- Children are more likely to seek out and feel supported by their pets when they are struggling with emotional wellbeing, particularly those with special education needs.
- Good for morale.
- Teaches children necessary skills such as responsibility.
- Helps children understand the needs of another living creature.
- A source for building confidence and self-esteem.

Having a pet in the classroom can be beneficial to learning;

- Resulted in less stressful responses when performing highly difficult mathematical tasks.
- 79% of children believed this had a positive effect on their learning in general.
- Can increase school attendance.
- Supports learning, for example, you could talk about the school Guinea pig and adjectives to describe it (English) or how fast it can run (Maths) even its cultural heritage (Geography).
- Motivates pupils by connecting learning to something the children are emotionally drawn to and enables them to easily consolidate learning into memory.