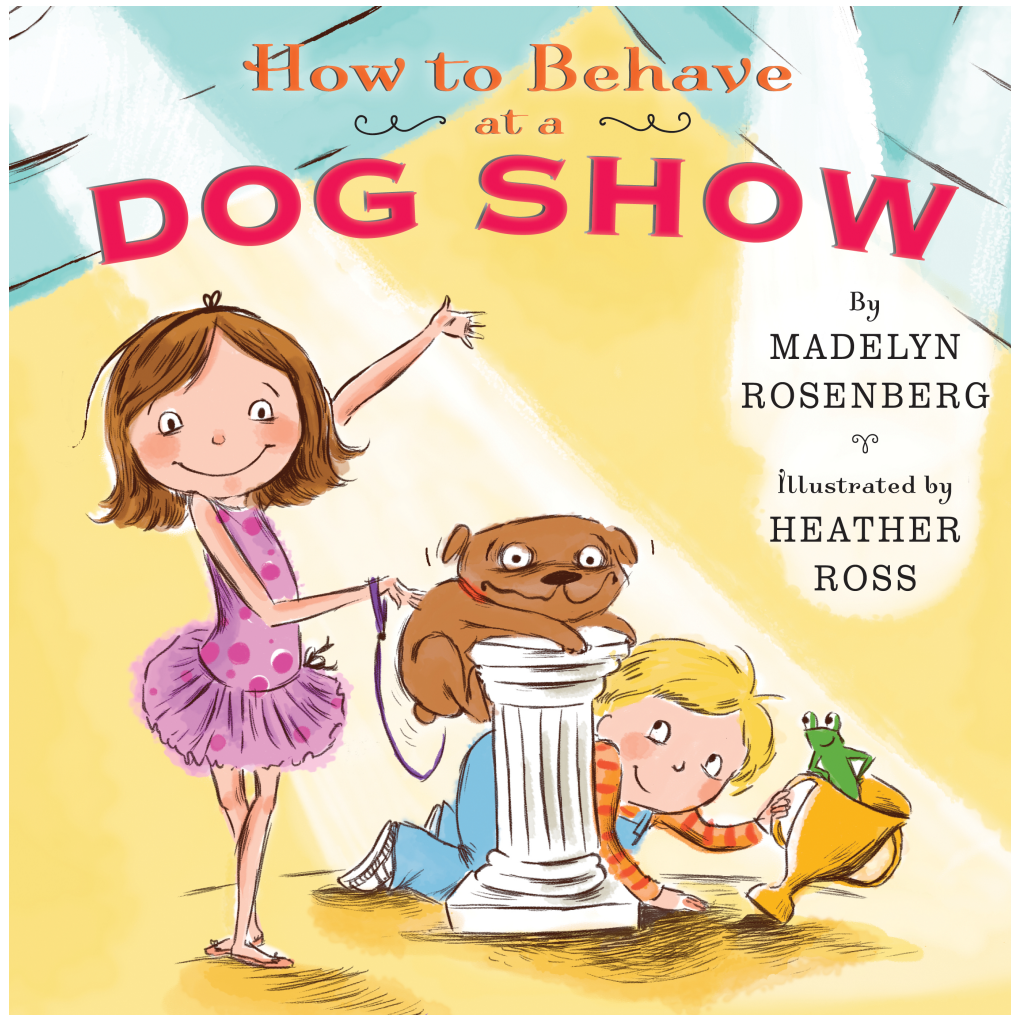


# How to Host a Classroom Pet Show!

A guide for teachers and librarians



In *How to Behave at a Dog Show*, Julia and Charles find out that Rexie is not exactly best-in-show material. But he is the best at lots of other things. What he really needs, they decide, is a pet show of his very own. We think your classroom needs to hold a pet show, too!

**Objective:** A classroom icebreaker, this activity gives teachers the opportunity to use photos, toys or illustrations to help students learn about adjectives, word choice, the senses and self esteem.

## Step

1. Read the book and decide what kind of contestants you want in your own pet show. Should your students bring in photos of their real pets? Should they bring in a favorite stuffed animal? (Tip: Keep a few extras handy for students who forget.) You could also have your students draw their dream pets.



**Step 2.** Now pick a name for your pet show. You could call it "The Best of the Best Pet Extravaganza," like Julia and Charles, or you could make something up, like "Mrs. Snooglesteen's First Grade Pet Spectacular." Have your students offer names and vote.

**Step 3.** Use your pet show to build and strengthen vocabulary. Students may need some discussion of animal anatomy in order to describe their pets and all of their parts. As they take a good look at their pets, encourage students to use their senses and descriptive language to write (or orally explain) their pet's characteristics. Get them to describe pet colors (is the pet brown or hot pink?), textures (is the pet furry or slimy?), and personality (is the pet sleepy or funny or loud or really impossible but you love her anyway?)

**Step 4:** Have students make the descriptions of their pets more complete by using action words to write about or explain something their pet does well. For instance: author Madelyn Rosenberg's cat, Scamper, **attacks** her feet at 3 a.m. Her cat Daisy **hides** among the stuffed animals. Illustrator Heather Ross's dog, Lobo, **steals** food like a professional. He also **steals** blankets.

**Step 5:** Have your students design awards to present to their pets. You could also make a template or use the one enclosed. For extra reinforcement, ask your students to include the finished description of their pet as part of the award.

**Step 6:** Now it's time to share! Have your students bring their pets (photo, plush or drawing) to the center ring in your classroom. They should introduce their pets, share their descriptions and announce their pet's award.

For example:

This is my cat, Scamper. He is gray and furry and sleek. He attacks my feet at 3 o'clock in the morning and drinks from the sink. I am presenting him with the award for Softest Cat.

This is Midnight. She has blue eyes and swift wings. She flies as fast as the wind. I am presenting her with the award for Best Flying Cat.

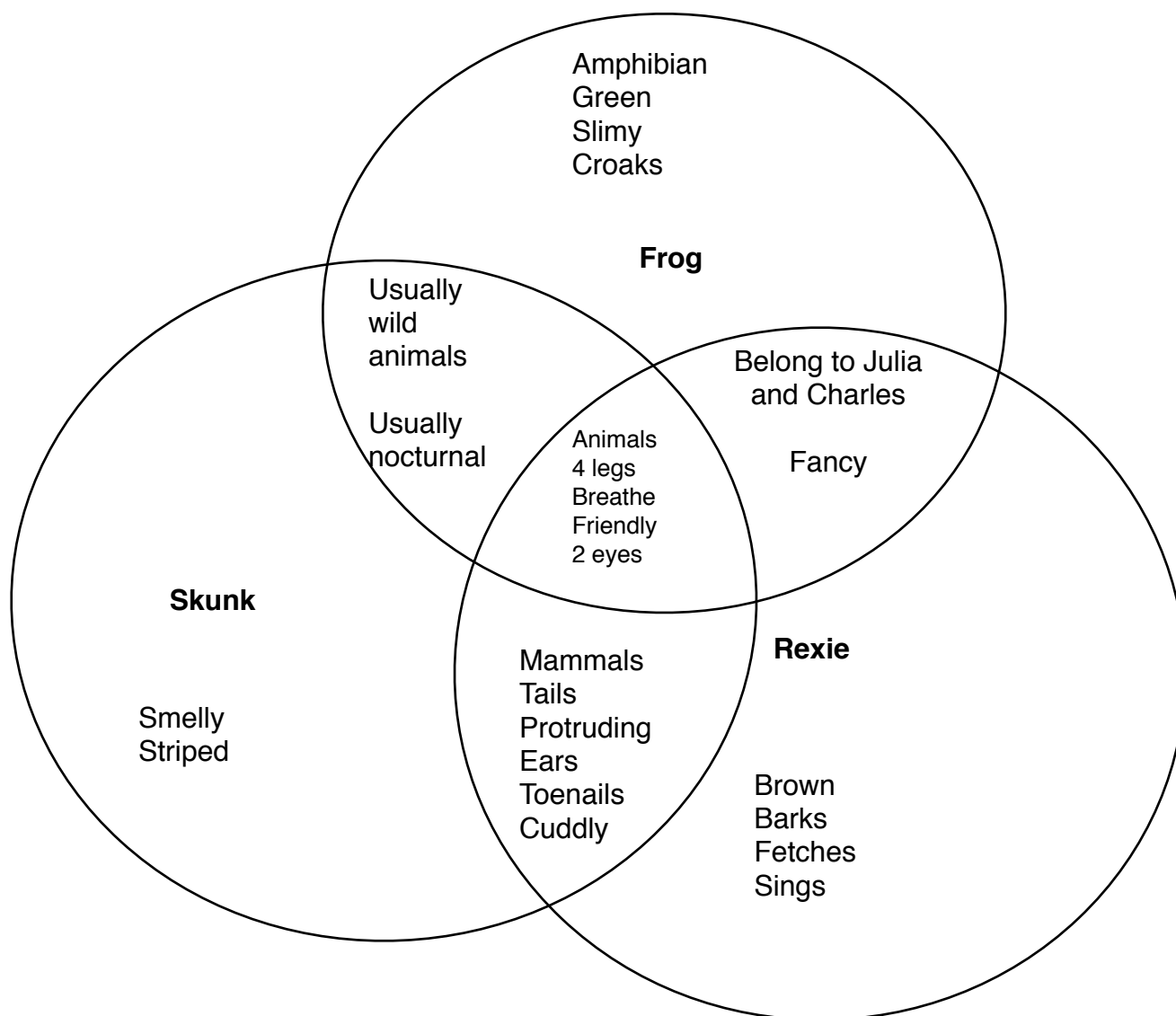


**For more pet show learning fun:**

**Sort** assorted pets: As participants describe the attributes of their pets, create categories and have the kids organize and parade the center ring with their pets by size, color or texture.

**Create** a pet pattern: start a pattern of pets by lining up participants—dog, cat, hamster, bear. Have participants continue the pattern, or organize patterns of their own.

**Develop** a Venn diagram that shows how pets who are very different have many things in common. You can start with a diagram for Rexie, Frog and Skunk before having students create a Venn diagram to compare popular pets appearing in their classroom show.





### **More about How to Behave at a Dog Show:**

Is Rexie cut out to be Best in Show? Probably not. Does Julia enter him in the Happy Tails Best of Breed Dog Show anyway? She sure does. This companion to *How to Behave at a Tea Party* offers readers more laugh-out-loud silly fun with sister-brother duo Julia and Charles and their lovably mischievous dog, Rexie.

With subtle themes of losing gracefully and celebrating the things that make each of us winners in our own ways, this book is perfect for preschool and early elementary children, for readers who enjoyed the *How to Babysit a Grandpa* series, and for anyone who has ever loved a less-than-perfect pet.

Julia and Charles end up hosting a pet show of their own—don't be surprised if young readers are inspired to do the same!

Visit [bestinsomethingpets.tumblr.com](http://bestinsomethingpets.tumblr.com) to see other people's pets doing what their best at. And submit your own!

*How to Behave at a Dog Show* is available 9.15.15 wherever books are sold.

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**IS THE BEST**

DATE

JUDGE