

PET HEALTH AND CARE

– Children’s, teen, or adult audience

Caring for a pet, especially a pet with health issues, is not always easy. Animal rescue organizations and health departments in your area might have pet health education and vaccination programs available.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Virtual and Socially Distant Activities

- Grief over the loss of a beloved pet can be as hard as—or worse than—losing a human loved one. Consider a book club or outside speaker that might offer an outlet for those who miss a pet.
- Partner with an animal shelter to do a virtual adoption meet and greet.
- Play a YES/NO game about what dogs can and cannot eat. Depending on the age group, you might use play food and YES/NO baskets, a felt board with food cutouts, or activity sheets to color.
- Host an “Ask Me Anything” webinar with a local veterinarian.
- Pet and People Health: Many people are more likely to address the health concerns of a pet but not their own health. Local health departments often have initiatives to teach CPR to members of the public. Consider hosting a dual human and pet CPR program like [The Health Pet Project](#).
- Pet vaccination drive with local animal rescue association.

RESOURCES

Partners

- [Find your local health department](#) in the NACCHO directory.
- Find your local [American Heart Association chapter](#).
- Find other local partners in the [NNLM Member Directory](#).

Children’s nonfiction

- Levine, Sarah. *Tooth by Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers*. Millbrook Press. 2016. 978-1467752152.
- Loewen, Nancy. *Good-bye, Jeepers: What to Expect When Your Pet Dies*. Picture Window Books. 2011. 978-1404866805
- McWilliam, Howard and Sandra Markle. *What if You Had Animal Teeth?* Scholastic. 2013. 978-0545484381.
- Rogers, Fred. *When a Pet Dies*. Puffin Books. 1998. 978-0698116665

MATERIALS

- Pet health informational materials from [MedlinePlus](#)
- Highlight titles from your collection on animals and pet health
- Healthy snacks

PERSONNEL

- 1-2 library staff

SPACE

- Online or (when possible) in a library meeting space.

Children's fiction

- Demas, Corinne. *Saying Goodbye to Lulu*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2009. 978-0316047494
- Harris, Robie H. *Goodbye Mousie*. Aladdin. 2004. 978-0689871344
- Hest, Amy. *My Old Pal, Oscar*. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 2016. 978-1419719011
- Walsh, Barbara. *Sammy in the Sky*. Candlewick. 2011. 978-0763649272

Web

- [Resources for Public Libraries](#) from the NNLM includes health information and programming resources, webinars, and funding opportunities.
- [Medline Plus Health Topics – Pet Health](#) – Health information from the National Library of Medicine.
- [ASPCA Pet Care](#) - Comprehensive tips for pet parents of dogs, cats, and horses.
- [Pet Health program examples on Programming Librarian](#) - ProgrammingLibrarian.org is website of the American Library Association Public Programs Office with resources, connections, and opportunities for programming library staff.

EVALUATION

[Project Outcome](#) is a free toolkit from the Public Library Association designed to help public libraries understand and share the impact of essential library services and programs by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes.