

Vocabulary: dogs 词汇: 犬类

Some people say that dogs are **man's best friend** – good **companions**, loyal and loveable. Of course, they can be more than just a **pet** as certain **breeds** are excellent working dogs too. We know about the amazing help **guide dogs** give to blind people and, more recently, a new role has been found for the animals – working as **therapy dogs** in universities.

Research by Washington State University in the US, has found spending time with a **pooch** can help stressed out students. Patricia Pendry from the university told the BBC that a study of 300 undergraduates had found weekly hour-long sessions with dogs brought to the university by professional **handlers** had made stressed students at "high risk of academic failure" or dropping out, "feel relaxed and accepted". The dogs helped them to concentrate, learn and remember information.

I know that **stroking** a dog helps me to relax; other research has shown that **petting** animals can reduce stress hormone levels and anxiety, so it makes sense to introduce them into an environment where people are stressed. The BBC's education correspondent Sean Coughlan writes that around 1,000 campuses in the US already use therapy pets and it's becoming more common in the UK. For example, The University of Middlesex has employed '**canine** teaching assistants' to help stop lonely students dropping out. Fiona Suthers, head of clinical skills at the university, says that five **Labradors** had a "stringent assessment" to ensure they had the right **temperament**. But she adds "it's hard to describe the impact of just having a dog lying down in the corner of a class."

Using dogs for therapy can also help the dogs themselves. In Wales, Swansea University Students' Union has used rescued **greyhounds** to help students unwind between exams. Sessions allow **mistreated** and **abandoned** dogs to interact with humans and begin to trust them again. Student Union education officer Chloe Hutchinson told the BBC that "a lot of students have dogs at home and might be a bit homesick, especially around exam time when it is stressful and you just want your home comforts." So if you're a student who's been **working like a dog**, but you still feel like you haven't a **dog's chance** in passing your exams, maybe introducing a **four-legged friend** into your life might be the help you need.

词汇表

man's best friend	人类最好的朋友，狗
companion	伙伴
pet	宠物
breed	(动植物的) 品种
guide dog	导盲犬
therapy dog	治疗犬
pooch	狗
handler	训狗师
stroke	抚摸，轻抚
pet	爱抚，抚摸
canine	犬的
Labrador	拉布拉多犬
temperament	性情，性格
greyhound	灵缇犬
mistreated	被虐待的
abandoned	被遗弃的
work like a dog	勤奋地工作
a dog's chance	一点机会也没有，毫无希望
four-legged friend	四腿的朋友，狗

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What did 300 undergraduates in the US find after they had spent some time with therapy dogs?
2. What can reduce stress hormone levels?
3. True or false? *Greyhound dogs were used at Swansea University to help abandoned and mistreated students.*
4. How did staff at the University of Middlesex know the therapy dogs they used had the right temperament?
5. Which phrase used in the article means 'leaving something before you have finished what you had planned to do'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My brother is a good travel _____, so I often go on holiday with him.

handler	pet	companion	pooch
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2. The animal rescue centre is looking for donations to help _____ horses.

mistreating	mistreated	mistreat	mistreats
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3. I've been _____ to get this project finished – but I'm almost done and then I'm going on holiday!

working like a dog	working with a dog	worked like a dog	work like a dog
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4. My girlfriend has a fiery _____ - she likes to argue about everything but I still love her!

stroking	dog's chance	breed	temperament
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5. The hotel was amazing – it had all the _____ such a coffee machine, a sofa and a huge TV.

home comfortable	home comfort	home comforts	homing comforts
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What did 300 undergraduates in the US find after they had spent some time with therapy dogs?

They found spending time with dogs, helped them to concentrate, learn and remember information.

2. What can reduce stress hormone levels?

Research has shown that petting - or stroking - animals can reduce stress hormone levels and anxiety.

3. True or false? *Greyhound dogs were used at Swansea University to help abandoned and mistreated students.*

False. Mistreated and abandoned greyhound dogs were used to interact with humans and begin the process of building trust with them again.

4. How did staff at the University of Middlesex know the therapy dogs they used had the right temperament?

Five Labradors had a “stringent assessment” to ensure they had the right temperament.

5. Which phrase used in the article means ‘leaving something before you have finished what you had planned to do’?

Dropping out. “The University of Middlesex has employed ‘canine teaching assistants’ to help stop lonely students dropping out.”

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My brother is a good travel **companion**, so I often go on holiday with him.

2. The animal rescue centre is looking for donations to help **mistreated** horses.

3. I've been **working like a dog** to get this project finished – but I'm almost done and then I'm going on holiday!

4. My girlfriend has a fiery **temperament** - she likes to argue about everything but I still love her!

5. The hotel was amazing – it had all the **home comforts** such a coffee machine, a sofa and a huge TV.