# DOG-FRIENDLY MOVIE MATINEE

For Libraries with movie performance licensing. Gear a viewing program for guests to bring their dog to watch with them. \*Pet related movies can be chose but not required.

Advance Planning: choose the movie and schedule. Marketing: in-house and on Social media abiding to the

guidelines of your licensing.

Staff needed: 1

Space needed: any room or space with a projector

Event Activities: movie watching

**Timeframe:** Movie run time plus 20minues.

Materials: chairs, dog treats, snacks, carpet squares, media player, movie

Attendance: 5–40 dependent on space used

**Cost:** \$0 viewing films from your collection – \$30 for purchase of movie & waters.

## Advice from our experience:

- Close to exits or with outside access.
- Larger spacing between seating to accommodate dogs. Don't turn off all lighting.
- Be prepared for possible accidents, have cleaning supplies handy.
- Assure pet parents you expect some noises and movement.
- Alternatively don't offer food options to avoid any issues of food aggression.

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Engage all staff in the conversation, let local officials and your public know ahead of the change and get legal advice on applicable ordinances. Trust pet parents to know what is best for their pets and be respectful of your space. Have a policy and put it in writing. Start small and ease into the choice. Do what works for your library.

## PROS

- Reduces anxiety and stress and can promote positive mental health.
- Reduces incidents of animals left in cars
- Has positive response from community
- Problem patrons become less problematic
- Cuts down on absenteeism of employees

## CONS

- Liability from
  - Property damage
  - Bites
  - Accidents
  - Personal injury
- Allergies
- Phobias
- Standing Policies or Rules

Partial solution: Some people are allergic or have a phobia of animals. Be ready to ask the customer with a pet to come back at a later time when issues are brought to your attendion.

### Further Reading:

https://www.uschamber.com/co/run/human-resources/allowing-pets-at-work-pros-and-cons https://www.business.com/articles/pets-in-the-workplace-is-it-a-good-or-bad-idea/ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7824880/

https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-pet-ownership-and-insurance

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/01492063231191090?journalCode=joma (paywalled)

https://hbr.org/2023/11/research-the-benefits-of-a-pet-friendly-workplace\_ Pflugerville Public Library Policies (Pet policy section 5.2)

https://library.pflugervilletx.gov/my-library/about-the-library/policies

Email me with any additional questions: margaretm@pflugervilletx.gov

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