JOYCE RIENZO
PET LOVER’S CLUB

A Fun Club For Kids Who Love Animals

This table talk presentation is for creating a “club” around a topic that most children love. ANIMALS! Included is a program overview and instructions for a craft that will help you in getting started. A list of helpful books and websites is also included.

I am a Youth Services librarian at Riverhead Free Library. For 32 years I have been a licensed veterinary technician in New York State and continue to work part-time in the field. Educating children and tweens about animals at an early age is important. It enhances the love and respect that animals deserve and instills in them values and knowledge that will be carried with them throughout their lives.

The creation of the “Pet Lover’s Club” is for grades 2-6. Variations can be made for grades 7-9. The program is after school and can consist of 6-7 weekly 45-60 minutes in a bi or tri-semester format. Its structure is educational, entertaining, and fun. The children/tweens learn about domestic and wild animals.

Branching off to teens and adults, I have conducted programs that included: Pet Sitting; Careers with Horses; Pet Care; Reading to a Dog; making dog biscuits for shelter dogs; cat socks for shelter cats, etc. My dog, Dasher, a beagle, accompanies me to many of the presentations. Dasher is a great icebreaker and an ambassador to the program.

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