

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Let's Make a Pet Adoption Bulletin Board!

A fun, creative way to help shelter pets get noticed and find loving homes.

APPROX. TIME

1 to 2 hours

PLANNING NEEDED

Moderate

Pick shelter/rescue in advance

GRADE LEVEL

3rd Grade & Up

BEST FOR

Small Groups

Whole class, scouts, families

ANIMALS HELPED Dogs, Cats, Rabbits 🐕 🐈 🐇 — waiting at your local shelter or rescue

Purpose

Help promote adoptable pets from your local animal shelter or rescue. Students use creativity, organization, and persuasive communication to create a bulletin board featuring adoptable pets waiting for loving homes. Update the display as pets are adopted so your school community can celebrate each success while helping new pets get noticed.



Materials List

- ☐ **Bulletin board space**
- ☐ **Computer or tablet with internet access**
- ☐ **Construction paper** – assorted colors.
- ☐ **Scissors, markers, glue, and board supplies** (*push pins, stapler, or tape as needed*)
- ☐ **Photos and profiles of adoptable pets** (*from your selected shelter or rescue's website*)
- ☐ **Optional:** Borders, paw print cutouts, themed decorations, or seasonal accents.

Instructions

1. **Choose a Shelter** – Select a local animal shelter or rescue.
2. **Decide on your Bulletin Board location** – Decide where your bulletin board will be displayed, such as a school hallway, library, or other high-traffic area.
3. **Choose Your Pets** – Visit your selected shelter or rescue's website and choose several adoptable pets to feature. Consider including pets that have been waiting a long time for a home or may be overlooked by adopters.
4. **Design Your Bulletin Board:** Before attaching anything, plan your layout. Include:
 - A creative bulletin board title (*Pet Spotlight, Meet Your New Best Friend!, Looking for a Forever Home!, Adopt Me!*)
 - Shelter or rescue name and logo (if available)
 - Photo (or drawing), of each pet
 - Pet names
 - Short descriptions highlighting each pet's personality (or any available information)
 - Shelter website, QR code, or contact information
5. **Create Your Display** – Arrange and attach your materials. Use colorful borders, headings, and decorations to create an eye-catching bulletin board that encourages people to stop, read, and learn about the featured pets.
6. **Keep It Updated** – Check your shelter or rescue's website regularly and update your bulletin board as pets are adopted and new ones become available. Celebrate each adoption, then add another pet waiting for a loving home! SEE "Adopted" photo below!

7.

Teacher Tip: This project works well with students working in **partners or small group of three**. Let each group choose one or two adoptable pets to research and write about. If more than one group selects the same pet, simply guide them toward another adoptable pet. Then combine everyone's work into one collaborative bulletin board. Assign a small **Pet Update Team** to check the shelter website regularly and update the display as pets are adopted and new pets become available.

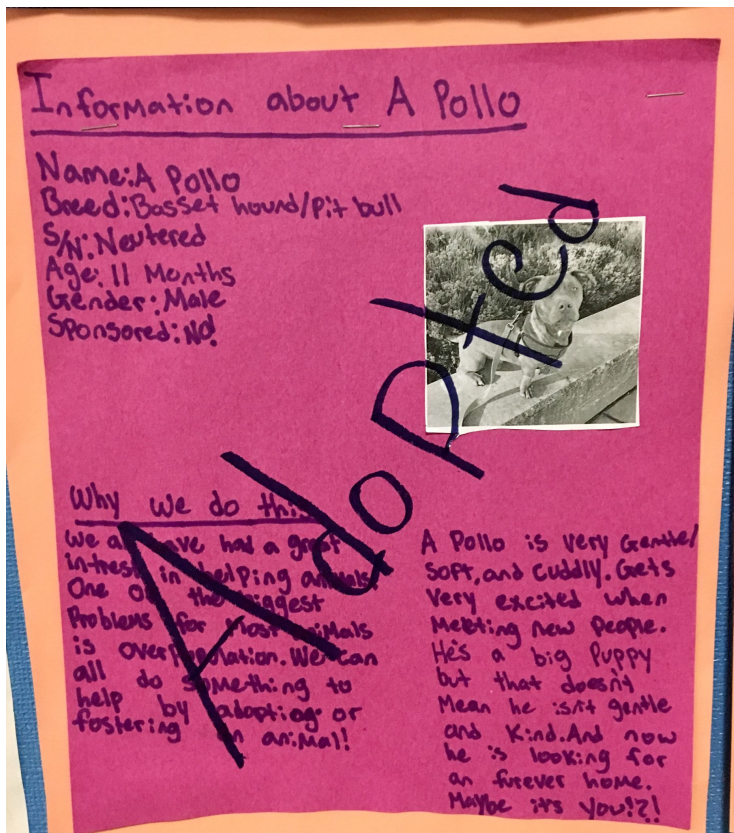
Standards Connections

Framework	Connection
Common Core ELA	Reading — students read shelter pet profiles to identify key information. Writing — students write engaging headlines and short descriptions that encourage pet adoption. Speaking & Listening — students collaborate, discuss design ideas, and explain how their bulletin board encourages adoption. <i>(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1, RI.4.1, RI.5.1; W.3.2, W.4.2, W.5.2; SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1).</i>
Common Core Math	Limited direct Common Core Math connections. Students organize information, plan the bulletin board layout, and measure spacing or display areas when designing the board.
SEL Competencies	Social Awareness — students develop empathy for shelter animals and understand the importance of adoption. Responsible Decision-Making — students select information that helps promote responsible pet adoption. Relationship Skills — students collaborate to design, assemble, and maintain a shared bulletin board.
Service Learning	Community need identified (<i>promoting adoptable pets</i>); meaningful service that increases visibility for shelter animals; ongoing classroom stewardship by updating the bulletin board as pets are adopted; student reflection on community impact.



Project Photos

Examples



Examples



Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. What do you think will catch someone's attention first when they see your bulletin board? Why?
2. How can your bulletin board help more people learn about shelter pets waiting for homes?
3. If one of the pets on your bulletin board gets adopted, how would that make you feel? Why do you think projects like this matter?

Extension Ideas

- Create a "Pet of the Week" section and update it regularly with a new adoptable pet.
- Invite another class to visit your bulletin board and learn about the adoptable pets you've featured.
- Design matching digital adoption cards or adoption posters for one or more of the pets on your bulletin board.
- Take photos of your completed bulletin board and share them with your local shelter or rescue. They may feature your class on social media or in a newsletter.
- Document your project with photos and share on social media — tag **@pawsupprojects** and your local shelter.

Did you do this project?

We'd love for you — or an adult — to post your project on Paws Up Projects to inspire others.

pawsupprojects.org/post-your-project