

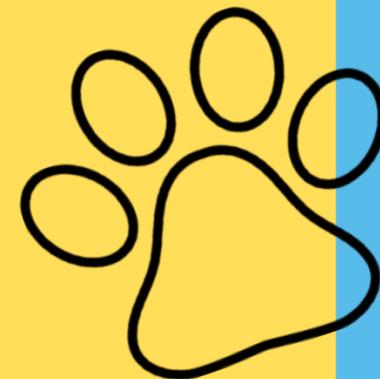
EVERY DOG

DESERVES

A HOME!

Writing

Competition

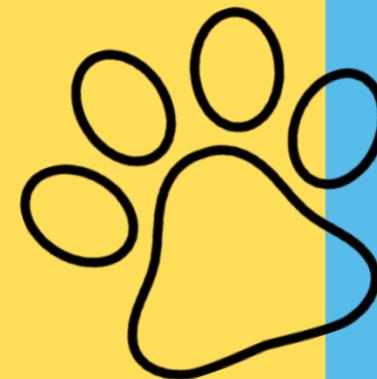


Aims

To inspire children to write

Support teachers with lessons

**Encourage children to think
caefully about wanting a dog**



Video



Let's Get Creative!



We want to read your poems and stories about an adventure with a rescue dog. Fur real!

Your story or poem should feature a dog that's had to be rescued - why or how is up to you!

Maybe they have lived with a family who have had to **move home** and cannot take their dog with them. Or maybe their **owner has become ill** and cannot look after them anymore.

Somehow, they need to find a new home and someone who can help them.

You could write about a **dog you know**, or create a dog **character from your own imagination**.

Remember that each dog has its own **unique personality and character**, reflected in their feelings and behaviours.



How to present your story or poem

It could be

- handwritten
- typed
- like a comic strip
- like a booklet
- illustrated/have drawings

The poems can be up to 30 lines.

The short stories can be up to 500 words



Descriptions and feelings

Good stories and poems are full of descriptions and feelings.

Descriptions:

- Sights
- Sounds
- Feel/touch
- Smell/tastes

Feelings:

- Activities
- Motions
- Memories
- Anecdotes



Structures and techniques



Think about these to help you write your story or poem:

- Voice
- Viewpoint
- Characters
- Action
- Plot
- Excitement
- Tone
- Atmosphere.



Structures and techniques



Poems

- Rhythm
- Rhyme
- Free verse/set form
- Imagery

Stories

- Dialogue
- Pace
- Characters (humans, plants, animals, objects)
- Story arc

Both

- Beginning hook
- The “POW!” ending



Check It Out!



- **Read it out loud to someone.**
- **Edit it to improve it.**
- **Is it effective? Does it leave an impression?**
- **Do a SPAG check (spelling, punctuation and grammar).**



Prizes!

- **Special guest at a Waggy Tails dog show**
- **Publication in the charity's publication**
- **Goody bag**
- **A celebration event on Saturday 25th April at Patch during the Bournemouth Writing Festival**
- **Certificates**
- **Stories/poems displayed at Bournemouth Library**



Important Information!



- Entries must be received by Friday 20th March 2026.
- Send entries to info@BournemouthWritingFestival.co.uk.
- Entries should be marked with name and age.
- Entries should have a contact email address.
- Multiple class entries must have a teacher contact.
- Entries will be judged by Hengistbury Head Writers' Group.
- Judges will give feedback but decisions are final.



Find Out More....

Visit the Waggy Tails Recue Centre Website:
waggytails.org.uk



**Get writing
and Good luck!**

