

Paws and Claws
“Every Dog and Cat Has His Day”
An Outreach Event for Pet Owners



What better way to find commonality with people here in the U.S. than to host an event for their pets. According to the 2009/2010 National Pet Owners Survey, 62% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 71.4 million homes http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press_industrytrends.asp. Of those pet owners, 45.6% own a dog and 38.2% own a cat.

Event: Host a dog and cat show for the community entitled “Paws and Claws”. Indicate that mutts and strays are welcomed. You may want to expand it to other animals as well.

Registration: As people arrive have them to sign a registration sheet asking them if you can send them follow-up information. Make dog and cat tags for each animal and “dog tags” for people.

Ask people to share pet treat recipes. Have recipe cards there to fill out. Use this as a way to follow-up – see below.

Decorations: Use paw and claw prints on the side walk using chalk. Using cut outs of paws and claws, place them on walls or trees.

Activities: (You may want to have separate venues for the dogs and cats, since they do not tend to get along.)

- **Pet Look- alike:** Using a digital camera take pictures of owners with their pets and have judges vote on the ones that look most alike. If possible, display the pictures of the winners on a large screen to show the judges award. Then post the pictures on your website for others to vote for the “Folk’s Pick of the Litter Award.” Owners will probably get their friends to go to your site to vote as well for “Folks’ Pick of the Litter Awards.”
- **Top Dog and Top Cat:** Host a contest for the top dog and cat. Give awards for:
 - The best dressed dog and the best attired cat
 - Cool Cat – overall good looks and manners
 - Hot Dog – overall appearance and manners
- **The Dog’s Howl and the Cat’s Meow:** Have a contest
 - The Bark is worse than his bite: Best dog howl: bark, howl, etc.
 - The best cat meow and/or purr
 - The most unusual dog and cat tricks
- **Pet Care:** Have various speakers who could either present in booths or in the large group on how to care for their pets, such as how to trim their nails, hot weather care, training tips, healthy hints, etc. Ask local veterinarians and pet store owners to make the presentations.
- **Dog ears and Cat whiskers:** Make dog ears and cat whiskers for kids using hair bands and paper cut-out of ears. Tape the ears or hot glue them to the hair bands. Have someone to do face painting for children. They could paint whiskers and a nose on children’s faces.
- **The Teacher’s Pet:** Have professional dog or cat trainer conduct a dog or cat show.

- **Pin the tail on the Doggie or Kitty:** Hang a poster of a dog or cat. Using a cut out of a dog's or cat's tail and play "Pin the Tail on the Doggie" and/or Pin the Tail on the Kitty."
- **Cat Tales and Puppy Parables:** Enlist story tellers to share funny pet stories. Share part of the book: [Fido](#) by Jesse Palmer about being faithful and forgiveness.
- **Bible Story:** Share the Creation Story to indicate God's love for man.
- **Blessing of the Pets:** Pray for God to bless the animals and their keepers.

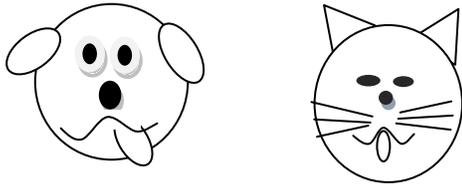
Music: Remember to get permission or license to play the music.

"Who Let the Dogs Out" – The Baha Men

"Hound Dog" – Elvis Presley

"Jellicle Songs For Jellicle Cats" from the musical *Cats*

Food for owners or parents of the pets: Serve hot dogs, catfish, fish sticks, or goldfish crackers. Serve cookies in the shape of a dog biscuits (pet stores have them). Another option would be to serve animal crackers or cupcakes with dog and cat faces decorating them with candies to create the face, for instance use licorice for the whiskers and jelly beans for the eyes. Serve water with the food.



Pet Treats: Provide dog biscuits and cat treats and water for the animals.

Follow-up: Ask people to bring recipes for dog biscuits and cat treats. As a follow-up send a link to them for where the recipes are posted on your website. This will get them to come to your website. Plus you would have the emails of those in attendance.

Rainy dog options: "If it is raining cats and dogs, then we will move this venue to another day." Give the information of the optional date.