



Pets & People

Declare Your Cat Pride

(NAPSA)—For anyone who's ever wondered what it means to be a "cat person," a recent survey by Toluna Analytics may provide some surprising answers. Today's cat person tends to be smart, independent, friendly and active.

The survey also found that cats are more often portrayed in a more positive light, and that the once negative ideas about cats are no longer widely believed. In fact, more than half of respondents said stereotypes about cats being shy, aloof and stubborn are simply untrue.

The Problem

While the changing perceptions of cats and cat people are a great start, more needs to be done, cat lovers contend. Every day, an estimated 11,000 pets are euthanized in U.S. shelters. Unfortunately, cats are at a disadvantage compared to dogs. Cats in shelters are euthanized at a higher rate, and those who wander off and become lost are much less likely to be reunited with their owners.

An Answer

In order to bring awareness to the cat-loving public, star of CBS' "The Big Bang Theory," Mayim Bialik, a cat parent and passionate adoption advocate, has teamed up with PetSmart Charities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a lifelong, loving home for every pet.

Bialik has an adopted cat named Frances, who was once a feral cat in need of a forever home. Since bringing Frances into her home, Bialik says that the cat has taught her a lot about patience and love.



Actress Mayim Bialik says her formerly feral cat, Frances, taught her a lot about love and patience.

A Contest

To encourage others to share their cat pride, Bialik and PetSmart Charities created the #MeowOUT Yourself Contest. They want to know how you and your adopted cat break the stereotypes and why being a cat parent is something to be proud of. Through July 3, you can enter the contest by submitting a selfie with your adopted cat using hashtag #meowOUT via Instagram or Twitter or at www.petSMARTcharities.org/campaigns/meow-out-yourself.

Bialik will choose five of her favorite selfies; the winners and their adopted cats will be the face of today's cats and cat people featured in promotional materials. Sharing your cat pride can mean more cats will find the forever homes they need and deserve.