



## Poetry for Your Pet

Did you know that pets enjoy poetry? Try it! Sit down with your dog, cat, lizard, or other pet friend and read a poem to them. They will listen, and they will enjoy it. The best poetry, according to many of our pets, is called haiku.

Haiku is a simple form of poetry invented about 350 years ago by a man named Basho from Japan. It has only three lines, doesn't need to rhyme, and the only challenge is getting the right number of syllables in each line. *Note: A syllable is the number of vowel sounds in a word. For example: "doggy" has two syllables, "dog" and then "gy". The word "amphibian" has four syllables: am-phen-i-an.*

Now we would love for you to write some haiku for our shelter animals!

### What's Next:

Go to our website at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org) and click on "Adopt" and then "View Pets." Look through the pictures of the dogs, cats, and critters we have at our shelter. Now pick your favorite pet. Look at his or her picture and read what it says about that pet. Then, following the instructions below, write a haiku about that pet.

When you're finished, email us your haiku at: [kids@pasadenahumane.org](mailto:kids@pasadenahumane.org). Be sure to include your first name and the name of the pet you wrote your haiku about. We'd love to share your haiku with our community, and we know a pet with haiku is a very special pet!

### Haiku Instructions:

Writing haiku is always the same, following these five simple directions:

1. There are only three lines, totaling 17 syllables.
2. The first line has 5 syllables.
3. The second line has 7 syllables.
4. The third line has 5 syllables.
5. A haiku does not have to rhyme; in fact, it usually doesn't rhyme at all.

Check the next page for haiku examples. Our dogs, cats, and critters are all waiting to hear from you!



## Haiku Examples:

**On the couch to nap  
Tired from chasing the ball  
Oops, no, stopped by cat**

1. Line #1 has five syllables: On-the-couch-to-nap
2. Line #2 has seven syllables: Ti-red-from-cha-sing-the-ball
3. Line #3 has five syllables: Oops-no-stopped-by-cat

**Every snack you have  
You must share with me always!  
Look at my sweet eyes**

1. Line #1 has five syllables: Eve-ry-snack-you-have
2. Line #2 has seven syllables: You-must-share-with-me-al-ways
3. Line #3 has five syllables: Look-at-my-sweet-eyes

**Now, write your haiku about one of our shelter animals below:**

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