

SHELTER PET PORTRAITS

AGES

Children 6+ years

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants make portraits of adoptable pets to donate to the local animal shelter! Alternatively, each participant integrates a photo of a shelter pet into a collage. The shelter can display the pictures and give them to the pets' forever families when they get adopted. This is a great way for children to practice art and contribute to their communities; alternatively, they could create portraits of their own pets. This program is easily adapted to any age or artistic ability. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

Adaptation ideas:

- Drawing and painting 101: Have an artistic volunteer or staff member give basic drawing tips.
- Paint-by-numbers: Create paint-by-numbers templates from shelter pet photos before the program, or show teens or adults how to do it themselves. See Resources for an online tutorial on how to use the free app PBNify.
- Library paint-along: A paint-along can be easily adapted to any animal theme but requires an artistic staff member, artist, or art teacher to run it. While fun, this adaptation is not suited to shelter pet portraits because everyone paints along to the same thing.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For shelter pet portraits, you will need:

- Reference photos of pets
- Drawing and painting supplies

For shelter pet collages, you will need:

- Printed pet pictures
- Pet clip art (see Printables)
- Old magazines
- Paper or tagboard
- Any craft supplies you have on hand (e.g., construction paper, markers, glue, sequins, feathers, pom-poms, etc.).
- Pet-themed scrapbook paper (optional)
- Stickers or gel pens (optional)

TIP:

Combine with Chapter 05: Pet Expo and partner with your local animal shelter for a pet adoption-themed event!

OUTREACH:

In addition to connecting with your local animal shelter, this program is portable and could be great outreach to senior centers or retirement homes.

TIP:

As an option or even a whole separate program, have participants make toys for shelter pets instead. Ask your local shelter about what kinds of toys they accept, and be aware of safety concerns regarding materials that pets can easily tear and swallow, such as socks or yarn.



Image source: Maria Parker of Kenton County Public Library

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Consider inviting a local artist or art teacher to lead the event.

RESOURCES

Web

Free paint-by-numbers app: <https://pbnify.com/>

Paint-by-numbers tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2SZ7Jke>

Pet toys inspiration here: <https://bit.ly/3bvfc0O> and <https://bit.ly/2Lp4Yoc>

Middle Grade Shelter Nonfiction

Humane Society (2016) by Katie Marsico

No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs (2012) by Rob Laidlaw

Sweet Senior Pups (2018) by Kama Einhorn

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Collage Clip Art



TIP:

Even if your local shelter does not partner with you for the program itself, be sure to contact them for the most up-to-date pictures of available pets.

TIP:

See Chapter 04: We Rate Pets for pet fiction.