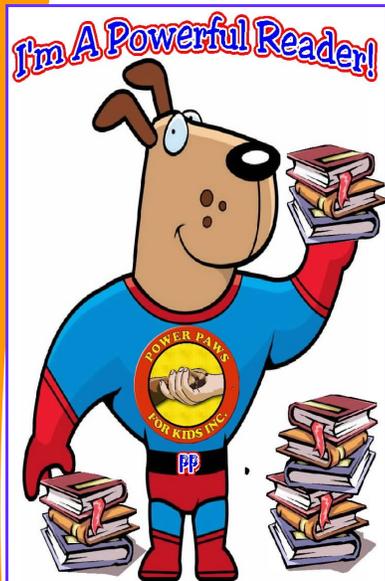




[www.powerpawforkids.org](http://www.powerpawforkids.org)

**Power Paws for Kids Inc AAT**

**219-671-0076**



All canines in the Power Paws Program are registered therapy dogs.

## POWER PAWS FOR KIDS INC AAT

A University of California Davis study that determined students who read out loud to dogs improved their reading skills by 12 percent over the course of a 10-week program, while children in the same program who didn't read to dogs showed no improvement

Hoping to collect scientific data related to the observed successes of reading -to-dogs programs, the foundation and researchers from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine decided to collaborate on two studies.

### Fluency improves

The first study explored changes in reading skills among third graders in a public school and the second study focused on home-schooled students. Researchers found that the kids reading fluency improved by 12 percent in the first study and by 30 percent in the second study.

In both studies, the children read regularly to three shelter-rescued dogs named Lollipop, Molly and Digory. The dogs were provided by Tony La Russas Animal Rescue Foundation.

In the second study, the homeschooled children visited the Davis campus weekly with their parents for 10 weeks. During those visits, each child read aloud to one of the dogs for 15-20 minutes.

I feel relaxed when I am reading to a dog because I am having fun, one child told researchers.

The dogs don't care if you read really, really bad so you just keep going, said another.

And 75 percent of the parents reported that their children read aloud more frequently and with greater confidence after the study was completed.

The researchers suspect that the patient, non-judgmental attention that the dogs offer is key to bringing about the changes in the kids attitudes toward reading.

The dogs, in contrast to a human, don't judge the individual, aren't grading the individual, and hopefully that allows the children to build some confidence in their reading skills, said Martin Smith, a veterinary school science educator and lead researcher on the study.

### University of Davis Reading Study

