

Animal Care Club News Letter

Issue 1, June 2020

Intro

As a Science teacher at Worthing High I am fortunate enough to be allowed to house animals in my classroom. I have loved being able to share them and educate the pupils about them. The animals are also a great chance to install the core values with the Creature Care Club bringing a sense of community.

Pupils that have chosen to overcome a fear of snakes or insects have shown resilience. The responsibility of feeding, cleaning and caring for an animal has needed integrity. I also encourage the pupils to maintain the animals to a high standard which has required them to show excellence in animal care. Respect is an absolute must when around the animals and when working with others they must respect others strengths and weaknesses.



Picture 1. Malcolm, Male Goldfish

Where are they now?

Of course during the pandemic all the animals have come home. It took a staggering 8 hours to empty my classroom and find a space in my home. In total there were about 350 Giant African Land Snails, 15 Stick insects, 2 gold fish, 18 Tropical fish, 1 Corn Snake, 1 Bearded Dragon and a Leopard Gecko.



Figure 2. Marvina, Female Goldfish.

Updates

The animals have kept me very busy, with several new additions. Each issue I thought I'd try and update you on one of them. This time it's the gold fish.

The move from my class room to my kitchen gave rise to a temperature increase in their tank. Which triggered Malcolm and Marvina to spawn. As soon as I noticed I set a nursery tank up.

Animal Care Club News Letter

Issue 1, June 2020

The eggs developed over two days. In the picture below you can see two black dots which are the eyes, and the black line is the spine. On the second day they hatched.



Fig 3, Goldfish egg.

There are a now 9 fry in the nursery tank which are growing well. They have had a diet of shrimp, algae and crushed fish food.

FUN FACT, When goldfish fry hatch they DO NOT have a mouth. It takes them two days to grow a mouth.



Fig 4, Goldfish fry - 2 days old.

They were in shallow water to avoid being crushed by the weight of the water above.

The first few months of growth have been rapid. They will take several years to fully grow, growing on average 2.5cm's a year.

The colour pattern has started to show and will develop more over the next few months.

Coming in the next issue

- All about the Snails.