

“A triumph!”

May Cutler, Founder of Tundra Books

# I WANT A DOG

In this charming animated story, young May wants a dog more than anything else in the world.

May thinks about dogs all the time. She talks about them, reads about them and covers the walls of her bedroom with dog pictures. But every time she asks her parents for a puppy, they tell her to wait till she's older. All her clever ploys meet with a resounding “NO.”

May remembers her father's words when she was little and learning to roller skate: “If at first you don't succeed, try again.” So she follows his advice... in fact, she comes up with an ingenious idea to persuade Mom and Dad to change their minds.

This fun-filled, offbeat story about a girl's hopes and dreams will enchant young viewers and their parents. Set to delightful music with doo-wop vocals, *I Want a Dog* is based on the book by celebrated children's author Dayal Kaur Khalsa.

Director: Sheldon Cohen  
Producer: Marcy Page

10 minutes 9 seconds  
C9102 133

 Closed captioned. A decoder is required.

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1-800-542-2164 (USA)  
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# I WANT A DOG

BASED ON THE BOOK BY DAYAL KAUR KHALSA



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA PRODUCTION



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Name That Dog

Talk about the various characteristics of dogs: Are they big or small? Do they have long or short hair? Where do they come from? What do they eat? Describe different personality traits. What are certain breeds well known for (good hunters or watch dogs, for example)? Name some different breeds.

### If at first you don't succeed, try again

May was disappointed when her parents said she couldn't have a dog. How did she deal with her frustration? Did she give up and forget about getting a dog? When May stuck to her plan and proved to her parents that she was responsible, she eventually got what she wanted. Ask children to write down one thing that they really want, along with steps they could take to reach their goal.

### Responsibility & Pets

Part of growing up means learning to be responsible. May had to learn a few things before she got a dog. Why was it important for her to be prepared? How is getting a pet different from getting a new toy? List what a pet owner needs to do for an animal. Obviously the list will change depending on the kind of pet. And even with dogs, the needs vary with the breed.

### Other NFB Animation Videos Based on Children's Books

**Snow Cat** (1998) 23 minutes

**The Sweater** (1980) 10 minutes

**Pies** (1983) 12 minutes

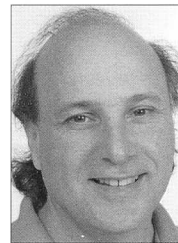
**Blackberry Subway Jam** (1984) 8 minutes

**The Dingles** (1988) 8 minutes

**Talespinners Collection** (2002) 8 videos for children



10 minutes 9 seconds  
C 9102 133



### About the Filmmaker

Sheldon Cohen has shown a remarkable capacity for creating work in several media. Born in Montreal in 1949, Sheldon received a diploma in science at McGill University, then went on to Sheridan College where his studies in art decided his fate as an artist. In 1972, he joined the National Film Board as a student trainee and began a prolific period of film animation and direction. Sheldon's NFB films include *Pies* (1983), which won the Blue Ribbon at the American Film Festival, and *The Sweater* (1980), his most notable success. This animated version of Quebec author Roch Carrier's short story won 15 international awards. Sheldon followed *The Sweater's* success with a book version of the film and a sequel, the latter winning him the Governor General's Award for Children's Illustration in 1991. *Snow Cat*, his animated film based on a children's book by the late Dayal Kaur Khalsa, was released in 1998. Sheldon is an accomplished painter and a sought-after lecturer and teacher. He spent the 1998-1999 academic year teaching film animation at Harvard University.

Directed by  
SHELDON COHEN

Narrated by  
MARNIE McPHAIL

Songs performed by  
NEKO CASE

Original score, guitar,  
programming and doo-wop vocals:  
ZANDER ARY

Animation:  
SHELDON COHEN, JO MEURIS,  
DANIELA STRIJLEVA,  
JEAN-MICHEL LABROSSE,  
DEREK DOUGLAS,  
MICHAEL KWANT

Digital imaging, camera,  
background re-creations:  
JON GASCO

Story and artwork  
based on the book  
*I Want a Dog*,  
by DAYAL KAUR KHALSA,  
published by Tundra Books.

Sound effects and Foley:  
NORMAND ROGER,  
PIERRE YVES DRAPEAU

Music recording:  
GEOFFREY MITCHELL,  
SYLVAIN CAJELAIS

Re-recording:  
SHELLEY CRAIG,  
JEAN PAUL VIALARD

Picture editing:  
SHELDON COHEN

"I Want a Dog" (song)  
© written and published  
by Penny Will, used by  
permission; arrangement:  
ZANDER ARY

"Walkin' My Roller Skate"  
words and music by  
ZANDER ARY

Executive Producer:  
DAVID VERRALL

Producer:  
MARCY PAGE

