



Throw Your Own Puppy Party!



Puppy Party Planning Guide

Follow
Dot for
birthday
fun!





GETTING STARTED

Dot the Dalmation thinks planning a party can be as much fun as giving it if you just connect the Dots! Follow the dots below for some tips to make your party full of tail-wagging fun.

- Choose a date and time for your party and decide whether it will be indoors or out. (If outdoors, be sure to have a back-up plan in case of rain.) Plan for your party to last about two hours for children under age six, or three hours for older children.



- Select puppy-themed invitations from your local stationery store or make your own with stickers or art that you can download from the Puppy In My Pocket website (www.inmypocket.com/partystickers). Personalize each invitation by letting the recipient know a special surprise companion will be waiting for her at the party! Also ask your guests to wear something with a pocket that day.

- For a clever touch, cut a pocket out of paper or fabric and paste the edges on a postcard. Put your invitation inside the pocket before placing it in an envelope! Mail the invitations at least two weeks in advance.



- Plan plenty of activities to keep the party moving. It is better to have too many activities than too few. Games, crafts, entertainment and food make for a great party.



- Let the birthday child help with party preparations, from stuffing goody bags to planning games and putting up decorations. After all, they know best what kids like!





DOG-GONE CUTE DECORATIONS

What party is complete without decorations and balloons? Consider these darling decorations for a dog-gone cute party.



- Purchase paper or plastic tablecloths from a party supply store and draw or stamp paw prints on them (you can make your own stamp by carving a raised design in half a potato). Another option is to decorate the tablecloths with dog-themed stickers. Use curling ribbon or twist crepe paper streamers to make long ribbon curls down the center of the tables. Then sprinkle Puppy In My Pocket puppies around the ribbon, as if they are playing with it. Set each place with colorful napkins and cups.

- Blow up balloons and tie them to each chair and other objects at the party. Make sure to tie a bunch of balloons near the front door or on the mailbox so guests can find the party location! If helium is used to blow up the balloons, do it right before the party so they stay aloft. Decorate some of the balloons with paw print stamps or draw paw prints on them with a permanent marker.



- Make a banner for the birthday child and stretch it across the entrance to the party or over the party room. If outside, attach it to a fence or between two trees.
- String some of the extra ribbon or streamers across the party room or wrap them around a tree. Set out boxes of dog treats or a toy fire hydrant to "ruff" up the place. If you have a dog house, be sure to decorate it, too!



LET THE PARTY BEGIN...

When your friends arrive, greet them at the door and thank them for coming. Invite them into the party and introduce them to everyone. Be sure to offer them a drink and help them get settled in.

Once everyone has arrived, it's time for some fun! Here are some party activities that will have all your guests romping around and rolling over.





PLAYFUL PUPPY GAMES

Choose as many of these puppy games as time allows:

● PUPPY IN MY POCKET TREASURE HUNT

In this game, your guests will discover their special puppy companions. Before the party, choose a Puppy In My Pocket puppy for each guest. If your guest is always a helper to you, you might want to choose a puppy from the Helpers collection. Another guest might be suited to a Charmer or Companion. Place the puppy you have selected inside a carrycase or you could use plastic Easter eggs, and write the guest's name on it with a permanent marker. Hide the puppy in the yard or around the house. When the Treasure Hunt begins, your friends will wiggle with delight to find their very own puppy companions!



● PUPPY IN MY POCKET SPOON RELAY

Lots of laughs will accompany this zany relay game. Divide your party guests into two teams and give the first person in each line a spoon and a Puppy In My Pocket puppy. Put a string on the ground for the starting line and place two chairs 10 to 20 steps from the start. When you say "Go," the first person in each line runs or walks while balancing the puppy on the spoon, travels around a chair and back to the starting line, where he or she passes the spoon and puppy to the next person in line. If the puppy falls off at any time, the racer picks it up and puts it back on the spoon. The first team to cross the finish line with puppy intact is the winner.



● HOT DOG (OR PASS THE PUPPY)

This game is a real party sizzler! Have everyone sit in a circle. Choose one Puppy In My Pocket puppy to be passed. Assign an adult or other helper to be in charge of the music. This helper sits facing away from the circle and randomly starts and stops the music. When the music starts, each guest passes the puppy from person to person around the circle as if it were a hot potato. When the music stops, whoever is holding the puppy is "out." That person must "sit" and "stay" outside the circle. The circle will get smaller and smaller as guests are called "out." The winner is the last person left holding the puppy.





CHOWTIME

No bones about it, when you serve these yummy, tummy-pleasing treats, your guests will be “begging” for more. Since these are all finger foods, your guests can use their “paws” to pick them up. Even more fun is to give each guest a dog bowl instead of a plate!

● PUPPIES IN A BLANKET

These warm and cozy treats are hard to resist. Start with full-sized hot dogs cut lengthwise. Wrap a slice of cheese around each dog. Then unroll refrigerator croissant dough and re-roll it around the cheese dog. Bake as directed on a cookie sheet or until golden brown. Serve warm. For a smaller version of the same snack, use mini-cocktail sausages and cut the croissants in half. Serve with plain or honey mustard. Of course, an easy alternative is to buy frozen mini corndogs and heat them up in the microwave!



● BONE-SHAPED SANDWICHES

Look for bone-shaped cookie cutters from a specialty cooking store or online. Using a loaf of sandwich bread, cut the bread slices into bone shapes. Discard the crust. Then spread the two halves of bread with your favorite sandwich ingredients--peanut butter and jelly; egg salad; tuna salad; turkey; cream cheese and pineapple bits; or whatever you like! Put the two pieces together, and you have a puppy bone sandwich!

● PUPPY KIBBLES

For snacking, make your own puppy kibbles! Mix up a big batch of square-shaped wheat cereal, mini pretzels, roasted peanut halves, tiny chocolate candies and raisins. Serve in a big dog bowl.

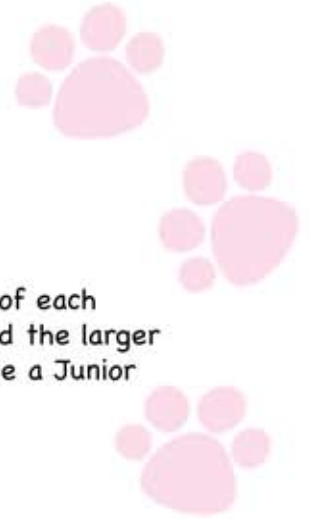
● FRUIT ON A STICK

Your guests will want to play “fetch” with this delicious and nutritious stick full of fruit. Choose an assortment of colorful fruits in season and remove the peels. Cut them into squares and slices — you might include bananas, kiwi, grapes, oranges, apples, pineapples, strawberries, cantaloupe or honeydew. Thread them onto bamboo skewers (available in the grocery baking aisle) and serve on a platter.

● DOG PARK PUNCH

In a large punch bowl, combine one liter of ginger ale (or lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage) and four cups of pineapple juice. Add one-half gallon of pineapple sherbet. Let it fizz and ladle immediately into cups.





● PAW PRINT AND PUPPY CUPCAKES

Bake cupcakes as directed and frost them with your favorite frosting.

To make a paw print, place a flat, round chocolate mint (such as York®) in the center of each cupcake. Place four smaller round chocolate mints (Junior Mints® are perfect) around the larger mint. Repeat on each cupcake. You now have paw prints! For a smaller paw print, use a Junior Mint® in the center and surround it with four dark purple Skittles® candies.



Note: To use this same paw print idea as an appetizer, simply cut cheese slices or summer sausages into round shapes and place them on a cracker in the shape of a paw print. Hold them in place with a dab of Dijon or honey mustard.



To make adorable Puppy Cupcakes, place your favorite Puppy In My Pocket puppy on a cupcake and add some sprinkles. Arrange the cupcakes on a platter or in a beautiful cupcake bouquet!

Note: You can turn decorating cupcakes into an easy and fun party activity. Just give each guest several iced cupcakes and an assortment of Puppies, candies and sprinkles. Let them do the decorating! Even younger children can participate.





CAKE DECORATING IDEAS

For a birthday cake that “hits the Spot” (sorry, Dot), try one of these three super delectable cake decorating ideas. Whether you are a genuine “Martha Stewart” or the type that likes to buy your cake from the bakery or supermarket, we have a cake for you. “Have a ball” choosing from these:

● FOR GOODNESS SAKE! PUT PUPPIES ON A CAKE

For a simple, eye-catching puppy cake, do it the Puppy In My Pocket way! Bake and ice your favorite cake from scratch or use a packaged mix. Better yet, to save time, purchase one from your local supermarket. Ask for it frosted with no decorations--except for writing off to one side if you wish. Now, you get to decorate it! Select your favorite Puppy In My Pocket puppies for the top of the cake. Use props from the Puppy In My Pocket play sets such as the carousel, teeter-totter (turn it over to make a picnic table) or puppy bathtub. Put the props on the cake and place the puppies on them (the plastic pieces can be rinsed later). Just add candles and serve with ice cream on the side.



● PUPPIES TUMBLING DOWN A HILL

If you have a large collection of Puppy In My Pocket puppies and are not worried about getting icing on their fur, then you might want to consider this playful cake. Using a mound-shaped cake pan (usually used to make the skirt for a princess cake), bake a cake according to package directions. Also bake a 9” round cake. After cooling, turn the mound cake upside down on the round cake to make a “hill.” Frost the cake with green icing (mix green food coloring with white icing). Next, mix some of the green food coloring with shredded coconut in a separate bowl until the coconut turns green. Sprinkle it over the cake to represent grass. Now you are ready to place your puppies on the cake. Stick them on the top and randomly rolling down the sides. Put some at the bottom, too, as if they have already tumbled down!



● BUNDT® CAKE WITH BOWS AND PUPPIES

For a classy cake that everyone will love to eat, bake a Bundt® cake in any flavor. Remove from pan and drizzle icing over the top. “Dress it up” with colorful ribbons tied into a bow and wrapped around a floral stick. Place a piece of floral sponge into the center hole of the cake and stick the bow into it. Decorate the cake with your favorite Puppy In My Pocket puppies. Give it the finishing touch by adding a “Happy Birthday” sign printed on card stock and taped to a floral stick.





ENTERTAINMENT TO 'BARK' ABOUT

Add a bit of "live" entertainment to your party and your guests will be barking with delight and chasing their tails. Here are two options:

● REAL LIVE PUPPIES

Invite some real puppies for your guests to pet and cuddle. Contact a local breeder or party entertainment company to see if they have puppies available for parties. Usually they will bring a large pen for the puppies to run around in, and they allow children to sit inside and handle the pups. This is a good way for the puppies to be socialized, and it is GREAT for your guests. It's like a traveling petting zoo!



● FACE PAINTING

Hire a face painter to set up a "puppy primping" station at your party. Throughout the party, your guests can take turns getting spots, whiskers, puppy noses and other pooch beauty marks painted on their faces. Have a mirror handy, and a camera, as you'll want to take lots of pictures! Be sure to have some make-up remover for taking it off later.





CANINE CRAFTS

To keep your guests busy, have a craft or two on hand. This is a great party starter, as guests can begin the craft while waiting for everyone to arrive. Keep the crafts simple so they can be completed easily in ten or 15 minutes.

● PAINT A PUPPY

Purchase ceramic or wooden puppy statues or bobble-headed dogs at a local craft or hobby store. Provide paints and paintbrushes, and let each guest paint a puppy!

● PIPE CLEANER PUPS

Supply pipe cleaners, yarn, puff balls, beads, googly eyes, tacky glue and scissors. Bend a pipe cleaner to form a body. Shape one end into a head and the other into a tail. Cut another pipe cleaner in half and twist each segment around the body to form two sets of legs. Glue on puff balls and string to make ears and fur, and use a bead for the nose. Finish by gluing on the googly eyes. You have a pipe cleaner pup!

● DECORATING CUPCAKES

For a yummy craft that's easy for all ages to do, let your guests decorate cupcakes. (See Chowtime.)

● **"DOGGIE BAGS"** – Ask a local Chinese restaurant or check a party supply or craft store for cardboard "take-out" boxes with handles. These are perfect for holding goodies and gifts to send home with your guests. Give each guest a supply of puppy stickers and let her decorate the box. (If you can't find boxes, you can use white paper lunch bags.) Write each guest's name on the box or bag. Fill each "doggy bag" with puppy-themed items (of course, some Puppy In My Pocket puppies), bone-shaped candies, dog stickers or a plush toy. Also send home each guest's dog bowl and any finished crafts.





THE TAIL END

After the party, be sure to send each guest a hand-written "thank you" note. Tell her how much you appreciated her coming to the party and thank her for any gifts. It is also a nice touch to enclose a photo of your guest at the party as a memento of her day. Finally, remember to thank your parents or other adults who helped you with the party!

