

A HANDBOOK FOR MAKING FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

PET THAT DOG!

by

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of *I've Pet That Dog*

From the dog-loving kid behind the viral social media account I've Pet That Dog, *Pet That Dog! A Handbook for Making Four-Legged Friends* is a highly-illustrated guide to meeting, caring for, and learning about humans' best friend.

Like many kids (and adults!), Gideon loves to pet dogs. He loves petting dogs so much, he asked his mom if he could make a website showcasing all of the dogs he's pet. That website eventually became the Twitter account I've Pet That Dog, and since April 2018, Gideon has amassed over 300,000 fans of his heartwarming and delightful tweets. In a world filled with strife and sarcasm, Gideon's account brings a bit of sunshine into so many lives. Even celebrities like Lin Manuel Miranda and Kirstie Alley are fans of Gideon's sweet and wholesome content. With each tweet, Gideon presents a photo of himself with a dog he has met and a few lines about the dog's story. He has now pet and profiled over 1,000 dogs! *Pet That Dog! A Handbook for Making Four-Legged Friends* will be an illustrated guide by Gideon and his mom. The handbook will include a guide to meeting, petting, and caring for dogs, facts about dogs, quizzes, and more. The interactive format makes a perfect gift for dog lovers--as well as kids who are curious about dogs, but may be nervous around them. The "how to pet a dog" section is full of helpful do's and don'ts. The bond between kids and dogs is timeless--and with a social media platform like I've Pet That Dog attached, this handbook is both evergreen and solidly of the moment.

A love of dogs is timeless, while awareness for animal advocacy--specifically for rescue dogs--is on the rise. *Pet That Dog!* will appeal to any kid who loves dogs or wishes they had a dog.

This handbook will be both informative and fun: kids can track the dogs they meet like Gideon, while also learning lots of facts, stories, and trivia about humans' best friend.

Gideon's Twitter account has a passionate and engaged fan base to bring to the book, as well as high-profile social media pals like We Rate Dogs.

Middle grade non-fiction is a growing and lively category, but there's nothing quite like this handbook on the market; books about dogs tend to be focused on types of breeds or kid-friendly training guides. Our book will include both of these elements, but will be narrated by a kid expert--and will also feature amazing dogs from history, quizzes, information about shelters and rescue dogs, and more.

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Introduction: I've Pet That Dog!

My name is Gideon and I love dogs. So far, I have petted more than one thousand different dogs. I've always asked to pet every dog I see. I know all the dogs in my neighborhood and many of the dogs in my town. I think dogs are amazing creatures. I love that each one looks different and has a different story. My favorite dogs are the biggest dogs and the smallest dogs. I like everything about dogs.

When I was eight years old, I decided to keep track of each dog I met. I asked my mom if I could take a picture with each dog I petted to show everyone. At first she was confused, but then she said that I could start a website. On my site, I put a picture of myself with each dog I meet. I also keep a count of how many different dogs I've met.

Most of the time, when I meet dogs people tell me stories about them. When I joined Twitter in 2018, I decided to share these stories along with the pictures. Each dog I meet teaches me something new. I find dogs everywhere I go. Some are big, some are tiny. Some dogs have jobs. Some are playful. Some are fearful. Some dogs have homes and families. Some dogs are looking for a home. Each dog is different, and each dog has a story.





When a dog is relaxed, with her mouth open and tongue out, she is happy and comfortable.

When a dog wants to play, his body is loose and wiggly. He lowers the front of his body into a play bow. Your dog might do this when he wants you to throw the ball.



If a dog looks like she is frozen and not moving, it is because she is unsure or uncomfortable.

Many people think that dogs are tired when they yawn. Instead, yawning is how dogs showing that they are nervous.

When a dog cowers or lowers their body to the ground with his ears back, he is afraid.

Another way dogs show their fear is by tucking their tails under their body.

A scared dog may pant very fast.

When a dog's fur stands up on her shoulders, spine, or tail, it is called *hackles*. This does not mean that she is about to attack. It means she is upset, nervous, and excited about something. When you see *hackles* go up on a dog, back away and give her space so that she can feel comfortable.



8–14: You are a **Chihuahua!** You are very loyal to the people in your life. Your friends and family are everything to you. You like to be included in the fun and get sad if you are alone too much.

15–20: You are a **Pomeranian!** There is nothing shy about you. You enjoy looking your best and staying active. You love to talk and will share your opinions with everyone.



21–27: You are a **Pug!** You are the clown in your family. You make everyone laugh. Sleep and food are very important to you. You'll never turn down a tasty treat or a nap on the couch.

Every dog looks different, has a different personality, and lives a different life. Every dog has their own story. When I want to get to know a dog, I ask questions. Most people like to talk about their dog and will be willing to answer your questions.

I ASK:

CAN I pet your dog?

toys?

WHAT is your dog's name?

WHAT is his favorite food?

WHAT kind of dog is he?

DO you have any funny stories about your dog?

WHERE did you get your dog?

WHAT was your dog's biggest adventure?

WHAT do you like about your dog?

WHAT does your dog like to do?

WHAT is unique about him?

DOES he like to play with

Each dog is unique. I keep track of the dogs I meet by taking a picture with them. I like to see how many different breeds I can meet. It's also fun to see how many unique dogs I can find. How many of these different dogs can you meet?

Shaggy dog

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NOTES: _____

Spotted dog

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NOTES: _____

Large dog

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NOTES: _____

Tiny dog

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NOTES: _____

Brindle dog

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

NOTES: _____

Many towns also have dog-friendly events, such as howl-oween pet parades, pet pictures with Santa, dog fests, and dog competitions. By doing research online, in your local paper, or even on social media, you can find out about dog-friendly events near you.



Tip from Gideon:

If you want a specific breed of dog, but also want to adopt, there are ways to do it! Talk to your local shelter or rescue and let them know what kind of dog you are looking for. Make sure you fill out an application and are approved so when the dog you want is available, you can be first on the list! Don't forget to check your state for breed-specific rescues. Working with a rescue can help many dogs and also help you learn more about your favorite breed. Lastly, don't ignore mixes. These shelter specials may not be purebred, but they can be awesome, loving dogs! A Pug Pug mix can give you all the personality of their breed, and by adopting them, you save a dog who needs a home.