

**Animals in the Classroom; How to Integrate Animal Assisted
Education Into Schools: A Literature Review**

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ANZ 322: Community Canine

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March 7, 2025

Abstract

From class pets, volunteer therapy dog teams, to school facility dogs, animal assisted education (AAE) continues to increase in popularity. Throughout this rise in popularity, research surrounding AAE focuses on the enhancement of student engagement, emotional-well being, positive learning outcomes, highlighting the improvements seen within student motivation, reducing anxiety, and fostering empathy. This presentation explores the integration of AAE into primary school settings, examining its benefits, challenges, and best practices. Additionally, it discusses key considerations such as ethical concerns, animal welfare, teacher training, and logistical constraints to implementing such a program. The findings suggest that when implemented thoughtfully, AAE can serve as a valuable complement to traditional teaching methods and intervention strategies, thus offering a different approach to education. This presentation, supplemented by the use of a school facility dog, will firsthand show the benefits of AAE within the learning environment.

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