

OUTCOMES AND BEYOND CASE STUDY

PEBBLE POND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pebble Pond Public Library is a municipal library that serves a population of 113,181. It has three locations. The percentage of registered borrowers is 67%. The library recently started putting more emphasis on outreach services to reach underserved communities. Pebble Pond's strategic plan includes the following priorities:



Community Hub: The library engages the community by providing a place and services that connect people and help bridge divides. The library is responsive to the community and provides programming and services that address the community's needs and interests.



Wellbeing: The library cultivates wellbeing by supporting residents in improving their physical and mental health.



Children & Teens: The library fosters the love of reading and encourages the development of creative and critical thinking skills among children and teens by offering programs and services that spark curiosity and nurture learning.



Workforce & Economic Development: The library positively impacts economic development by preparing residents of all ages with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce.

STAKEHOLDERS

Mayor: In a recent city-wide survey, residents reported high levels of isolation and loneliness. In addition, compared with state averages, the city has higher levels of binge drinking and depression, and lower levels of physical activity. In response, the mayor plans to implement a wellbeing initiative and is calling on city agencies to create innovative services that will improve community wellbeing.

Circulation Staff: Circulation staff members are concerned about the logistics of providing ongoing care for pets and think that the cost per circulation will be disproportionately high, compared with the cost per circulation of other materials.

Trustee: One of the trustees is concerned that community members living in the areas of the city that are heavily reliant on public transportation will not be able to participate in Borrow a Buddy because of the challenges of transporting the pets between the library and their homes.

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BORROW A BUDDY

Pebble Pond Public Library is piloting a novel program to let patrons check out pets from the library. Borrow a Buddy gives people the opportunity to "try out" different kinds of pets, while reaping the mental health and social benefits of interacting with companion animals. The three-month pilot will allow the library to see if the program helps improve well-being in the community.

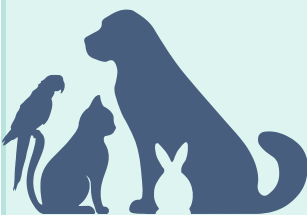
PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:



3-week loan period



All supplies and food are provided



Animals available for checkout include:

- Cat
- Dog
- Guinea Pig
- Hedgehog
- Rabbit
- Iguana



Intended outcomes:

- Improve wellbeing and connectedness
- Increase confidence