

# Impact Report

Pets in the Classroom



pets in the  
classroom



*Dear Pets in the Classroom Friends,*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Pet Care Trust, thank you for your continued support of the Pets in the Classroom Grant Program.*

*Your commitment to the Pets in the Classroom program is truly making an impact. You are instrumental in allowing millions of students to experience the joy and benefits of companion animals at school. In addition, your support has helped bring classroom pets to over 162,000 classrooms over the years, impacting over 6.5 million students nationwide and in Canada.*

*We are excited to share some strong measurable results of having pets in the classroom. Included in this report is a summary of the results from an American Humane study, as well as a large teacher survey that was conducted. Both point to the fact that the Pets in the Classroom program has a tremendous positive impact on students and their development.*

*Our success, both in the classroom and in developing young pet-lovers, is only made possible because of your loyal support. We believe we are making a difference and we can't thank you enough in contributing to our mission to promote public understanding of the joys and benefits of pets through education, support, and interaction. With your generous help, we've given millions of children the opportunity to achieve academic success, increase their social skills, and create lasting memories through caring for a classroom pet.*

*Thank you,*

*Jackie King, Executive Director*

*Clancy Lavins, President, Board of Directors*



# **Positively impacting kids across the U.S. and Canada**

- Over 162,000 grants provided to teachers since 2011.
- Over 25,000 grants awarded to place pets in the classroom in the 2018-19 school year. The expectation is to exceed this in 2019-20.
- Over 6.5 million students have experienced the joys of interacting with and caring for pets as a result of receiving a Pet in the Classroom grant.

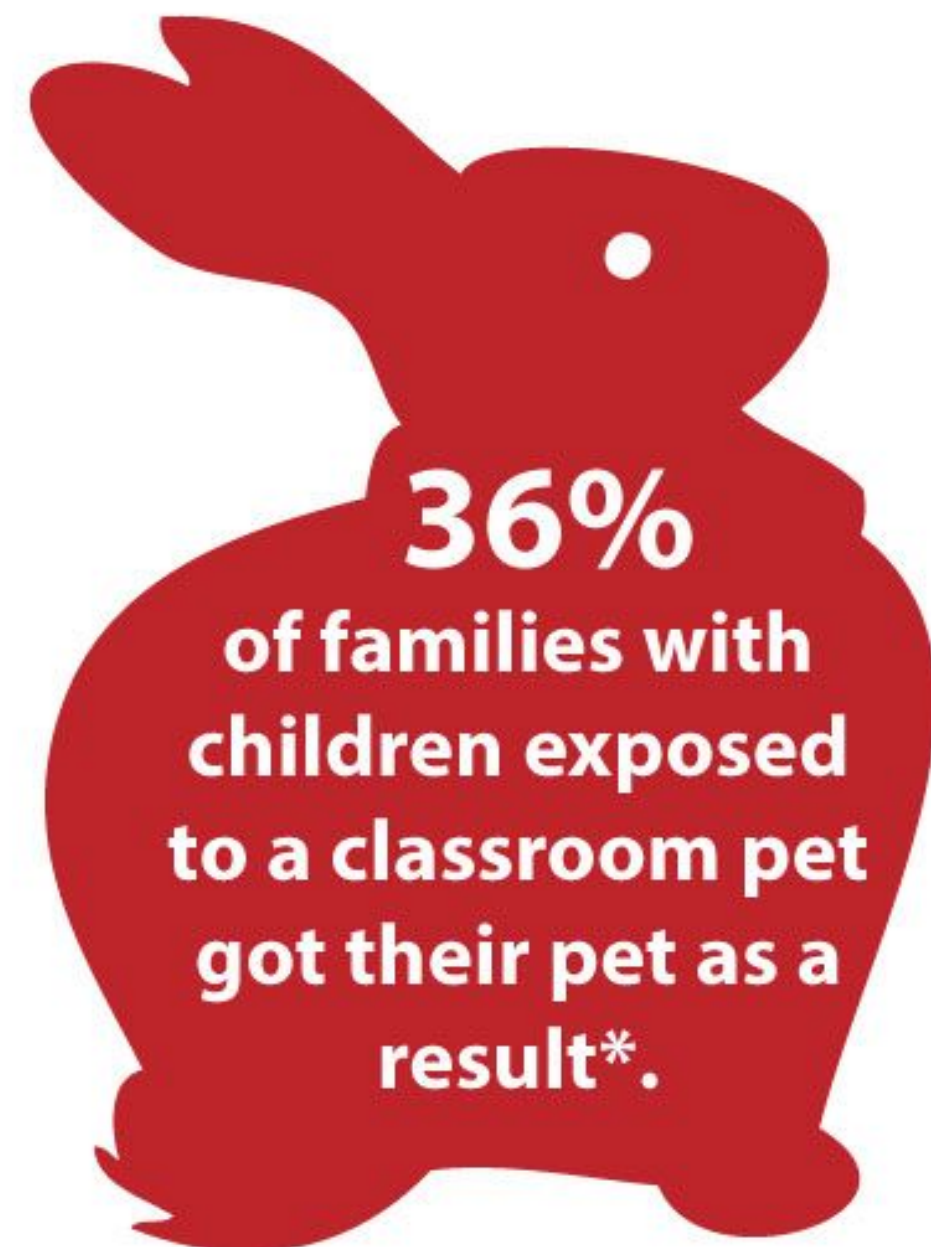
## **A program that works, and that everyone can feel good about**

- Teachers love the program, and their testimonials demonstrate this.
- About 50% of our grants to go Title 1 schools or to classrooms serving students with disabilities.
- This program has involvement from pet industry leaders including manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and trade organizations.
- Pets in the Classroom supports 3 important causes: Kids, Education, and Pets





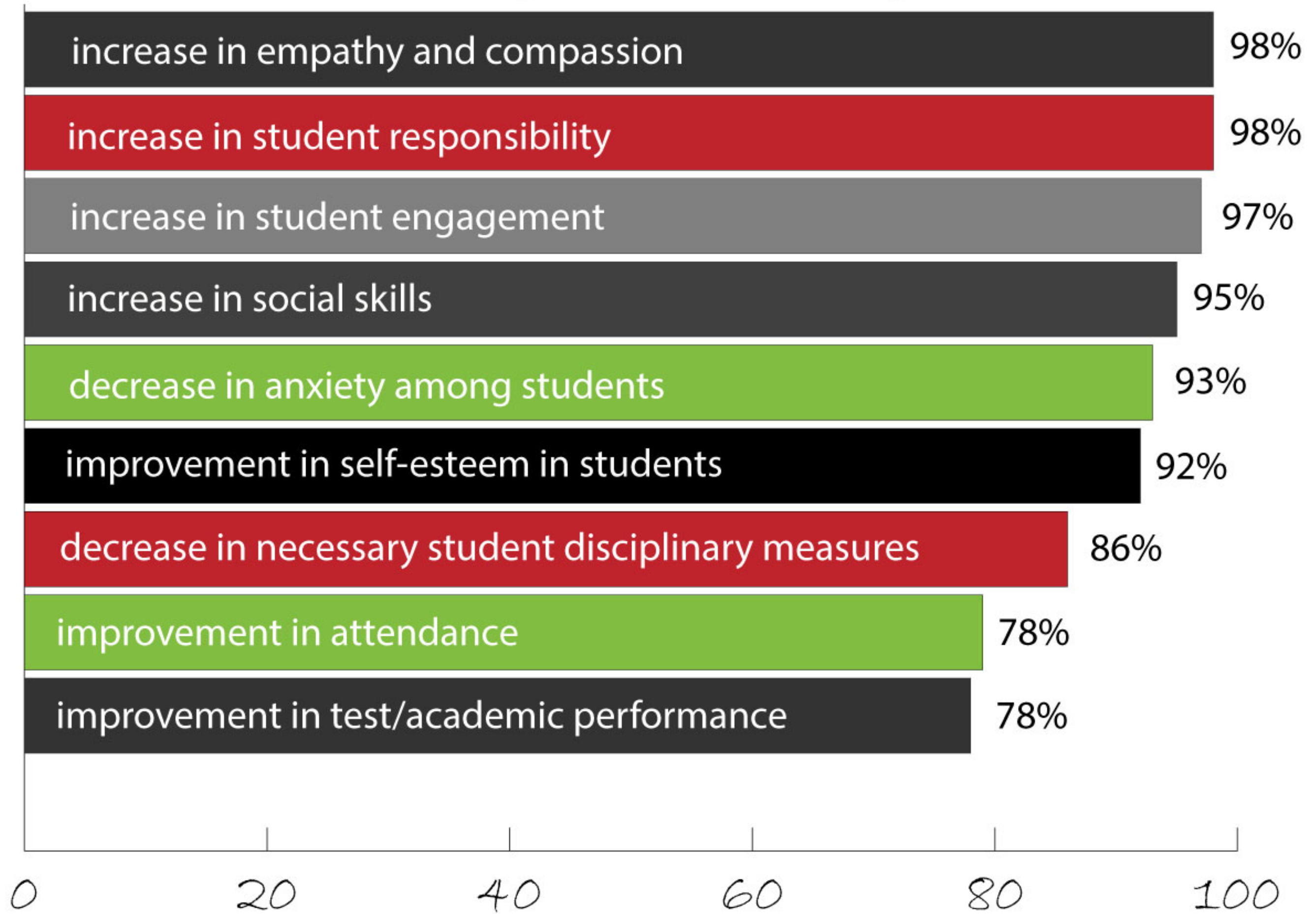
# Pets in the Classroom by the Numbers



**\*According to the 2019-20 American Pet Products Association (APPA) National Pet Owners Survey**

# 2019 Spring Teacher Survey Results<sup>\*</sup>

Percentage of teachers who indicated their students had demonstrated changes in the following areas:



**60% of teachers indicated that at least one or more students had gotten a pet at home as a result of having a classroom pet!**

<sup>\*</sup>10,265 Grant recipients responded to a survey created by the Pets in the Classroom Program in May 2019



# Classroom Pet Success Stories

**We're excited to share what a few teachers are saying:**

*--Thank you, the students love our pets! I can't believe the calming effect and motivation they have provided in the classroom.*

*--This year I had a little girl with severe anxiety. She would shut down immediately if she was to do something academically. She became my bearded dragon expert by choice, got 2 at home, then became the one we all relied on for our pet, and in turn she gained so much confidence that she brought our pet to other classrooms and taught the students about him. She also made AB Honor Roll for the 1st time in her school career! All of her successes started with our bearded dragon, Bud.*

*--The kids love to interact with our rats by feeding them, holding them, talking to them, and **READING** to them!!! My reluctant and troubled readers would sit next to Oingo and Boingo and read out loud to them.*

*--I teach at an inner-city school, with many kids suffering from academic, social and emotional difficulties. Having a classroom pet for the students to take care of and love has helped many of these children. I think the biggest benefit of having [Ruby the rabbit] is that she teaches empathy. My students often remind each other to keep the noise level down, because rabbits scare easily and the noise may be upsetting her. They have learned to be gentle and responsible when caring for the pet.*

*--I had an emotionally disturbed student who had a behavior incentive to be able to take care of my guinea pig and take it home for the weekend. That student's positive behavior skyrocketed, and he was able to earn the privilege of taking care of our guinea pig. I also have special ed children that calm down by watching the fish tank.*

*--I have some students that have had several traumatic experiences in their lives. Having our class pet has given them a sense of security and built compassion for another living creature.*



# Pets in the Classroom Research Report

In 2019, Phase II of the **American Humane Research Study** on pets in the classroom was published in the Human Animal Interaction Research Bulletin. Key results:

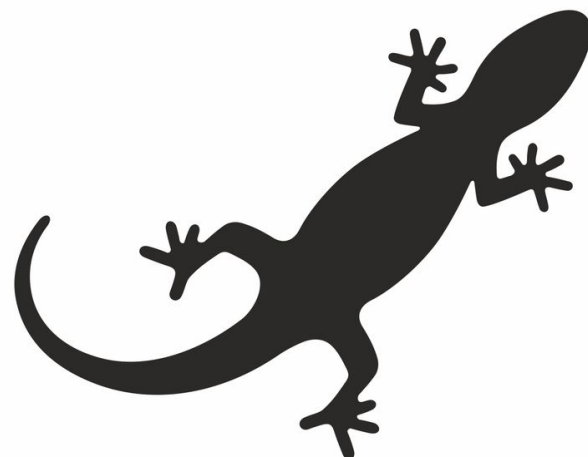
**“The utilization of classroom pets in the 3rd and 4th grade U.S. classrooms appears to hold significant benefits for children’s social, behavioral and academic development.”**

**Amy McCullogh, PhD, Principal Investigator and Senior Research Advisor --  
American Humane**

**Teachers with classroom pets reported significantly greater increases in overall social skills (including communication, cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, engagement, and self-control); better social competence; and improved academic reading competence.**

**Parent respondents indicated they saw significantly greater increases in pro-social behaviors among their children compared to parents with children in classrooms without pets.**

*Research Citation: McCullough, A., Ruehrdanz, A., Garthe, R., Hellman, C., and O’Haire, M., (2019) Measuring the Social, Behavioral, and Academic Effects of Classroom Pets on Third and Fourth-Grade Students. Human Animal Interaction Bulletin. Advance online publication. <https://www.petsintheclassroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pets-in-the-Classroom-Publication-Press-release-Final-.pdf>*





# Pet Care Community DC Fly-In

The Pet Care Community DC Fly-In in September brought together pet care professionals—from retailers to companion animal suppliers to product manufacturers and distributors—from around the United States for the event. The Pet Care Trust participated in meeting with Members of Congress and their staff to advocate for legislation to provide veteran access to service animals, to support animals in education settings, and to protect pet and public health through increased animal importation oversight.





# Thank You, Partners and Sponsors



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