

LOW COST | OUTDOORS | OUTSIDE PRESENTER | PASSIVE

PET EXPO

AGES

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pet expo day at the library! This great family program is for anyone who has ever wanted a pet. Invite local rescue organizations to bring adoptable pets and local experts to give pet care tips. You could also modify this program to focus on the care of unusual pets (such as reptiles or birds), and ask patrons to bring in their unusual pets for show and tell. For an expo-style event, guest organizations set up information tables for participants to peruse at their leisure; they could also give short presentations. You can tailor the program to focus on adoption tips, pet health and nutrition, pet first aid, and/or pet training. Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

For a passive version, work with local shelters to make summer reading mascots out of pets who need new homes. Promote the mascots on a library bulletin board or on your library's social media.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You may need:

- Vendor tables
- A projector and AV equipment for presentations
- Audience chairs
- Poop bags

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

For an adoption component with live pets, you will need an outdoor space or a tiled indoor room. The expo-style event could also be held outdoors if you will not be utilizing AV equipment. Partnership opportunities to consider:

- Pet rescue organizations and shelters
- Pet care experts such as veterinarians, trainers, groomers
- Pet stores
- Animal control officers
- Therapy animal organizations

TIP:

Ask local rescue organizations and veterinarians for leads on reliable pet care experts.

TIP:

If adoptable animals will be present, consider using a concierge strategy in which you only allow in a certain number of participants to interact with them at a time.

TIP:

If hosting a presentation on animal therapy or assistive pets, hold the presentation away from the noise and crowds of adoption and vendor events.

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RESOURCES

Web

Pet ownership guidelines from AVMA: <https://bit.ly/2ye6KFL>

Pet care from ASPCA: <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care>

Search animal welfare groups on Petfinder: <https://bit.ly/2LGEI92>

Tips for successful adoption events: <https://bit.ly/3clwsBj>

Heart Speak Foundation (Petco) <https://heartsspeak.org>

Pet Care Nonfiction

Picture Books

Our Very Own Dog: Taking Care of Our First Pet (2019) by Amanda McCardie and Salvatore Rubbino

May I Pet Your Dog? (2007) by Stephanie Calmenson and Jan Ormerod

Early Readers

Humphrey's World of Pets (2013) by Betty G. Birney

Something's Fishy (2017) by Kevin McCloskey

Middle Grade

Ellie's Story (2015) by W. Cameron Bruce (or any *Dog's Purpose* book)

Smiley: A Journey of Love (2017) by Joanne George

YA

Animal Welfare 101: How to Raise Unique Pets Such as Amphibians, Cats, Dogs, Fish, Reptiles, and More from A To Z (2019) by Jessica Child

Ethical Pet Ownership (2019) by Lucy K. Shaw

Misunderstood: Why the Humble Rat May Be Your Best Pet Ever (2016) by Rachel Toor

Adult

The Animals Among Us: How Pets Make Us Human (2017) by John Bradshaw

Cat Sense: How the New Feline Science Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet (2013) by John Bradshaw

Dog Is Love: Why and How Your Dog Loves You (2019) by Clive D.L. Wynne

A Dog's Purpose (2010) by Cameron W. Bruce

How to Be a Good Creature (2018) by Sy Montgomery and Rebecca Green

Inside Animal Hearts and Minds (2017) by Belinda Recio

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The Lion in the Living Room: How House Cats Tamed Us and Took Over the World (2017) by Abigail Tucker

Lucky Dog Lessons: Train Your Dog in 7 Days (2016) by Brandon McMillian

Marley and Me (2005) by John Grogan

Our Dogs, Ourselves: The Story of a Singular Bond (2019) by Alexandra Horowitz

Total Cat Mojo: The Ultimate Guide to Life with Your Cat (2017) by Jackson Galaxy

The Trainable Cat: A Practical Guide to Making Life Happier for You and Your Cat (2016) by John Bradshaw and Sarah Ellis

Training the Best Dog Ever: A 5-Week Program Using the Power of Positive Reinforcement (2012) by Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz and Larry Kat

Unleashing Your Dog: A Field Guide to Giving Your Canine Companion the Best Life Possible (2019) by Marc Bekoff and Jessica Pierce

Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom (2011) by Jennifer S. Holland

Unlikely Friendships: Dogs: 37 Stories of Canine Compassion and Courage (2016) by Jennifer S. Holland

Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy (2020) by Zazie Todd

Where the Lost Dogs Go: A Story of Love, Search, and the Power of Reunion (2019) by Susannah Charleson

Zak George's Dog Training Revolution: The Complete Guide to Raising the Perfect Pet with Love (2016) by Zak George and Dina Roth Port

TIP:

For pet fiction (all ages), see Chapter 04: We Rate Pets