

**Pets in the Classroom Facts:**

* In 2010, the Pets in the Classroom grant program was established by the Pet Care Trust with the knowledge that classroom pets can be a valuable teaching tool that many teachers do not have access to because of a lack of funding.
* Grants are provided for pets and supplies for classroom grades Pre-K through 9th grade in both the United States and Canada.
* The program is funded by industry leaders including: manufacturers, retailers, distributors, and other contributors.
* Research studies prove that classroom pets enhance students’ academic and social development: ([www.petsintheclassroom.org/research](http://www.petsintheclassroom.org/research)).
* Since the program’s inception, over 228,985 grants were awarded to teachers\*.
* Over 9.1 million students have benefited from the program\*.
* In a survey of grant recipients, 99% of teachers said that having a pet in the classroom has been a positive experience. (<https://petsintheclassroom.org/teachers-indicate-classroom-pets-help-students/>)
* Pets in the Classroom strives to be a resource to teachers through their website, which features over 300 lesson plans (including video lessons teachers can share with their classes), 12 animal care sheets, and a detailed chart containing an extensive list of animals, the recommended experience level, diet recommendations, etc. to guide teachers in deciding which type of classroom pet to get. ([www.petsintheclassroom.org](http://www.petsintheclassroom.org))
* The Pet Care Trust also established the Dogs in the Classroom program, which strives to bring well-trained and thoroughly screened therapy animal teams to schools in an effort to improve the health and well-being of students. The program partners with Pet Partners, the nation’s leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions. Interested educators can apply at <www.petsintheclassroom.org>.

Click her to learn more about Pets in the Classroom: [www.PetsintheClassroom.org](http://www.PetsintheClassroom.org).

\*Numbers through the 2022-23 school year.