

WE RATE PETS

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants share their funniest pet stories! They bring in pictures of their pets (or draw the pets they wish they had) and write funny captions. You can run this as a show-and-tell, or create a display and leave out templates and instructions for a passive program. Patrons vote on the funniest (or fluffiest/grumpiest/etc.) pets; the winners get pet-themed prize at the end of the summer. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Bulletin board or wall space
- Printed pet story templates (see Printables)
- Printed ballot slips (see Printables)
- Prize ribbons
- Ballot box
- Prizes

If running a passive program, remember to set a deadline by which all stories must be submitted. Open voting after the deadline. Prize suggestions: Gift certificates to a local pet store, pet toys, or pet-themed anything. Remember to add ribbons to the winning pictures.



Image source: Shutterstock

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Place templates and pens/pencils (or, when finished, ballot slips and a ballot box) on a table near the display.

TIP:

For an in-person program, begin by reading captions from the hilarious Twitter-feed-turned-book *We Rate Dogs* to inspire creative storytelling. You could also read a family-friendly picture book about a funny pet. For older children who might be into a codified rating system, consider the *We Rate Dogs* card game.

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK:

What is the funniest thing your pet has ever done?

If your pet could talk, what would it say?

If your pet wrote a dating profile, what would they say about themselves?

ADAPTATION:

For ESL or adult literacy patrons, inform tutors of the competition and encourage them to work with their students to write captions. Library staff can also assist patrons by writing down captions that patrons dictate and/or reading captions out loud when requested.

RESOURCES

Web

Ballot box: <https://amzn.to/3fM9meL>

Funny animal stories: <https://bit.ly/2WtthYy>

About We Rate Dogs: <https://bit.ly/3dxb8yC>

We Rate Dogs card game: <https://amzn.to/2LptFkc>

Animal Jokes and Memes

Funny Animals: Critter Comedians, Punny Pets, and Hilarious Hijinks (2019) by National Geographic Kids (middle grade)

Laugh Out Loud (2017) by Jeffrey Burton (early reader)

We Rate Dogs (2017) by Matt Nelson (adults)

Pet Fiction

Picture Books

Can I Be Your Dog? (2008) by Troy Cummings

Dogosaurus Rex (2017) by Anna Staniszewski and Kevin Hawkes

Hey Little Rockaby: A Lullaby for Pet Adoption (2020) by Buffy Sainte-Marie

How to Walk an Ant (2019) by Cindy Derby

Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs (2018) by Jackie Davis and David Soman

Lola Gets a Cat (2018) by Anna McQuinn

The Lost Kitten (2019) by Leyla Torres and Àngela Ruiz

Maisy Gets a Pet (2020) by Lucy Cousins

Philomena's New Glasses (2017) by Brenna Maloney

Some Pets (2016) by Angela DiTerlizzi

What Pet Should I Get? (2010) by Dr. Seuss

Who Wants a Tortoise? (2016) by Dave Keane

Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku (2011) by Lee Wardlaw and Eugene Yelchin

Early Readers

Dear Beast (2020) by Dori Hillestad Butler and Kevan Atteburry

The Dog Who Lost His Bark (2019) by Eoin Colfer and P.J. Lynch

The Great Pet Escape (Pets on the Loose #1) (2016) by Victoria Jamieson

Harry the Homeless Puppy (2015) by Holly Webb and Sophy Williams (or any *Pet Rescue Adventures*)

Mercy Watson to the Rescue (Mercy Watson #1) (2005) by Kate DiCamillo

Scruffy (1990) by Peggy Parish

Truman the Dog (2019) by Debbi Michiko Florence and Melanie Demmer

ADAPTATION.

For younger children, show pictures of pets and ask them to say what they like about them. Ratings could be done with sticky notes or on a white board. Encourage families to write pet stories/captions together!

ADAPTATION:

Patrons without pets or wished-for pets could still draw a portrait of an imaginary animal and think of a funny story or description to go with it.

TIP:

For YA and adult pet nonfiction, see Chapter 05: Pet Expo.

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST | PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

The World According to Humphrey (According to Humphrey #1) (2004)
by Betty G. Birney

Middle Grade

Almost Home (2012) by Joan Bauer

Because of Winn-Dixie (2010) by Kate DiCamillo

The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole (2018) by Michelle Cuevas

A Dog's Life (2010) by Ann M. Martin

Everything for a Dog (2009) by Ann M. Martin

Good Dog (2018) by Dan Gemeinhart

Granted (2018) by John David Anderson

Lety Out Loud (2019) by Angela Cervantes

Rain Reign (2014) by Ann M. Martin

Road Trip (2014) by Gary Paulsen and Jim Paulsen.

Rover (2007) by Jackie French

Saving Marty (2017) by Paul Griffin

Saving Winslow (2018) by Sharon Creech

Stay (2019) by Bobbie Pyron

The Underneath (2008) by Kathi Appelt

Unfamiliar Magic (2010) by R.C. Alexander

When Friendship Followed Me Home (2016) by Paul Griffin

YA

The Astonishing Color of After (2018) by Emily X.R. Pan

Blanca and Roja (2018) by Anna-Marie McLemore

Children of Blood and Bone (2018) by Tomi Adeyemi

The Last (Ending Series #1) (2018) by Katherine Applegate

A Mango-Shaped Space (2005) by Wendy Mass

Notes from the Dog (2009) by Gary Paulsen

Pet (2019) by Awaeke Emezi

Rescued (2016) by Eliot Schrefer

Rotten (2013) by Michael Northrop

Straydog (2004) by Kathe Joja

Terrier (2006) by Tamora Pierce

Whippoorwill (2015) by Joseph Monninger

Your Robot Dog Will Die (2018) by Arin Greenwood

Adult Pet Fiction

The Dog Who Dared to Dream (2016) by Sun-mi Hwang

The Friend: A Novel (2018) by Sigrid Nunez

The Guest Cat (2014) by Takashi Haraide

Kafka on the Shore (2004) by Haruki Murakami

Spill Simmer Falter Whither (2017) by Sara Baume

TIP:

For YA fiction with animal protagonists, see Chapter 01: Animal Character Design.

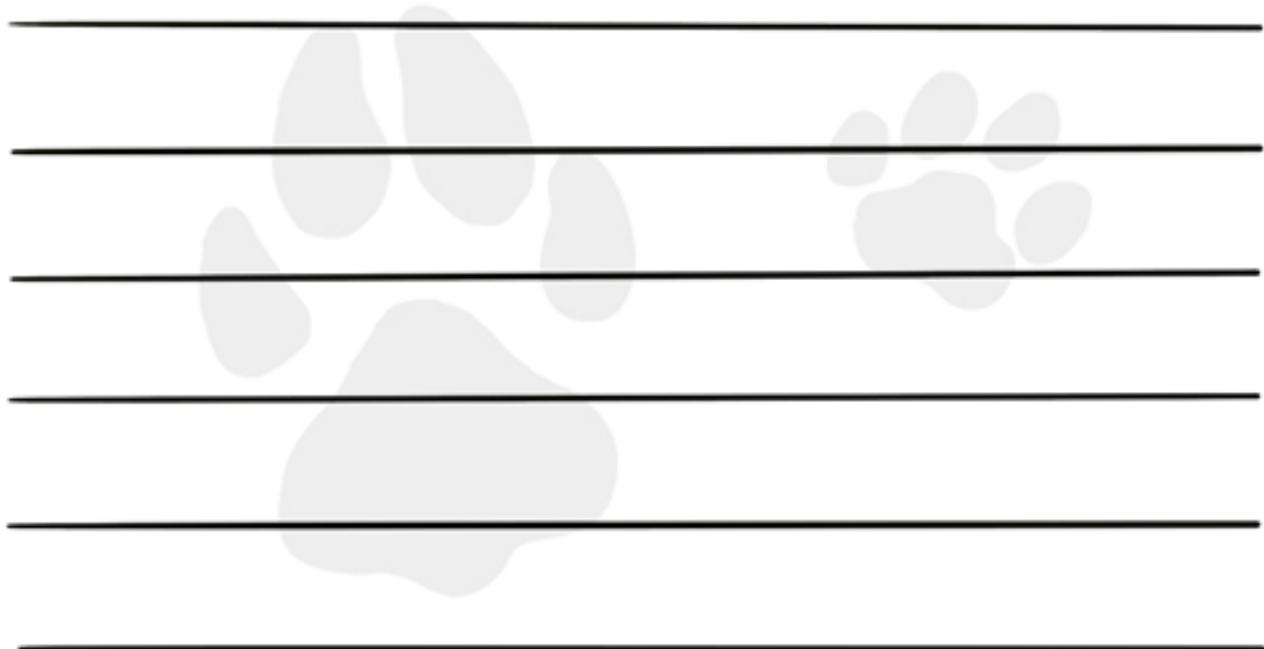
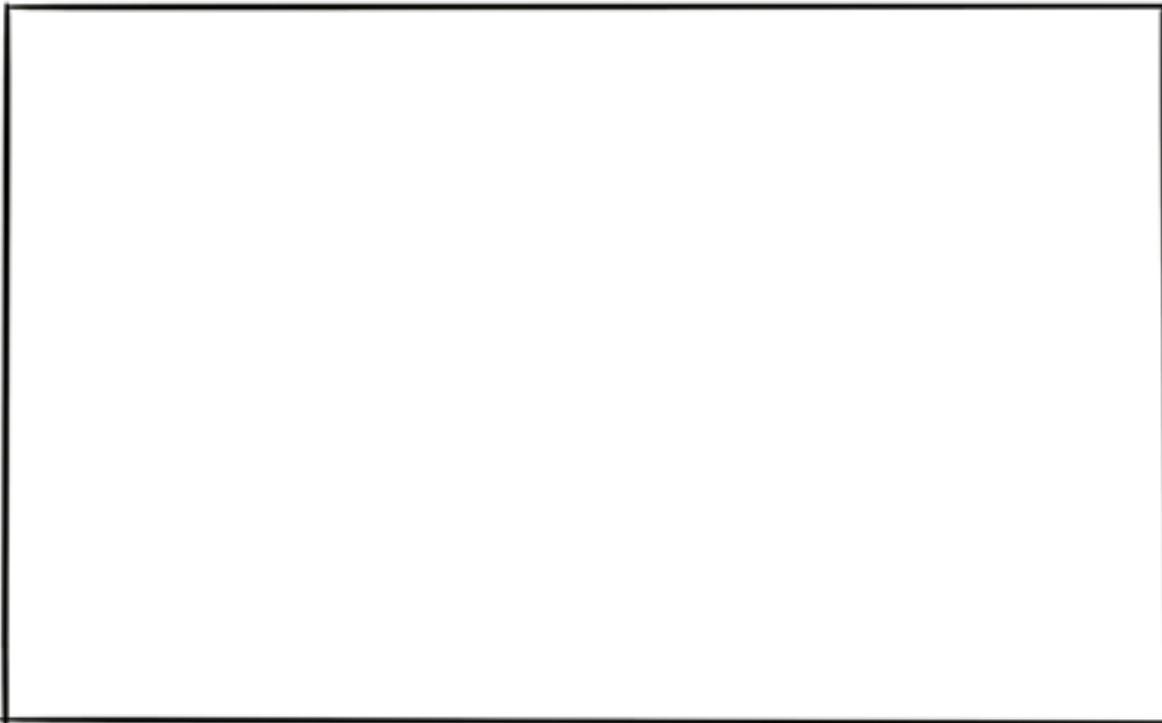
TIP:

For adult fiction with animal protagonists, see Chapter 01: Folded Book Animals

PRINTABLE

My Pet Is Awesome Template

Meet _____



PRINTABLE**Voting Slips****VOTES**

CUTEST _____
 FUNNIEST _____
 FLUFFIEST _____
 CUDDLIEST _____
 GRUMPIEST _____

**VOTES**

CUTEST _____
 FUNNIEST _____
 FLUFFIEST _____
 CUDDLIEST _____
 GRUMPIEST _____

**VOTES**

CUTEST _____
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