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## **Cat Cafe**

**Background Information:** I live in Columbus, Ohio, where there is a cat cafe, and have also visited one in Orlando, Florida. The idea is unique and is getting more popular with cafe and cat lovers alike. Typically, in a cat cafe, you pay a fee (average of about \$10) for a certain amount of time to visit with the kitties in a relaxing environment. You can purchase coffee, tea and/or treats to enjoy while you are there. The owners of the cat cafes typically have lots of adoptable cats from local shelters that are freely roaming the cafe. Cat toys and climbing structures are placed throughout the area.

I fell in love with this idea and also really love cats and providing unique programs to our library patrons. So, I decided to contact the Cozy Cat Cottage, which is a local cat shelter in Delaware County, Ohio, to see if they would like to partner with us for this program. They were thrilled and said that they had done something very similar at a local university.

**Program:** This program was modeled after an actual cat cafe. The Cozy Cat Cottage brought 7 adoptable kittens, a play yard for them, cat litter boxes (of course!) and cat food. We provided donuts and drinks for patrons. We did not charge patrons or reserve specific time slots. However, the program was scheduled for two hours (6-8pm), which allowed patrons to come and go throughout that time. We had a few tables with chairs, beanbag chairs and lots of open space for patrons to engage with the cats and each other.

The Cozy Cat Cottage employee only let the cats out of the play yard with a leash and with an adult or teen. Patrons took turns playing with the kittens and, for the most part, put them back in their play yard when they showed any anxiety or distress.



**When:** This program can be done at any time during the year but this one took place on “National Adopt a Shelter Pet” day on April 30.

**Who is this program for?** All ages.

**Attendance:** Approximately 73 patrons visited the Cat Cafe during the two hours on April 30.

**Cost:** Cost minimal. Cozy Cat Cottage brought the adoptable cats for free. We provided donuts, coffee and milk, so there was a small cost for the library.

**What about allergies?:** Signs were posted outside the meeting room and front doors informing patrons about the cats and made them aware that they should not enter with a cat allergy. Carpet cleaning was done directly after the program.

**Goals:**

- To engage patrons in a program that does not fit inside the typical “library program” box
- To provide a relaxing and fun environment for patrons of all ages and adoptable cats.
- To hopefully get one or my cats adopted.

Thank you!