

OPERATION
RESCUE DAWG



Event Kit

OPERATION RESCUE DÖG

ABOUT THE KIT

This kit was designed for librarians and booksellers to highlight the needs of rescue dogs and rescue organizations or simply to provide a dog-themed read aloud.

Alma and her Abuela set off on a journey to meet Lulu, the dog they plan to adopt. Lulu is being driven toward Alma and Abuela in an Operation Rescue Dog truck. Your readers, customers, and patrons can be welcomed to the event with flags and temporary tattoos and take home a model of the truck and their own invisible pet. The book offers a perfect opportunity to hold a pet adoption event, and the kit offers tips from librarians who are veterans at holding these events. Best for ages 4-8.

The kit contains:

- Marketing: Event poster and suggested calendar copy
- Partnering: Suggestions on hosting pet rescue groups
- Preparation: Step-by-step suggestions
- Decorations: Pennants
- Activity: Tattoo Template
- Activity: Make Invisible Pets
- Activity: Fold & Make Operation Rescue Dog Truck
- Take Away: Info Sheet on Ways to Help Rescue Dogs and Other Pets



ABOUT THE BOOK

Operation Rescue Dog

By Maria Gianferrari

Illustrated by Luisa Uribe

Published by little bee books

ISBN-13: 9781499806670

This sweet story about a girl named Alma and a stray dog named Lulu shows how a girl and a dog can rescue each other.

*Lulu's ears flap in the wind
as the rescue truck rolls into the lot.
Lulu's tail thumps—
Everything smells . . . new.*



Lulu sleeps under the moon, drinks from mud puddles, and is covered in ticks until she is rescued. She waits for the Operation Rescue Dog truck, scared and uncertain. Alma misses her Mami, who is far away in Iraq. Alma wears Mami's scarf around her like a hug. She wonders: *Can a dog feel like a hug?* In this heartwarming and moving picture book, a lonely child and a lonely dog come together and find warmth, companionship, and love in each other.

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PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“Alma and her abuela get a rescue dog as a surprise for her mother's return from Iraq...As humans and dog travel toward their meeting destination, not all is smooth sailing...But all's well that ends well, and dog and child are united: “Alma smells like...home. So does Lulu.”...A very accessible story that will strike a chord with pet lovers and military families.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Maria Gianferrari is the author of several dog-loving picture books including **Hello, Goodbye Dog, Penny & Jelly: The School Show, Penny & Jelly: Slumber Under the Stars, and Officer Katz and Houndini: A Tale of Two Tails.** Her picture books **Hawk Rising, Coyote Moon, and Terrific Tongues!** celebrate nature in our own backyards. She lives in northern Virginia with her scientist husband, her artist daughter, and their dog, Becca. Find out more about her at mariagianferrari.com.



Luisa Uribe is an illustrator living in Bogotá, Colombia. In addition to **Operation Rescue Dog**, Luisa has illustrated **The Vast Wonder of the World: Biologist Ernest Everett Just** and **The Queen and the First Christmas Tree: Queen Charlotte's Gift to England.** She holds a graphic design degree from the National University of Colombia and an MA in art and design from Loughborough University. Find out more about her at luisauribe.com.

Photo credit: Monogram Arts Photo

PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand event! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or reader experience.

__ Locate a copy of the the picture book **Operation Rescue Dog** by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Luisa Uribe (little bee books).

__ Explore the Author's Note. It includes wonderful information including the fact that a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the book will be donated to Best Friends Animal Society, the largest no-kill animal sanctuary in the U.S.

OPERATION RESCUE DOG

SHARING THE EVENT

__ If you list your events in print or online, here is some text that may assist you:

Can a dog feel like a hug? That is what Alma is wondering as her Abuela drives her toward the site where they will adopt the dog Lulu. At the same time, Lulu is in a truck being driven to the adoption site, sniffing hope in the air. We will be reading from the picture book **Operation Rescue Dog** by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Luisa Uribe (little bee books) and making invisible pets to take home. We will also be learning how we can help pets like Lulu in our own community. All welcome, but best for ages 4-8.

__ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 9), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster in your design software, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for “rescue dog” at CuriousCityDPW.com and navigate to the Event Kit listing. The font on the poster is Neutraface Text.

__ Consider reaching out to military families. The main character’s mother is stationed in Iraq. Alma says the dog will be “a surprise friend for Mami’s return,” but you have the impression that Alma’s Abuela has agreed to the adoption for Alma’s comfort in her mother’s absence.

__ Consider reaching out and even partnering with dog adoption or rescue organizations to create a larger pet adoption event.

PARTNERING WITH DOG ADOPTION OR RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Almost every community has organizations and people helping to rescue animals and find them homes. Consider using this book as the inspiration to partner with one of those organizations on an adoption event or on simple information distribution. PetFinder.com has a great organization locator at:

<https://www.petfinder.com/animal-shelters-and-rescues/search/>



The following are tips from libraries and community organizations on holding a successful event:

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__ Not every family is ready to adopt, but most of your families enjoy an event with animals. Think about how to shape and market the event so that families have lots of opportunities to learn and even help rescue animals without the pressure to adopt.

“I invited a veterinarian and his assistant to talk and answer questions, a therapy dog and her owner (they came to our branch every month and let kids read to the dog), the Humane Society (they didn’t bring dogs but I posted photos with biographies of many of their dogs that were up for adoption), and a private rescue group (they specialized in rescuing puppy mill dogs and they did bring a dog or two). I had a table for each organization, a rep could talk a few minutes to the audience, and the audience could ask questions. The event was an hour long and for families.”

–Librarian Erin Wen, Dayton Metro Library

__ Ask your guests to make sure they speak to families about ways they can help that do not involve immediate adoption. **In this event kit** is a 1/2 sheet-reproducible page of tips from author Maria Gianferrari on ways to help if you cannot adopt.

__ Have other themed activities to engage younger children. **In this event kit** there is a pet collar coloring activity. That collar attaches to a extra-long pipe cleaner “leash” and the collar and leash’s stiffness gives the impression that the reader is “walking” their invisible animal.

__ It does not hurt to tell the organizations several times that they need to bring an adequate number of volunteers. Ideally, they should have one volunteer for every animal on a leash and one volunteer for every three to four animals in crates.

“Be sure that whichever organization you team up with understands they need to have enough volunteers, since your staff is likely to be busy with patrons.”

–Librarian Pabby Arnold, East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library

__ Talk to the organizations about reduced or fee-waived adoptions associated with your event. If a family, for example, showed their library card at the shelter, could they get a discount or a waived fee?

__ Invite organizations to bring a variety of animals. This may be Operation Rescue Dog, but all animals need your patrons’ support!

__ It is okay to call your event, “Operation Rescue Dog.” The ASPCA says “get creative” in the naming of their events.

__ If the rescue organization has an online application for pet adoption, consider having that screen open on nearby computers.



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__ Always remember the importance of all your families being able to hear your guests speak. Between the animals and the kids that love them, events with animals can be noisier than others. If possible, have a microphone to pass around. Holding the event outdoors? All the more reason to mike yourself and your guests. Woof!

__ Check your institution's insurance policy. While it is quite unlikely to happen, a patron could be bitten by a visiting animal.

__ Consider asking families to bring pet food to the event as a donation.



“I had a pet shower (like Toys For Tots). I had a big plastic Ace Hardware trashcan as a barrel and asked people to donate pet supplies. Then I took the supplies to the Humane Society.”

—Librarian Erin Wen, Dayton Metro Library

__ Make sure that the organization has a good sense of the space you will be holding the event in and consults with you on seating and how animals should be approached. Some animals should not be crowded.

__ Encourage the adoption organization to bring you a wide range of animal profiles to post as a gallery on your event wall. This allows you to show a wider range of animals and allows humans to meet the animals even if they cannot approach them.

__ Make sure that the organization you invite has all your social media handles and you have theirs. Remember, their networks will bring people to the library, and your networks will bring patrons to the aid of animals.

__ Check on your institution's policy on guest organizations taking donations. Some patrons may want to stick a few dollars in a can to support the group(s) you bring in.

__ Keep cleaning supplies handy and consider holding the event in a room without carpeting. It is unlikely that a pet will have an accident, but you want to be prepared for quick clean-up if they do.

__ Promote your collection of pet books at the event.

__ Consider making an ongoing commitment to help with local pet adoption.

“...feature the biography of a dog and cat at the Humane Society and post it in an acrylic holder in the pet book section.”

—Librarian Erin Wen, Dayton Metro Library

OPERATION RESCUE DÄG

DECORATING: PENNANTS

When Alma and her Abuela arrive at The Operation Rescue Dog stop, a line of pennant flags marks the area where they and others will meet their rescue dogs. Line your own space (indoors or out) with pennants featuring illustrations of those meetings.

- __ Print the four pages of pennants on pages 10-13. The more copies you print, the longer your string of pennants will be.
- __ Include the white tabs when you cut out the pennants.
- __ Fold the white tab toward the back of the pennant.
- __ Hook the tab over a string or ribbon and seal the tab to the back of the pennant with glue or tape.

ACTIVITY: TATTOO TEMPLATES

Because a dog paw print is a stamp of love and because you can now buy temporary tattoo paper for all printers, why not tattoo readers with Lulu's print? We love using the "Rolurious 10 Sheets Laser DIY A4 Temporary Tattoo Transfer Paper" with our laser printer. If you like making temporary tattoos:



- __ Print the Tattoo Template on page 14.
- __ Follow the instructions specific to your tattoo transfer paper.
- __ Consider tattooing readers as they arrive at your event.

CRAFT: MAKE INVISIBLE PETS

Not every child can have a dog or other pet, but your readers can imagine pet ownership. This simple craft allows kids to color a paper strip, circle it into a collar, attach an extra large pipe cleaner as a "leash," and "walk" their new pet home.

- __ Print the Invisible Pet sheet on page 15 onto cardstock.
- __ Pre-cut enough strips for all your readers.
- __ Look for 18" or longer pipe cleaners, paper covered floral wire, cloth wrapped stem wire, or some material that is stiff and will wrap around the collar.
- __ Make a prototype by coloring a paper strip, circling it into a collar, attaching to your "leash," and "walking" your invisible pet around.

CRAFT: MAKE OPERATION RESCUE DOG TRUCKS

Readers will follow the rescue truck from the opening spread all the way to the moment Alma and Lulu meet at the adoption event. How exciting for a reader to hold that truck in her hands and pretend to be driving dogs to their new homes. We have created a cut-and-fold of the rescue truck using Luisa Uribe's wonderful illustration.

- __ Print out the Operation Rescue Dog Truck sheet on page 16.
- __ Decide whether or not you want to pre-cut the templates for your readers.
- __ Make a prototype and include it in your display to promote the event.

OPERATION RESCUE DAWG

TAKE AWAY: PROMOTE OTHER WAYS TO HELP

In the back of the picture book, author Maria Gianferrari has created an excellent list of ways to help rescue dogs and other pets that do not involve the commitment of adoption. We have reproduced that list for you to share with families if you choose.

- __ Print out the Helping Lulu & Other Pets sheet on page 17.
- __ Trim the sheets down the middle for distribution.

DAY OF THE EVENT

- __ Hang your pennants.
- __ Gather sponges and water for temporary tattoo application.
- __ Lay out your craft table with the pet collar strips, clear tape, crayons and colored pencils, scissors, and pipe cleaners or other “leash” materials.
- __ Place your Helping Lulu & Other Pets sheets for easy distribution.
- __ If you are hosting pet rescue organizations, arrange the room per your agreed arrangements.

- __ Tattoo your readers as they arrive.
- __ Hold a read aloud from the the picture book **Operation Rescue Dog** by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Luisa Uribe (little bee books).
- __ Consider sharing that this book was inspired by author Maria Gianferrari’s adoption of her dog Becca, and that a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the book will be donated by Maria to Best Friends Animal Society, the largest animal sanctuary in the U.S.
- __ Create Invisible Pets with readers.
- __ Fold and tape Operation Rescue Dog Trucks with readers.
- __ If you snap pictures, share them with the book’s creators by using the hashtag #OperationRescueDog on social media.
- __ Send your readers home empowered to help local animals with the Helping Lulu & Other Pets sheet.
- __ Message curiouscitybooks@gmail.com with your tips for holding a successful dog adoption event – we will add them to the kit!
- __ Accept our thanks for helping dogs like Lulu by reading this book aloud and engaging with your pet-loving readers.

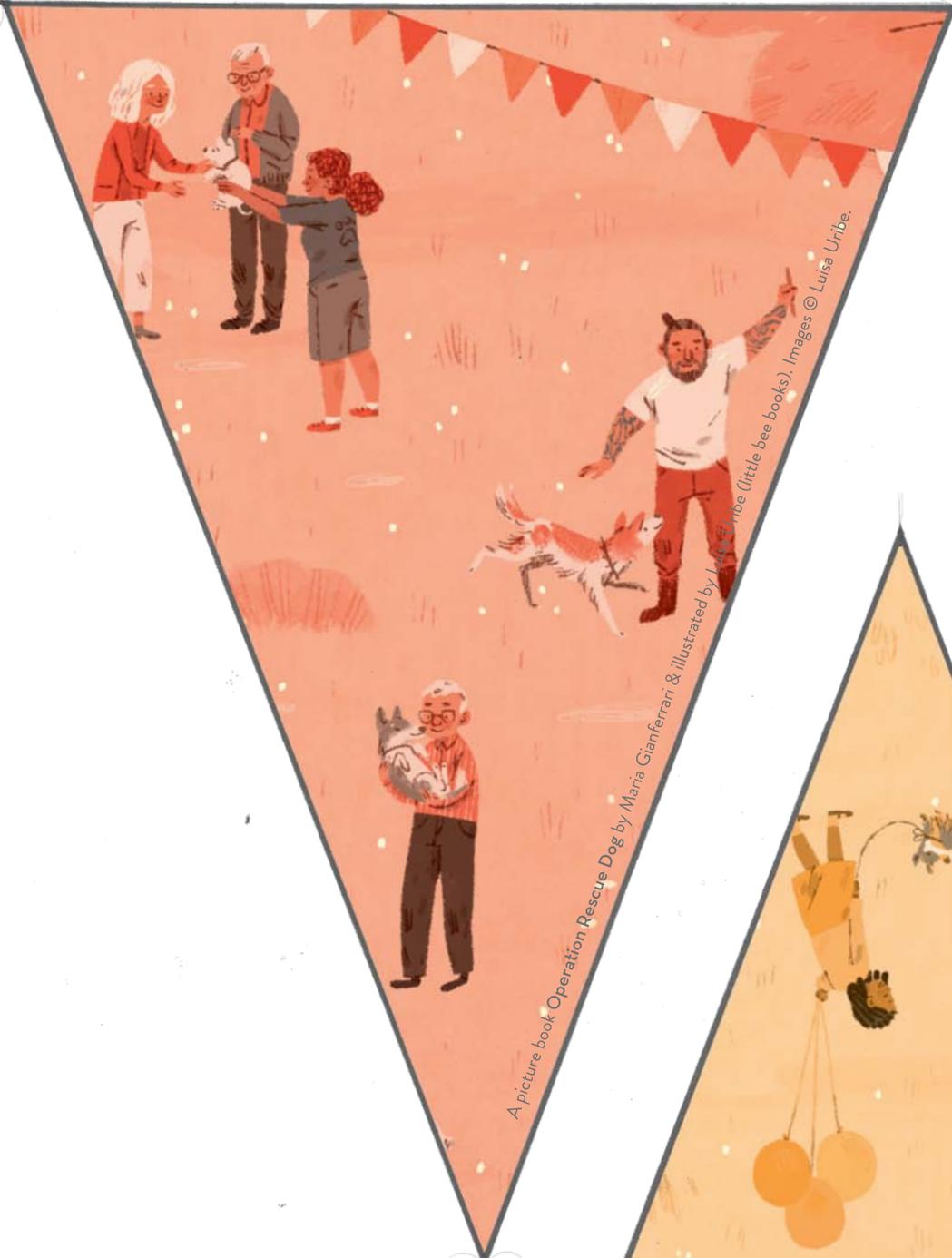
OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit CuriousCityDPW.com for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children’s literature with play, conversation, and social action.

OPERATION RESCUE DAWDOG



Fold this white tab over the string.



A picture book *Operation Rescue Dog* by Maria Gianferrari & illustrated by Luisa Uribe (little bee books). Images © Luisa Uribe.

- Print out this pair of pennants.
- When cutting out the pennants, include the white tab at the top.
- Fold the white tab toward the back of the pennant.
- Glue or tape the tab over a string to create a line of pennants. Repeat until your event space is festooned!

PENNANT 1

Image © Luisa Uribe

OPERATION
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Featuring the picture book
Operation Rescue Dog
by Maria Gianferrari and
illustrated by Luisa Uribe
(little bee books).
Images © Luisa Uribe.

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A picture book Operation Rescue Dog by Maria Gianferrari & illustrated by Luisa Uribe (little bee books). Images © Luisa Uribe

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PENNANT 3

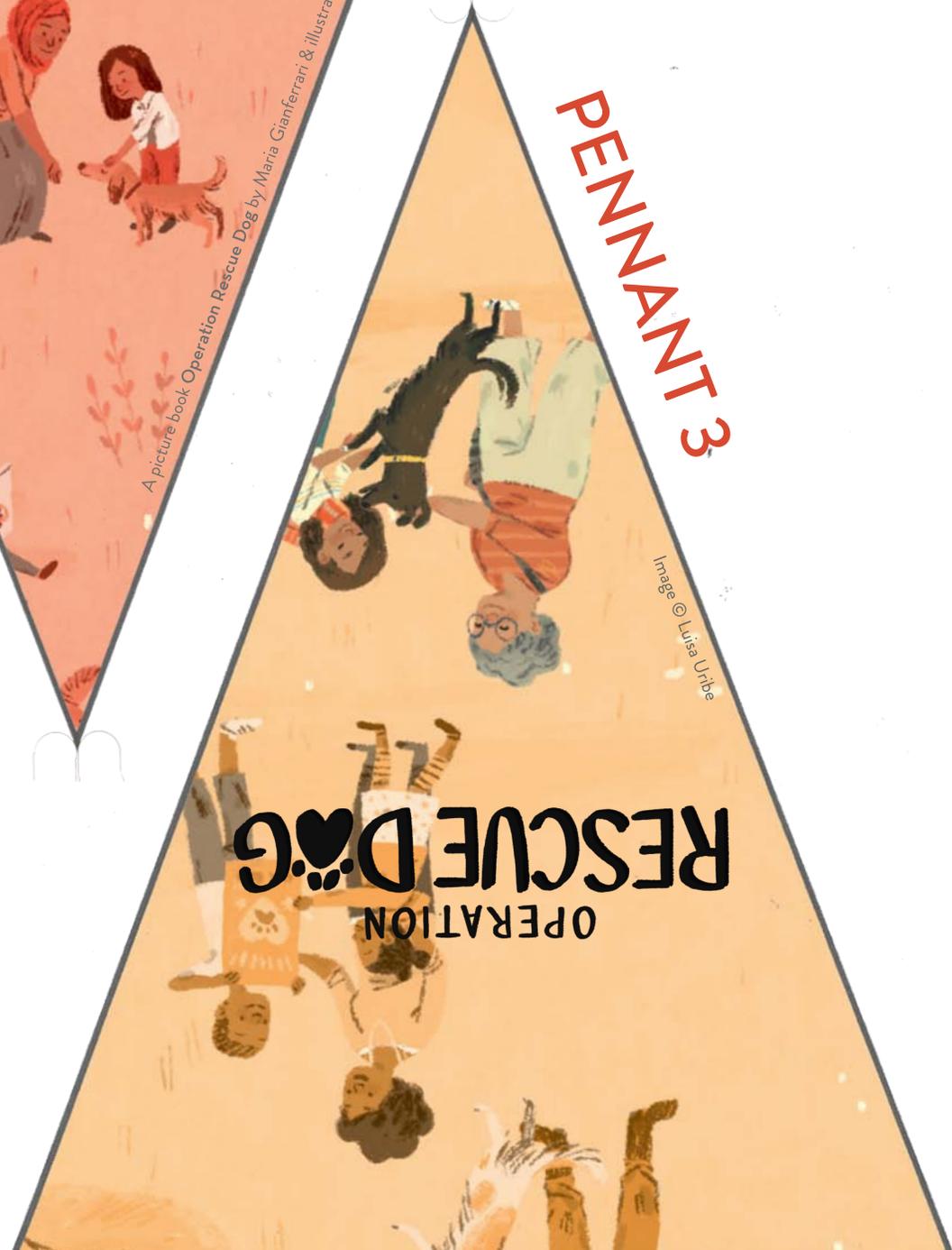


Image © Luisa Uribe

OPERATION
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Featuring the picture book
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PENNANT A

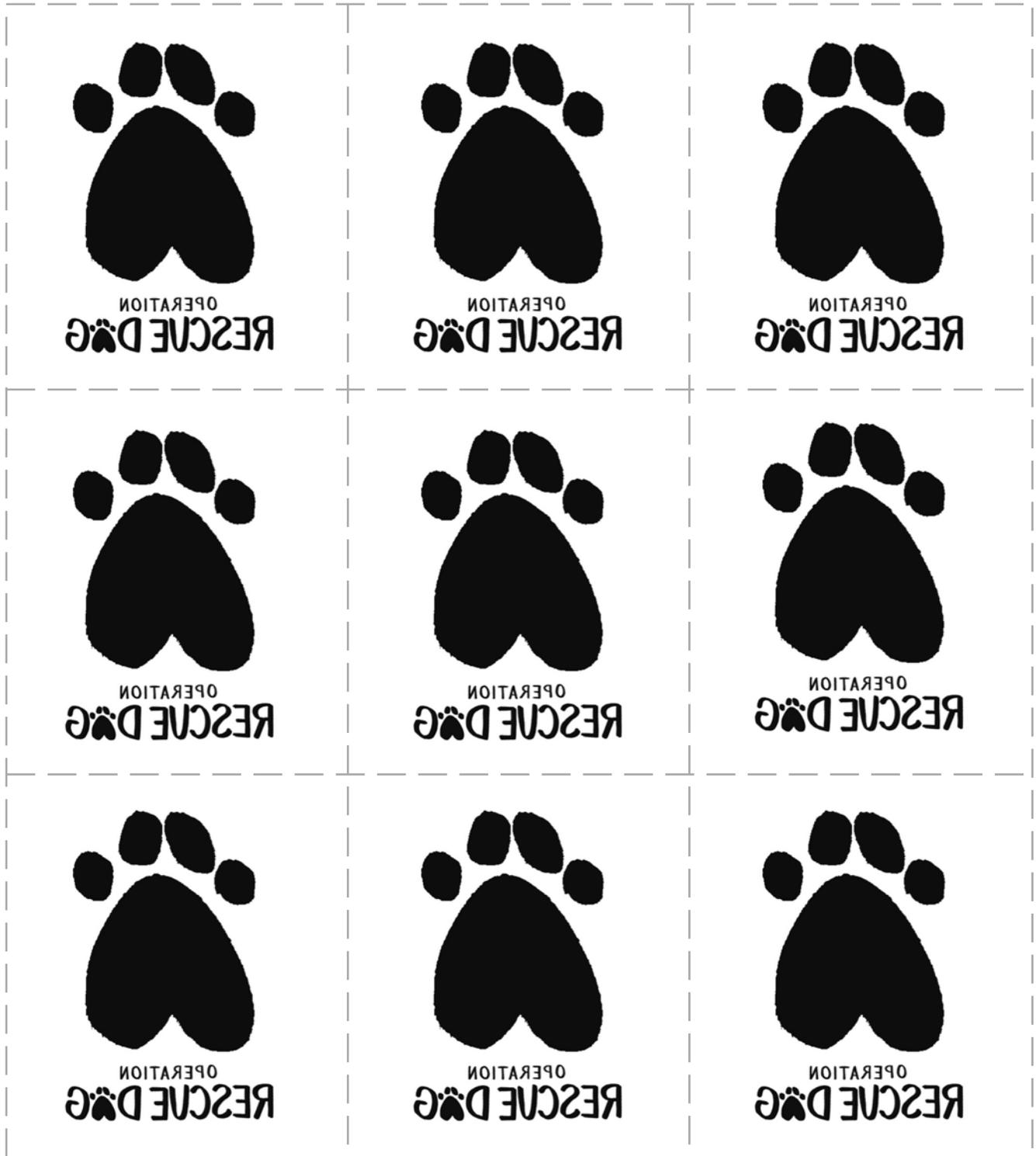
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Fold this white tab over the string.

OPERATION RESCUE DÄG: Tattoo Template

Readers can join Operation Rescue Dog with these temporary tattoos. Look for the temporary tattoo paper that suits your particular printer. This image has been reversed for easy printing.



OPERATION RESCUE DÄG: Make an Invisible Pet

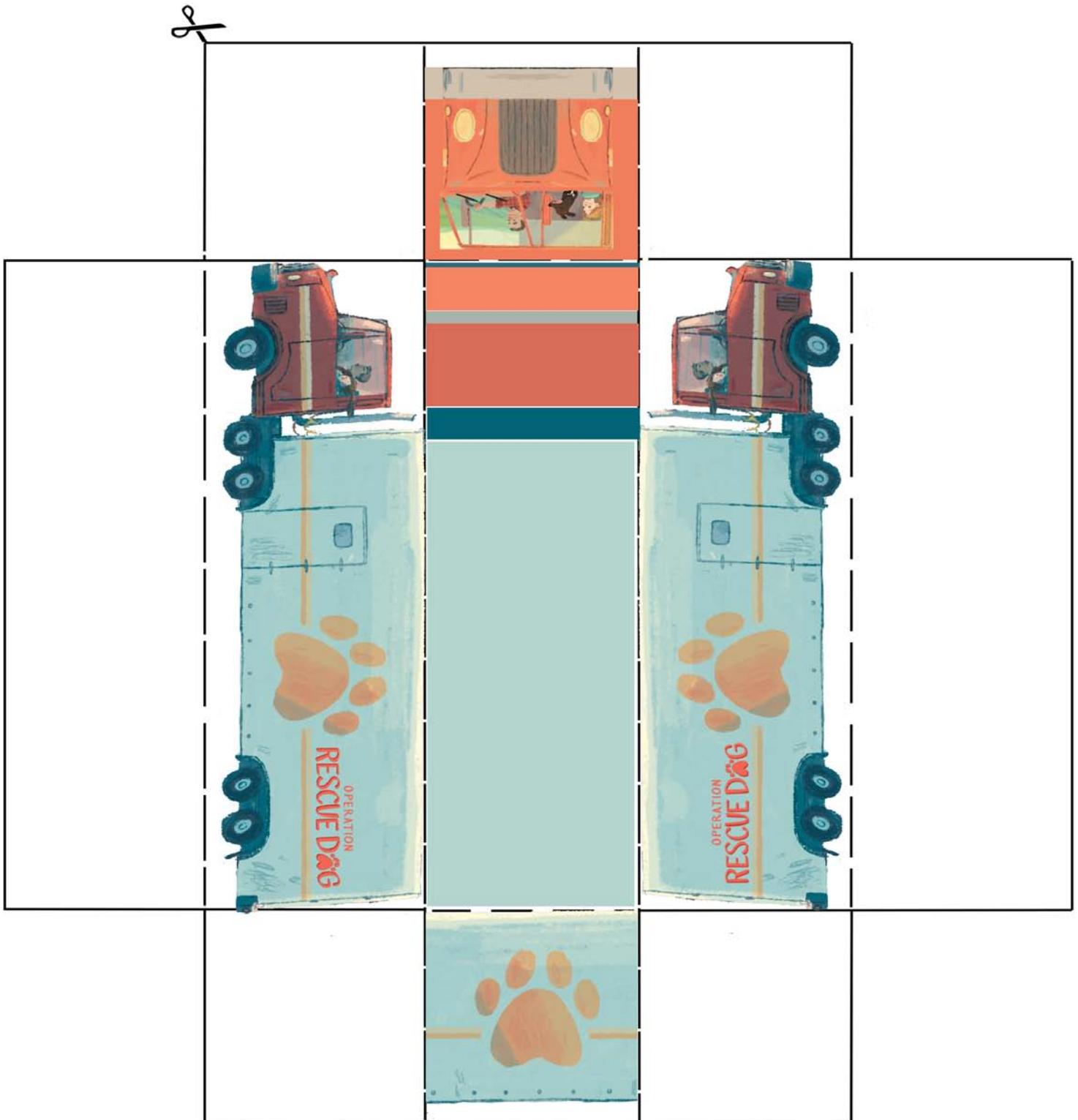
Not every child can have a dog or other pet, but every reader can imagine pet ownership. Print these strips on cardstock and cut them out. Ask readers to color and circle a strip into a pet collar, attach an extra large pipe cleaner as a “leash,” and “walk” their invisible pet home.

OPERATION RESCUE DÄG

OPERATION RESCUE DAWG: Truck

You can drive the truck that delivered Lulu and the other dogs to their new homes!

Cut out on this truck template on the solid lines. Fold-in on the dashed lines until you have created a rectangular box. Affix with clear tape and hit the road!





OPERATION RESCUE DOG

Helping Lulu & Other Pets

If you cannot adopt a pet like Alma does in the picture book **Operation Rescue Dog**, you can still help dogs and other pets in your community. You might:

- Volunteer to walk, groom, or play with animals at your local animal shelter or rescue organization.
- Collect money, food, or supplies for your local animal shelter or rescue organization.
- Spread the word about pet adoption, “Adopt, Don’t Shop.”
- Foster a pet until they can find a forever home.
- Educate family, friends, and your community about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets.

Explore more about pet rescue at:

- aspc.org
- bestfriends.org
- hopeforpaws.org
- petfinder.com



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