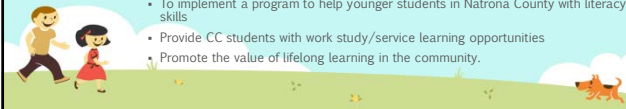


Why Read to Animals?

- There is a large amount of research that supports the notion that reading to animals is beneficial to the readers and animals alike.
 - Judgement free environment for readers boosts confidence
 - Increased socialization for animals leads to higher adoption rates
 - Animals who move to the front of a kennel are more likely to be adopted than those who remain at the back of a kennel when approached
 - Students involved in the program have been shown to improve academic engagement behavior
- Help reach our collective goals:
 - To implement a program to help younger students in Natrona County with literacy skills
 - Provide CC students with work study/service learning opportunities
 - Promote the value of lifelong learning in the community.



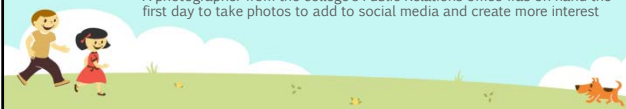
Planning Stages

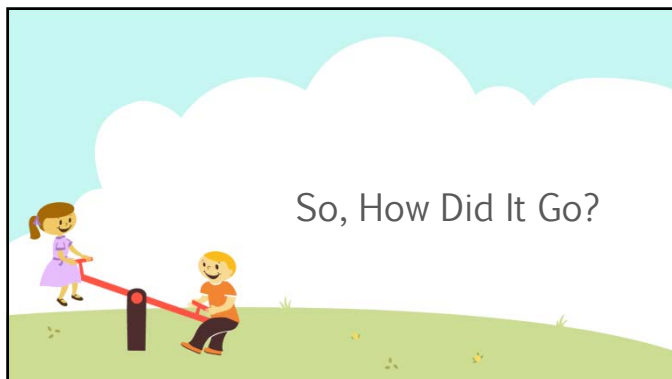
- Financial Aid staff and the Library staff met in April of 2017 to discuss goals and brainstorm ideas
- Library staff took the idea, researched similar programs, and developed a plan to be presented to the director at the Humane Society.
- Financial Aid staff and Library staff met several times through the process to get updates and talk about upcoming stages



Let's Do This!


- Once the program received the green light from the necessary parties, our Public Relations department was contacted to create the logo and other materials for the program
- It was decided that the best time to conduct the pilot rollout would be during the school district's spring break at the end of March
- Posts were made on Social Media through both the Casper College Library and Casper Humane Society's pages advertising the program and asking for parents to sign their students up ahead of time
- A photographer from the college's Public Relations office was on hand the first day to take photos to add to social media and create more interest






Schedule of Events

- Arrival
 - Students signed in and were taken to a room to play with one of the shelter's cats while parents and "Walking Dictionaries" received a brief orientation from Sarah
- Training
 - Students were taught about canine communication
 - Sarah used the story "Before You Were Mine" to teach about empathy toward the animals in the shelter
 - Students reviewed the shelter's expectations for behavior
- Students were taken on a tour of the shelter and chose which dog they would read to
- At the end of the reading period, students were brought together to give feedback about the program and play with one of the dogs before going home.





Hank





Pam



Positives

- Students enjoyed the program- some came multiple days
- Social media posts were well received
 - Original post on the Humane Society's Facebook page was shared 27 times
 - Post on the Humane Society's Facebook page on the first day of the program was shared 115 times, had 431 reactions (like/love)—all positive, and 42 comments
- Gained attention of community members who donated more books and cushions for the readers to sit on
- Attendance increased each day
 - 5 readers the first day
 - 7 readers the second day
 - 17 readers the last day—almost more readers than available dogs!
- There was a distinct decrease in the dog volume (barking) once students started reading, this surprised participants as well as staff

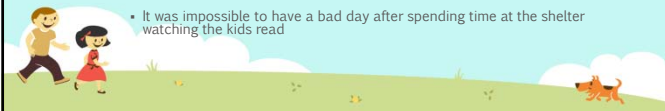
Negatives

- Finding the right student to fill the position
- Full program each day did not take the anticipated 2 hours to complete
- Students expressed interest for more time in direct contact with the dogs
 - Weather was a factor in this forcing us to remain indoors each day



Takeaways

- The staff at the Humane Society were ecstatic with the program and have plans for growing and continuing it.
 - More opportunities during the summer
 - Volunteer they call "grandma" to do story time
- After the program, the Humane Society was contacted by 2 teachers in the district asking if they could bring their classes in
- Multiple volunteers have expressed interest in helping with future programming
- Plans are underway for monthly sessions
- It was impossible to have a bad day after spending time at the shelter watching the kids read



TALES with TAILS

A CASPER COLLEGE & CASPER HUMANE SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP

Questions?