



## ANIMAL SHELTER PARTY IDEAS

If your child loves to help animals this is a wonderful charity party that will be fun for all the kids and also help out the SPCA Tampa Bay.

### **Animal Shelter Invitation Ideas**

You can purchase animal themed invitations or make your own. Two easy ideas for a DIY card are to have your child draw a picture of a cat, dog, rabbit, horse, etc. to copy on the front of a blank card or make a paw print card by gluing 5 circles of any color on the front of a blank card. One larger circle with four smaller circles (toes) at the top.

Inside the invitation you can explain what the party is about and ask the guests to bring a donation to the birthday party. This can be done instead of, or along with, a present to the birthday child. Ask for donations of clean used or new blankets, towels, sheets, bowls, leashes, beds, toys, and new pet food and treats, etc.

Visit our wish list for a complete list of items to donate: <http://spcatampabay.org/donate-items/>



### **Great Idea! Adopt a Pet Birthday Party**

Buy several medium to small stuffed animals (at least enough for everyone at the party and if possible a few extra) and set them up for adoption. Make shelter cages from empty boxes. Cut a door in the box so the puppy, kitty, rabbit, etc. can be seen. Paint and decorate the outside and place a cage card tag over the door that states what type of animal it is, male or female, why it is at the shelter and its coloring. Let the children

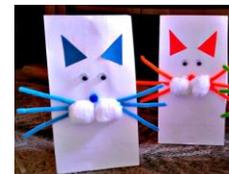
adopt the stuffed animals and name them and "foster" them while at the party. You can also buy combs/brushes at the dollar store for them to groom their pets. This adopted pet is a fun party favor. Give out adoption certificates with the child's name, date and name of the animal they adopted at the end of the party.

*PARTY SPOTLIGHT!* One creative parent put together an awesome adoption themed party for her daughter. Visit her blog via the link below; you will get some great ideas.

Mama's Mess Blog: <http://mamasamess.blogspot.com/2009/07/adopt-puppy-birthday-party.html>

### **Basic Supplies**

Animal themed balloons, plates, cups, napkins, table cloths, party favors, Goodie bags, etc. You can easily find a variety of these at the Dollar Store, Target, Wal-Mart, Party City, and online through Oriental Trading.



## Human Snacks/Food

### Puppy Chow



- 1/2 cup Peanut Butter
- 1/4 cup Butter
- 1 cup Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 tsp. Vanilla
- 9 cups Crispix cereal (any flavor) or Chex cereal
- 1-1/2 cups Powdered Sugar

1. Combine peanut butter, butter and chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl.
2. Microwave for 1 minute then stir to blend thoroughly. Add 1/2 tsp. vanilla. Stir well.
3. Place cereal in a very large bowl.
4. Pour the peanut butter-chocolate mixture over the cereal and toss evenly, making sure all the cereal gets covered with the mixture.
5. Coat with powdered sugar, sprinkling evenly over the cereal and tossing as you sprinkle to cover each piece well.



### Kitty Litter Cake

Ingredients:

- 8 large Tootsie Roll Midgees Rolls
- 2 packages vanilla sandwich cookies, crushed package instant vanilla pudding
- 2/3 cup Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting
- 2 boxes Betty Crocker™ golden pound cake mix, baked according to package directions and cooled completely
- 1 (12 ounce) tub non-dairy whipped topping

Directions:

1. For this recipe, purchase a brand-new Kitty Litter box and Kitty Litter scoop. Wash and clean before preparing your cake.
2. Slice cake into bite-sized pieces. Place inside the clean kitty litter box.
3. In a stand mixer or large bowl, beat together frosting, whipped topping, and vanilla pudding mix until light and fluffy. Spoon over the cake cubes.
4. Sprinkle half of the crushed cookies over the cake and gently mix the cake, frosting, and cookies together. Press mixture gently to flatten.
5. Sprinkled remaining cookie crumbs over the top of the cake until cake is completely covered.
6. Open Tootsie Roll Midgees and microwave for 45-60 seconds, until the candy becomes melty. Roll the melted candy between clean hands to shape the kitty droppings. Place droppings on top of the cake.
7. Serve cake with kitty litter scoop. Enjoy.



## **Animal Shelter Party Games and Activities**

### Face Painting

Hire a face painter to come and paint whiskers and animal faces on the children. Whiskers are easy ... you can probably do it yourself!

### Who Let the Dogs Bark?

Once each child arrives take them to the side and tell them to bark into a tape recorder. Write down in what order you tape each person. Once it's game time, playback each bark and see if everyone can guess which kid is barking.

### Dog Poo Pick Up

Divide the kids into two teams. In an area have a bunch of wrapped tootsie rolls all over the floor. Have two of the reach extenders (the long poles that help people grab things)- one for each team. Each child will take a turn picking up the Doggie Poo (tootise roll) and putting it into the garbage bag. The team to clean up the "yard" first wins. Gross in theory but poo makes kids laugh.

### Barking Contest

A really cool party game idea is to host your very own barking contest where everyone is a winner. Each kid gets to give their best bark, and then you can award prizes for loudest, saddest, most real, squeakiest, funniest, etc.

### Dog Trainer Says!

This game is based on Simon Says, but instead it's called "Dog Trainer says" and it'll help get all the little "doggies" to pass Dog obedience school. This party game idea has the kids doing dog tricks, but only when the leader prefaces the command with "Dog Trainer says..." (The trainer will need a cheat sheet to remember appropriate dog commands: Sit, Growl, Lie down, Wag your tail, Roll over, Speak, Jump, Bark your head off, Shake, Stay, etc.). Every time they get something right the trainer can give out "doggie" treats (can be little dog-bone cookies). For younger kids (for example the age of 3) omit the "Trainer says" part and just pretend to teach them tricks like Run around the yard, backward, and other silly things.

### Dog Bone Relay

Split into two or more teams. Set-up an obstacle course or a route around trees, bushes, etc. in the yard. Each team gets a large serving spoon and a milk bone. They hold the spoon out with have to keep the bone in the spoon throughout the course. If they drop it they must pick it up and go back five steps or go around the obstacle again. The first team to finish wins.

### Dog Bone Treasure Hunt

Hide either real Milk Bone dog biscuits or for smaller children bones cut out of heavy cardboard around the party area. You can give a prize to whoever finds the most or number the bones and they receive a prize based on the number they find.

### Animal Cracker Charades

A child takes an animal cracker out of a bag/container and doesn't show it to the rest of the group. They then act out the animal while the other children try to guess what it is. When the group comes up with the correct answer, the child acting out the charade can eat the animal cracker!

## Animal Shelter Scavenger Hunt

This is fun for all the kids and they are able to help the local animal shelter too! We've created a list of 14 items the kids can look for and then bring to your party or donate directly to the SPCA Tampa Bay.

For your party, ask guests to collect items from the scavenger hunt list around their house or neighborhood the week prior to the party. They need to collect at least 5 items from the list. You can have prizes for everyone or for the person that collects all the items in the list, the person that collects multiples of items on the list, etc.

Check the SPCA Animal Wish List for more items: <http://spcatampabay.org/donate-items/>

**\*Cloth or fabric items for the scavenger hunt should be clean and in gently used condition.**

Shelter Scavenger Hunt List:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Blue towel          | 8. Canned dog food with a red label       |
| 2. Printed blanket     | 9. Canned cat food with a blue label      |
| 3. Dog toy             | 10. Can of chicken or beef broth          |
| 4. Frisbee             | 11. Brown towel                           |
| 5. Solid color blanket | 12. Paper towel and/or toilet paper rolls |
| 6. Dog/cat collar      | 13. Paper towels                          |
| 7. Tennis ball         | 14. Loose change, pennies                 |

## **Easy and Safe Toys to Make for Our Shelter Cats**

### Ping Pong Batting Balls

Decorate ping pong balls with permanent markers

- Spray with liquid Catnip



### “Sock”er Toys

- Girls ankle socks
- Cotton balls/batting
- Catnip
- Fabric Markers

Decorate the socks with fabric markers. Fill each sock with cotton balls/batting and a ½ tsp cat nip. Tie a tight knot at the top of the sock.

## **HOW TO GET YOUR DONATIONS TO THE SPCA TAMPA BAY**

- **Please take a group photo at the party of the birthday boy/girl and your guests with their donations!**
- Text the photo(s) to [aedwards@spcatampabay.org](mailto:aedwards@spcatampabay.org) with a message including the date of the party, list of items donated, any special animal themed activities, and the birthday boy/girl and their parent's names, address, and email.
  - We will soon have a “high five” page of appreciation with photos of our child donors.
  - The birthday boy/girl will receive a “Paws for Celebration” certificate of thanks via mail.
- Bring the donations to the SPCA Tampa Bay during hours we are open to the public and put them in the donation receptacles by the Admissions office.
- If you want to drop off the donations the day/evening of the party during operating hours, you can walk through the shelter adoption areas as a group if you have 10 or less.

*NOTE: We do conduct occasional shelter tours for school groups of 15 to 20 students. The tours are pre-scheduled, given during the week and a \$5 donation fee is required per person.*

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