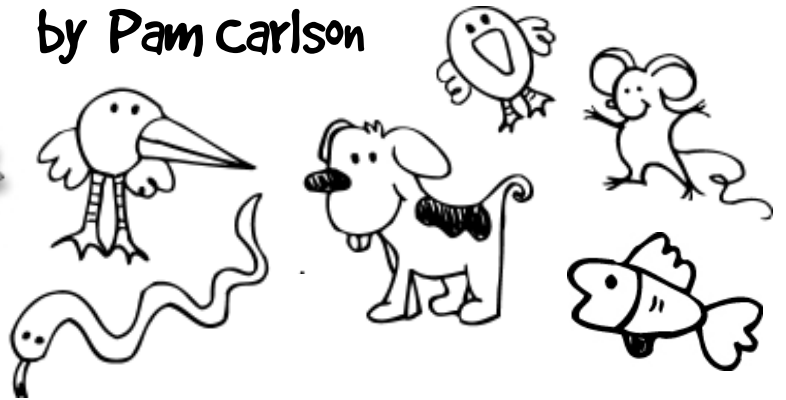


Pets-tacular Carnival Games @ Your Library



by Pam Carlson



1) March of the Pets – Set up like a cake walk with large-size, laminated pictures of pets. Play circus music as players walk around the circle. Stop the music and call out a pet. The person standing on it wins.

2) Ring Around a Lolly-pup – Stick suckers in a scattered fashion around a sturdy Styrofoam board. Staple pictures of dogs onto the board as decorations. Cut rings from cottage cheese or butter lids. Toss the rings one at a time from behind a line. If you ring the lolly-pup, it's yours.

3) Snake, Rattle, and Roll – Roll water worms onto a premade target.

The target may be a circle, square, or triangle divided into sections or a hopscotch pattern. The sections are randomly number 1, 2, and 3. The roller with the "snake" landing on the highest number wins. Variation: place pictures of pets on the squares and call them out for players to roll toward. A bit like shuffle board.

4) Fish Frenzy – Fill a plastic blanket box halfway with water. Float glass bowls in Styrofoam rings. Place plastic fish in each bowl. Toss ping pong balls. If one stays in the bowl, the player wins the fish. Best part – these fish don't die the next day!

5) Kitty Litter Dig – Fill a plastic blanket box about 1/3 full of uncooked rice. Bury small objects – carnival prizes or wrapped candies. Use a slotted spoon to dig up a prize.



6) Hermit Crab Hat Trick – Attach party hats securely to the wall. Players stand behind a marked line and attempt to toss ping pong balls into the hats.

7) Parrot to Perch – Print and cut out four pictures of parrots and four pictures of bird perches. Tape the perch pictures to the backs of four chairs. Cut four pieces of string approximately 3 feet in length. Tie one end of each next to one of the perches. Punch a hole through the pictures of the parrots and thread the string loosely through it. At the mark, shake the strings to get the parrots to their perches.

Bonus – Plinko game (inspired by the Price is Right). Hammer nails in random rows on a large piece of plywood (5 by 5 feet). You will probably have room for six or seven rows. Place a poker chip against the top in one of the rows. It should not be able to go straight down but travel in an irregular path to the bottom. When you're satisfied with your rows, place a transparent sheet of lightweight plastic across the front of the game board, leaving the top and bottom uncovered. Tape the plastic on securely. You may add a piece of foam board of tag board across the bottom of the game as a catcher if desired, taping it on. To play, kids drop their poker chips in at the top and win whatever is at the bottom of the row they land on – bookmark, pencil, carnival toy, and so on.

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